ASBESTOS

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: One firm in California accounted for 100% of domestic production. Asbestos was consumed in roofing products, 48%; friction products, 29%; gaskets, 17%; and other, 6%.

Salient Statistics—United States:	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998[e]
Production (sales), mine	10	9	10	7	6
Imports for consumption	26	22	22	21	16
Exports[1]	18	15	15	20	18
Shipments from Government stockpile excesses	—	—	—	—	3
Consumption, apparent	27	22	22	21	16
Price, average value, dollars per ton, f.o.b.	506	W	W	W	W
Stocks, producer, yearend	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, mine and mill, number	30	30	30	30	30
Net import reliance[2] as a percent of apparent consumption	30	32	32	5	6

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (1994-97): Canada, 99%; and other, 1%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations (NTR) 12/31/98	Non-NTR[3] 12/31/98
Asbestos	2524.00.0000	Free	Free.

Depletion Allowance: 22% (Domestic), 10% (Foreign).

Government Stockpile:

Stockpile Status—9-30-98[4]
(Metric tons)

Material	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposal plan FY 1998	Disposals FY 1998
Amosite	29,322	—	29,322	—	—
Chrysotile	5,934	60	5,934	18,144	2,663
Crocidolite	33	—	33	—	—

Prepared by Robert L. Virta [(703) 648-7726, rvirta@usgs.gov, fax: (703) 648-7722]

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/10947/1

ASBESTOS

Events, Trends, and Issues: Domestic sales of asbestos, imports, exports, and apparent consumption decreased from those of 1997. Some exports under the export category were likely to have been reexports, asbestos-containing products, or nonasbestos products. Exports were estimated to be approximately 6,000 tons. Almost all of the asbestos consumed in the United States was chrysotile. Canada remained the largest supplier of asbestos for domestic consumption.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves[5]	Reserve base[5]
	1997	1998[e]		
United States	7	6	Moderate	Large
Brazil	170	170	Moderate	Moderate
Canada	447	420	Large	Large
China	245	245	Large	Large
Kazakhstan	125	120	Large	Large
Russia	700	680	Large	Large
South Africa	60	60	Moderate	Moderate
Zimbabwe	160	150	Moderate	Moderate
Other countries	156	99	Large	Large
World total (rounded)	2,070	1,950	Large	Large

World Resources: The world has 200 million tons of identified resources and an additional 45 million tons classified as hypothetical resources. The U.S. resources are large, but are composed mostly of short fibers.

Substitutes: Numerous materials substitute for asbestos in products. The substitutes include calcium silicate; carbon fiber; cellulose fiber; ceramic fiber; glass fiber; steel fiber; wollastonite; and several organic fibers, such as aramid, polyethylene, polypropylene, and polytetrafluoroethylene. Several nonfibrous minerals were considered as possible asbestos substitutes for products in which the reinforcement properties of fibers were not required. No single substitute was as versatile and as cost effective as asbestos.

[e]Estimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

[1]May include nonasbestos materials.

[2]Defined as imports-exports+adjustments for Government and industry stock changes. Most domestic production is exported; imports account for almost all domestic consumption.

[3]See Appendix B.

[4]See Appendix C for definitions.

[5]See Appendix D for definitions.

U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, January 1999

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/10947/2