



VT. A.O.T.  
PROJECT # 1M DECK 36  
ITEM # 531.10

5/13/99

To: Naji @ Coemec, Inc., Walpole, MA  
From: Darren Spurgeon @ Elkhart Industries, High Point, NC  
Re: Neoprene/Fabric Bearing Pads

RECEIVED  
JUN 08 2000  
VHB, Inc.

Dear Naji,

In regards to the process of making our bearing pads, I hope this information will be of service.

Elkhart Industries' "Yellow" Preformed fabric pads are constructed of alternating layers of AASHTO-spec Neoprene and heavy weight cotton duck fabric. They are built up from pre-forms of both materials. The pads are inserted into a steam press once the correct number of layers are added. Once inserted into our steam press, using a combination of 2,100 PSI and varying combinations of steam and time, these pads are cured into the final product. We are able to maintain exacting tolerances on the thickness by using different sizes and thicknesses of metal forms to stop the press from squeezing the material too tightly together. Once the material air-cools, the pieces are trimmed to the desired size and shipped.

Elkhart Industries' bearing pads meet both AASHTO 18.10.2, and 18.4.10.1, Div. II and Mil-C-882-R specifications, and certificates of conformance and test results are provided with each shipment if needed.

The total number of fabric ply will vary with the thickness of the finished pads. The number of ply will determine the final stiffness and hardness of the product. The relative stiffness of the finished pad is exponentially proportional to the number of plies. Thus a hypothetical 1/2" thick pad with 35 plies cannot be converted to a 1" thick pad with 70 plies. This would make the pad much too stiff. In other words, the thicker the pad, the fewer number of plies per inch.