

CURRENT STATUS OF ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

COUNTRY:	Poland	YEAR:	2013
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REQUIREMENTS	FACTS ANALYSIS
<p>WHICH ARE THE MAIN REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY LAW FOR...? [National or regional legislation]</p> <p>Works with exposure to asbestos [Related to Companies and/or Workers]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -instructing employees, developing a detailed work plan to remove asbestos-containing products and having necessary technical and social equipment; -reporting the work to: construction supervision authority, the labour inspector and the sanitary inspector, at least 7 days before the beginning of work; - taking actions to reduce the asbestos exposure (the exposure of workers must be reduced to a minimum, a risk assessment must be carried out, employers shall ensure that no worker is exposed to an airborne concentration of asbestos in excess of 0,1 fibres per cm³ as an 8-hour time-weighted average); - workers shall be issued a suitable respiratory and other personal protective equipment, which must be worn; - employers shall provide appropriate training for all workers who are, or are likely to be, exposed to dust from asbestos or materials containing asbestos; - each worker's state of health must be assessed before exposure to asbestos starts and medical surveillance shall continue after the end of the work. <p>Managing asbestos as a waste [Including all waste management operations: transportation, handling and disposal]</p> <p>Common method of disposal of asbestos waste is disposal of hazardous waste in landfills or in isolated parts of landfills for non-hazardous and inert waste. It is also permissible storage in underground storage.</p>	<p>STUDIES</p> <p>Which are the main results related to the present situation of asbestos management? [Only a brief description of each result]</p> <p>According to the parliamentary Act of 1997, importing, manufacturing and sale of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials are prohibited in Poland. Thus, the assessment of asbestos exposure and the monitoring of health conditions of workers of asbestos-processing plants have become irrelevant. However, the delayed health effects attributable to past exposure continue to be the matter of public health concern. Likewise, environmental pollution from asbestos waste landfills in the vicinity of asbestos-processing plants (where high levels of asbestos fibre in ambient air have been recorded) will continue to be a serious public health problem. At present, asbestos exposure is associated mainly with outdoor air pollution from asbestos-containing construction materials used in buildings. Asbestos consumption per capita and the recorded moderate levels of asbestos fibre concentration in atmospheric air point to a relatively low level of environmental asbestos pollution in Poland. Areas in the vicinity of former asbestos processing plants exhibit significantly higher asbestos fibre concentrations in comparison with the rest of the country.</p> <p>Are there any trends identified? [If there are, list which are they]</p> <p>Over the years 2000-2010, 6,853 people were involved in the AMIANTUS Programme and they were subjected to a total of 18,955 preventive examinations. Asbestosis was diagnosed in 1475 individuals, representing 21% of all respondents, lung cancer was reported in 68 people, and mesothelioma was diagnosed in 40 of the people. Pleural radiographic changes were observed in 3027 (44%) patients, while pulmonary parenchymal opacities in 4086 (60%) patients. The analysis showed that the asbestos-related pathologies were most frequent in the group of former employees of asbestos-cement plants.</p> <p>Which are the most important actions proposed for improvement? [Only a brief description of each proposal]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop well defined criteria for measuring asbestos fibre concentration in the environment, - unification of the high standards of healthcare, that provide all workers employed in asbestos exposure the same, special legal protection.
<p>PROCEDURES FOR REQUIRED INSPECTIONS:</p> <p>[Regulated procedures for monitoring accomplishment with legal requirements in works with risk of exposures to asbestos: e.g. Authorities' Work Inspections to companies,...]</p> <p>The employer must report work to: construction supervision authority, the labour inspector and the sanitary inspector, at least 7 days before the beginning of work.</p>	<p>NEWS:</p> <p>[Recent news related with asbestos management: e.g. Environmental or H&S work incidents, events, conferences. legislation, technical or management improvements, etc.] [Listing news' headlines, main theme and year]</p> <p>All EU Directives regarding asbestos have been already implemented in Poland.</p>
<p>GUIDELINES / RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPLICATION OF REQUIREMENTS:</p> <p>[Recommendations arising from national and/or regional published guidelines referring to currently applying legislation]</p> <p>According to the parliamentary Act of 1997, the import, manufacturing and sale of asbestos and asbestos containing materials is prohibited. Presently, the main problem in Poland is the safe use of the already existing asbestos products and their gradual elimination. Polish regulations for asbestos management and removal are compatible with the EU Directives. The legislation in Poland indicates a strong foundation for the safety and health of workers who are exposed to asbestos and for former employees of asbestos processing plants and also requires duty holders to assess the condition and risk from these materials. These regulations place an obligation on employers to prevent exposure to asbestos. If this is not reasonably practicable, exposure should be reduced to the lowest level reasonably practicable. The regulations require the employer to inform employees about all the health hazards caused by asbestos, and about the undertaken preventive measures aimed at reduction of occupational risk resulting from asbestos exposure. Polish regulations specify conditions of safe use and removal of asbestos-containing material, and provisions for the disposal of asbestos waste.</p>	<p>References [Summary stating the most important sources of information: e.g. for studies: universities, institutes and other organizations, for news : publishing sources]</p> <p>The relevant sources have been included in the document: Bibliographic review: Asbestos legislation in Poland.</p>
<p>References [Summary stating the most important sources of information, such as laws and responsible organizations for guidelines]</p> <p>The relevant regulations have been included in the document: Bibliographic review: Asbestos legislation in Poland.</p>	



IDENTIFIED ISSUES



Identified STRENGTHS

[Strengths identified in current legislation, guidelines, research in this field (studies, articles), etc.;
It could be considered also as strengths potential solutions in process such as proposals for current problems in the country: law and/or guidelines proposals, national projects currently in process, etc.]

- The programme for "Elimination of asbestos and asbestos-containing products used in Poland, 2002-2032" updated in 2009 – under the title 'Programme for Asbestos Abatement in Poland 2009-2032' covering the workers contracted to perform demolition works and providing protective covers to asbestos waste landfills.
- The programme of prophylactic examinations for former asbestos processing plant workers (AMIANBUS Programme) providing special healthcare for former workers exposed to asbestos dust, covering prophylactic examinations and free medications necessary in the treatment of asbestos related diseases.

Identified PROBLEMS

[Weaknesses about asbestos management identified in current legislation (e.g. lack or not suitability of some requirements, differences in requirements among regions, etc.), guidelines, research in this field, news, etc.]

- insufficient logistic solutions and financial resources that support elimination of asbestos products,
- low interest of local authorities.

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