



Lube & Supplies Inc.

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MEMO

Date: September 25, 2012

From: Dave P.

To: Sales and Customers

Subject: **Brake Cleaner**

Newsletters have been circulating to auto industries highlighting the toxic effect of n-hexane used in a variety of products, including automotive brake cleaners, degreasers, and other parts cleaners. The toxic effects such as peripheral neuropathy (damage to nerves) from exposure to n-hexane have been known for over three decades, a report from the US centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests that chronic over-exposure to the solvent may also cause nerve damage to the arms, legs, hands and feet in automobile repair technicians.

CDHS has published a fact sheet describing the hazards of n-hexane and recommendations for reducing occupational exposure to the solvent in the auto repair industry. A quick way to determine the presence of n-hexane is to review the Material Safety Data Sheet for cleaner used in the shop. Once hexane is found on your work premises, steps should be taken to reduce exposure immediately. Increased ventilation, employee monitoring, providing personal protective equipment such as gloves and respirators, and employee training can also help reduce exposure.

Hexane has been determined to be dangerous enough that over 20 states have banned its use. Although Minnesota has not banned use of hexane brake cleaners, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has issued guidelines concerning "Selecting and Managing Brake and Carburetor Cleaners" recommending the least toxic cleaner that will do the job.

A potential chemical candidate for hexane replacement is heptane. **Como 9010 Brake Cleaner contains no hexanes**, using the safer heptane chemical. Although heptane may cost up to 25% more than hexane, we feel the safety and well-being of our employees and customers is well worth the extra cost.