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AIA Information Memorandum No 3/80

AIA/12/REG
23rd July 1982

ASBESTOS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Summary of Main Features of Asbestos/Health Regulations

COUNTRY	REGULATIONS	STANDARD CONCENTRATION	REMARKS
Australia	Regulations determined by each State are based on model Asbestos regulations prepared and recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia.	2 f/ml(1) - all types	Use of Crocidolite severely restricted in all States. Special approval for its use is required. Application of asbestos by spraying requires special permission in all States In all States a medical examination including a chest X-ray has to be (compulsory) provided for each employee within 90 days of commencement of employment and thereafter at intervals of 3 years. In the State of Victoria only (at this stage) employees must refrain from smoking at work.
Austria	July 1900	a. 1 f/ml - all types. b. 1.5 mg/m^3(6) airborne dust (dust containing 1-15% asbestos) 0.2 mg/m^3 airborne dust (dust containing 51-100% asbestos) c. 800 particles/cm^3 (dust containing 1-15% asbestos) 200 particles/cm^3 (dust containing 51-100% asbestos) EACH MEASUREMENT ACCORDING TO THESE THREE METHODS	Prohibition of asbestos for: spraying, thermal and acoustic insulation and decorative purposes.

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COUNTRY	REGULATIONS	STANDARD CONCENTRATION	REMARKS
Belgium	Royal Decree of 15.12.78 Published 2.2.79. Effective 1.1.80 as a whole and 1.4.79 for particular points.	All types except Crocidolite: 2 f/ml. For pure Crocidolite dust: 0.2 f/ml. For fibre mixtures containing x% of Crocidolite: Total asbestos fibre reading $\times \frac{x}{100}$ must be 0.2. TLV over 4 hour period. Temporary higher concentrations allowed but average over 10 minute period not to exceed 12 f/ml.	Authorisation must be obtained from the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the handling of all types of raw asbestos fibres and for both manufacturing and handling of products containing no or almost no binder, such as yarn, rope, cloth, packings, felts, millboard, etc. No authorisation is needed for the handling of finished products where the asbestos is locked in (such as asbestos cement, vinyl tiles, etc).
Canada	Special regulations for mining.	Different standards in each Province varying from: 2 f/ml to 5 f/ml.	
Denmark	Ministry of Labour Regulation No. 468 as amended 30.4.81 but effective from 1.1.80.	1 f/ml - (during 8 hours) combined with a ceiling value of 5 f/ml (measuring period of 15 minutes) for all fibres except Crocidolite. 0.1 f/ml (TLV(3) & Ceiling value) for Crocidolite.	Ban on manufacture, import and use of asbestos or asbestos containing materials of all kinds. Following exemptions apply:- until 1.4.82: unbonded packing materials " 1.1.85: asbestos cement materials " 1.1.90: commutators until further notice: friction materials, bonded packing materials and bearing linings.
Finland	July 1977	2 f/ml - all types.	Spray is prohibited. Use of Crocidolite is subject to exemption by Labour Protection Board. With effect from 31.5.79 asbestos waste and products that can cause cancer must be labelled; a/c(4) products are excluded.

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COUNTRY	REGULATIONS	STANDARD CONCENTRATION	REMARKS
France	Decree No. 77-949 17.8.77	2 f/ml - all types.	Decree 3492 1.7.77. Spraying of asbestos-base finishings in dwellings is prohibited. Dust sampling must be done every 3 months if results are below 1 f/ml or every 1 month if above 1 f/ml.
Germany	June 1979	1 f/ml or 0.05 mg/m^3 for all types of asbestos airborne dust.	Directive for dangerous substances 1.10.80 1. Limitation to 8 hours per day, 40 hours per week, no overtime or piece-work. These limitations, including measuring will not be imposed when authorised and tested tools or other machining devices are used. 2. Asbestos products have to be labelled as products which could cause cancer.* 3. Proof that substitute products were not available have to be provided.
	As from 1.7.82	The control limit for all applications will be 1 f/ml. Discussions are taking place to introduce an 'Action level' of 1 f/ml. If successful, this will mean that at levels BELOW this figure, overtime and piece-work can be introduced (see 1 under 'Remarks'), also young people and pregnant women may work under these conditions.	2nd Amendment to Industrial Safety Regulation - Dust. Effective 1.10.81 Ban on following applications: Except for spraying this ban becomes effective 1.4.84 and except for AC < 1 g/cm^3 and spraying an escape clause exists exempting all other applications from the ban when authorities have certified that fibre released during fabrication is less than 0.5 f/ml. Ban on AC with a density < 1 g/cm^3. No restriction is imposed on AC > 1 g/cm^3 but the use of the abrasive disc for machining such products is prohibited. Since 1.4.73 medical surveillance has to be provided and smoking is prohibited.

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* (See AIA Information Memorandum No 4/81)

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COUNTRY	REGULATIONS	STANDARD CONCENTRATION	REMARKS
Greece	Elot 445 "Methods and measures for the protection of the workers exposed to asbestos fibre at work places."		Draft regulations completed and awaiting public opinion (expiry date 31.8.81).
Ireland	1972 1975	2 f/ml - Chrysotile, Amosite. 0.2 f/ml - Crocidolite. Amendments to widen scope to include all situations in addition to manufacture.	No prohibitions. Special requirements exist when Crocidolite is involved, ie marking of containers, notification to Inspectors.
Israel	Effective 1.1.80.	1 f/ml - all types.	Standards not prescribed by law. Authority given to Labour Inspectorate. For work places over 1 f/ml the concentration should be brought to under 1 f/ml in a period of one year.
Italy	July 1979 Nat. Contract Asb & Asb. Cem. Indus. and all Trade Unions.	2 f/ml - for all types. May 1982 The Gov will shortly adopt the ACGIH (USA) limit of: 2 f/ml for Chrysotile 0.5 f/ml for Amosite 0.2 f/ml for Crocidolite	The maximum limit for Crocidolite proposed by National Institute for Accident Prevention (Instituto Nazionale per la Prevention degli Infortuni - INPI), for an 8 hour exposure, wearing a personal protector is equal to 2 f/ml but without a personal protector is equal to 0.2 f/ml.
Japan	May 1976	5 f/ml - for all types. Standard concentration of 2 f/ml is generally applied to all types except Crocidolite of 0.2 f/ml in accordance with the recommendations (Gyosei Shido).	1976: any product containing 5% or more asbestos content must have warning label attached to it.

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COUNTRY	REGULATIONS	STANDARD CONCENTRATION	REMARKS
Netherlands	Asbestos Decree dated: 1.4.77 1.7.78 1.10.78	2 f/ml except Crocidolite. Crocidolite and Spraying prohibited.	April 1900: household products and consumer goods in which the asbestos fibre is not firmly bound are prohibited. Products with 'locked in' fibres are allowed (such as a/c flower boxes) but a/c products must be labelled (AIA label accepted). The use of Crocidolite and the manufacture, marketing and use of Crocidolite containing articles is prohibited. Exemptions may be granted by a special tripartite Advisory Committee on Asbestos. Article 4, prohibiting the use of asbestos-containing products for thermal and acoustical insulation, and for preserving or decorative purposes, is not yet in force.
New Zealand	Effective 31.10.81	1 f/ml for all types except Crocidolite. 0.2 f/ml for Crocidolite.	Use of Crocidolite restricted; special approval needed. There is a requirement for medical surveillance.
Norway	April 1977	2 f/ml - all except Crocidolite.	PROHIBITIONS: Crocidolite fibre; spray; electrical, acoustic and condensation insulations; a/c pipe for carrying drinking water; a/c products for ventilation. Effective 1.1.80: a/c roofing will be prohibited and all a/c products on building sites. Asbestos to be substituted whenever technically possible.

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COUNTRY	REGULATIONS	STANDARD CONCENTRATION	REMARKS
Singapore	Factories (Asbestos) Regulations 1980 - Effective 15.5.80.	TLV's not prescribed in the Regulation but in a Code of Practice issued by the Ministry of Labour a TLV of 2 f/ml for all types is recommended.	a. Notification of asbestos process required. b. Exhaust ventilation equipment or protective equipment required. c. Medical examinations required prior to employment and every subsequent 12 months. d. Persons under 18 years of age not permitted to be employed where asbestos dust could be present.
South Africa	Act No. 45/65	Government Mining Engineer Directive limits mines to 5 f/cc and mills to 10 f/cc konimeter spot checks, but if above 12 f/cc respirators must be worn. Voluntary reduction to 5 f/ml IWA membrane filter wef. 1.1.80. Manufacturing: Voluntary 2 f/ml IWA membrane filter.	
	Act No. 78/73		
Spain	None	'Servicio Social' preparing regulations based on USA standards. In meantime A/C Industry applying UK standards on voluntary basis.	April 1980: new regulations being drawn up with the help of the Industry. The aim is for 2 f/ml with no discrimination but compulsory labelling might be required with certain articles.
Sweden	1st July 1982	The Regulation calls for a principal ban of asbestos and asbestos-containing products. There are careful instructions for use where asbestos and asbestos-containing products are authorised.	Usage of asbestos and asbestos-containing products may be allowed where no technically feasible substitutes are available but only after approval has been obtained from the Authorities.

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COUNTRY	REGULATIONS	STANDARD CONCENTRATION	REMARKS
Switzerland		2 f/ml - all types.	None
UK	1969 Effective 16.3.81 "The control of pollution (special waste) regulations 1980" Statutory Instrument No. 1709, 1980.	2 f/ml - all types except Crocidolite. When measurements are averaged over a 4 hour period.	Voluntary ban on use of Crocidolite. Voluntary labelling scheme. ACA(5) report (October 1979) Recommended amongst 41 items: 1 f/ml for Chrysotile; 0.5 f/ml for Amosite; Ban on Crocidolite; Obligations to consider substitutes. 7.1.82: These are still under consideration by the various Ministers.
USA	1.7.76 OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration)	2 f/ml - all types.	Regulations issued by various States and: EPA - Environmental Protection Agency; FDA - Food and Drug Administration; MSHA - Mine Safety & Health Administration; CPSC - Consumer Product Safety Commission; DOT - Department of Transport.
USSR	1954	Mining & Milling areas: 2 mg/m^3 - fibre content in dust not more than 10%. At lower fibre content 5-6 mg/m^3 is allowed. Asbestos Cement Manufacture - 6 mg/m^3.	Asbestos industry workers have a shorter working week and longer paid holidays.

Index of Abbreviations

1. f/ml - Fibres per Millilitre.
2. TWA - Time Weighted Average.
3. TLV - Threshold Limit Value.
4. A/C - Asbestos Cement.
5. ACA - Advisory Committee on Asbestos.
6. mg/m^3 - Milligrams per Cubic Metre.

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