

## Global Asbestos Bans and Restrictions<sup>1</sup>

### *National Asbestos Bans<sup>2</sup>*

Argentina	Denmark	Ireland	Mongolia	Seychelles
Australia	Egypt	Israel	Mozambique	Slovakia
Austria	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	Slovenia
Bahrain	Finland	Japan	New Caledonia	South Africa
Belgium	France	Jordan	Norway	Spain
Brunei	Gabon	Korea (South)	Oman	Sweden
Bulgaria	Germany	Kuwait	Poland	Switzerland
Chile	Greece	Latvia	Portugal	United Kingdom
Croatia	Honduras	Lithuania	Qatar	Uruguay
Cyprus	Hungary	Luxembourg	Romania	
Czech Republic	Iceland	Malta	Saudi Arabia	

### *Current Asbestos Bans in Asia*

- **Singapore** 1989: Even though no raw asbestos is being imported to Singapore (under the Poisons Act 1989), the use of asbestos-containing gaskets, jointing sheet material and some other products remains legal.
- **Japan** 2004: (with few exceptions) Industrial Safety and Health Act
- **Korea** 2007: (with few exceptions) Industrial Safety and Health Act
- **Mongolia** 2010: Governmental Order No.192 - enforcement of this act remains problematic

### *National Ban Timetables in Asia*

- **Taiwan** bans the use of asbestos in construction materials in 2008 under the Toxic Substances Management Act
- **Thailand**: ban expected by 2012 through a voluntary phase-out plan developed in 2007
- **Malaysia**: ban expected by 2015 through a voluntary phase-out plan developed in 2009
- **Philippines**: ban expected by 2018 as specified in a draft code of practice adopted in 2008
- **Vietnam**: ban is expected by 2020 as stated in the National Program for the Elimination of Asbestos-related Disease (NPEAR) developed in 2007
- **Taiwan**: comprehensive ban is expected by 2020 as announced by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2010

### *New Dialogues on Asbestos in Asia*

- **Cambodia**: consideration of the asbestos hazard began in 2009

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<sup>1</sup> More details about these bans can be found on the IBAS website at:

[http://ibasecretariat.org/alpha\\_ban\\_list.php](http://ibasecretariat.org/alpha_ban_list.php)

<sup>2</sup> For chronological information about the implementation of these bans, see:  
[http://ibasecretariat.org/chron\\_ban\\_list.php](http://ibasecretariat.org/chron_ban_list.php)

## Asbestos Policies of International Agencies and Organizations

There is a consensus amongst international agencies and organizations tasked with protecting public and occupational health that due to the carcinogenic nature of all forms of asbestos, its use should be banned. Below are some statements and documents from these bodies with weblinks where their policies can be viewed in their entirety. Where possible both the English and French links have been included.

### **International Labor Organization**

At the 2003 European Asbestos Conference in Dresden, Germany,<sup>3</sup> Dr. Jukka Takala, Director of the ILO InFocus Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment (SafeWork), estimated that 100,000 workers died every year from asbestos-related diseases:

English version:

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---protrav/---safework/documents/event/wcms\\_108063.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---safework/documents/event/wcms_108063.pdf) (Slide 18)

At the 95<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the International Labor Organization (2006), *The Resolution Concerning Asbestos* was adopted which committed the ILO to actively promote a global asbestos ban.

English version: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc95/pdf/pr-20.pdf>  
(For the Resolution concerning asbestos see page 69).<sup>4</sup>

French version: <http://www.ilo.org/public/french/standards/relm/ilc/ilc95/pdf/pr-20.pdf>  
(Pour la résolution au sujet de l'amiante voir la page 69).

On September 6, 2010, the ILO reiterated calls for a global ban on asbestos in the document entitled: *The ILO position on safety in the use of asbestos* which stated that "the elimination of the future use of asbestos... (is) the most effective means to protect workers from asbestos exposure and to prevent future asbestos-related diseases and deaths."

English version: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---protrav/---safework/documents/genericdocument/wcms\\_144446.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---safework/documents/genericdocument/wcms_144446.pdf)

### **World Health Organization**

A World Health Organization (WHO) policy statement on the *Elimination of Asbestos-Related Diseases* was published in October 2006.

English version: [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2006/WHO\\_SDE\\_OEH\\_06.03\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2006/WHO_SDE_OEH_06.03_eng.pdf)

French version: [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2006/WHO\\_SDE\\_OEH\\_06.03\\_fre.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2006/WHO_SDE_OEH_06.03_fre.pdf)

On May 13, 2010, the WHO called for urgent action to protect human health from exposure to a range of chemicals including asbestos in the document: *Preventing Diseases through Healthy Environments – Action is needed on chemicals of major public health concern*.

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<sup>3</sup> *The Dresden Declaration on the Protection of Workers Against Asbestos* which was adopted at this meeting called attention to the asbestos hazard stating: "asbestos remains the primary carcinogenic toxin in the workplace in most countries. The illnesses caused by asbestos fibres are amongst the most serious and costly occupational diseases. In Europe and worldwide millions of workers and consumers are exposed to asbestos. ... In transition and developing countries the risk is now even higher than in the established market economies and it is certain that in the transition and developing countries in 20 to 30 years' time asbestos will prove to be a health 'time bomb'. The Conference calls upon the member and accession states and their social partners to: ... undertake and support all measures intended to eliminate asbestos and asbestos products from the economic cycle and to replace asbestos with less harmful products."

English version: <http://www.asbestkonferenz2003.de/>

French version: <http://www.asbestkonferenz2003.de/>

<sup>4</sup> Other important ILO information is at: [http://www.ilo.org/safework/lang--en/docName--WCMS\\_144446/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/safework/lang--en/docName--WCMS_144446/index.htm)

English version: [http://www.who.int/ipcs/features/10chemicals\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/ipcs/features/10chemicals_en.pdf)

French Version: [http://www.who.int/ipcs/features/10chemicals\\_fr.pdf](http://www.who.int/ipcs/features/10chemicals_fr.pdf)

In July 2010, the WHO Fact sheet N°343: *Asbestos: elimination of asbestos-related diseases* stated that:

“About 125 million people in the world are exposed to asbestos at the workplace.

According to WHO estimates, more than 107 000 people die each year from asbestos-related lung cancer, mesothelioma and asbestosis resulting from occupational exposure.”

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs343/en/>

#### ***Amiante: éliminer les maladies liées à l'amiante :***

“Environ 125 millions de personnes dans le monde sont exposées à l'amiante sur leur poste de travail.

D'après les estimations de l'OMS, plus de 107 000 personnes par an meurent d'un cancer du poumon, d'un mésothéliome ou d'une asbestose résultant d'une exposition professionnelle à l'amiante.” <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs343/fr/index.html>

#### **International Agency on Research for Cancer**

For decades, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has categorized all types of asbestos as carcinogenic. In 2010, a report appeared in *The Lancet* which summarized IARC's decision to upgrade the asbestos risk to indict asbestos exposure as causative not only of lung cancer and mesothelioma but also of cancers of the larynx and ovary.

English version:

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045%2809%2970134-2/fulltext>

#### **The International Trade Union Confederation**

The International Trade Union Confederation, formerly known as the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), has 176 million members in 151 countries on five continents. In 2005, the ICFTU adopted a ***Resolution on Global Asbestos Ban*** and urged its member bodies, regional organizations and Global Union Partners to campaign for a “total world ban on the use and commercialization of asbestos...”

English version:

[http://www.icftu.org/www/pdf/statements/124EB\\_E\\_12\\_a\\_Asbestos%20%20EB%20resolution%20%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.icftu.org/www/pdf/statements/124EB_E_12_a_Asbestos%20%20EB%20resolution%20%20FINAL.pdf)

In 2008, the ITUC condemned the decision not to include chrysotile asbestos on the prior informed consent list of the Rotterdam Convention.

English version: <http://www.ituc-csi.org/ituc-condemns-exclusion-of.html>

#### **International Social Security Association**

The International Social Security Association (ISSA) has a policy advocating a ban on the use of asbestos. In its feature: *Asbestos: Towards a worldwide ban* it states:

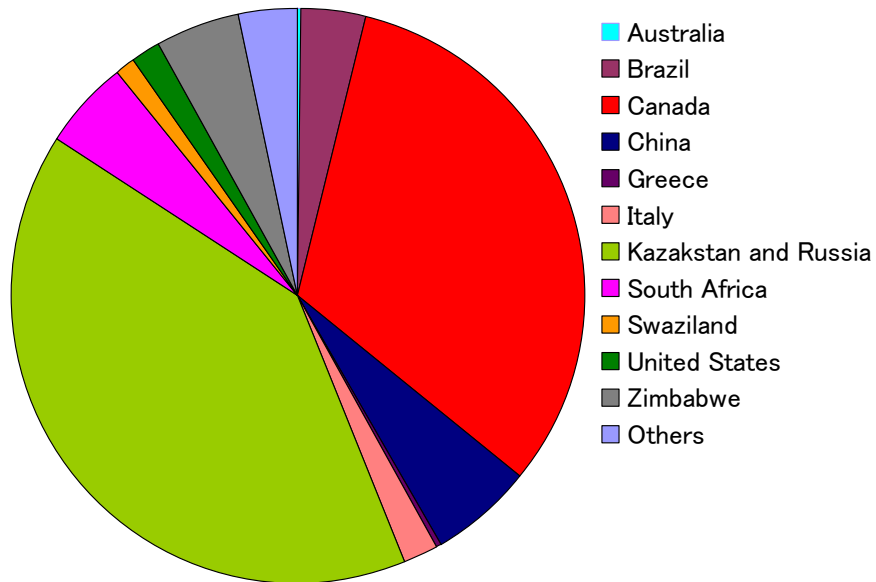
“Both for human and economic reasons, it is imperative that the manufacture and use of asbestos should be banned.”

“Tant pour des raisons humaines qu'économiques, l'interdiction de la production et de l'utilisation de l'amiante est inéluctable.”

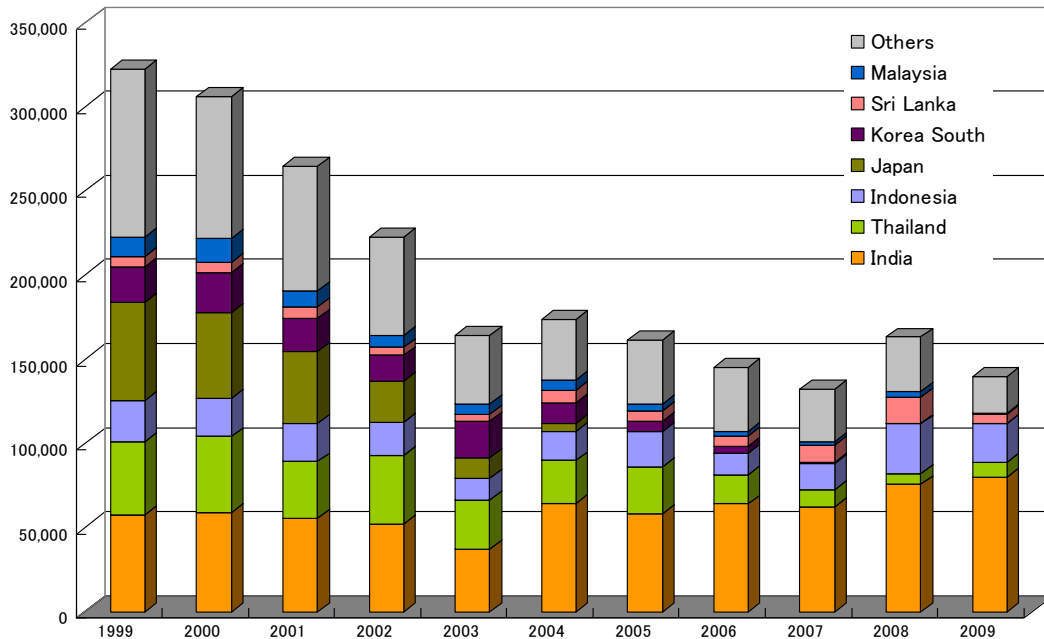
Both versions can be accessed from:

<http://www.issa.int/chi/layout/set/print/content/view/full/39131>

## Global Asbestos Production 1900-2009<sup>5</sup>

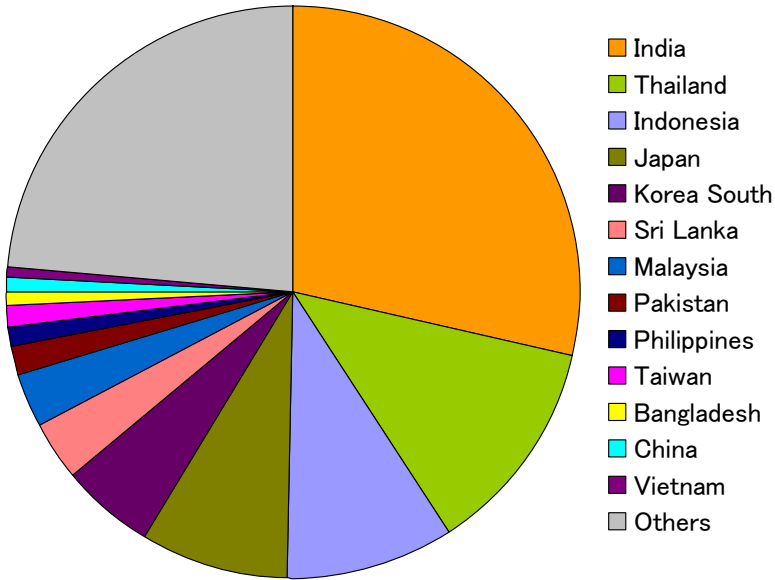


## Canadian Asbestos Exports 1999-2009

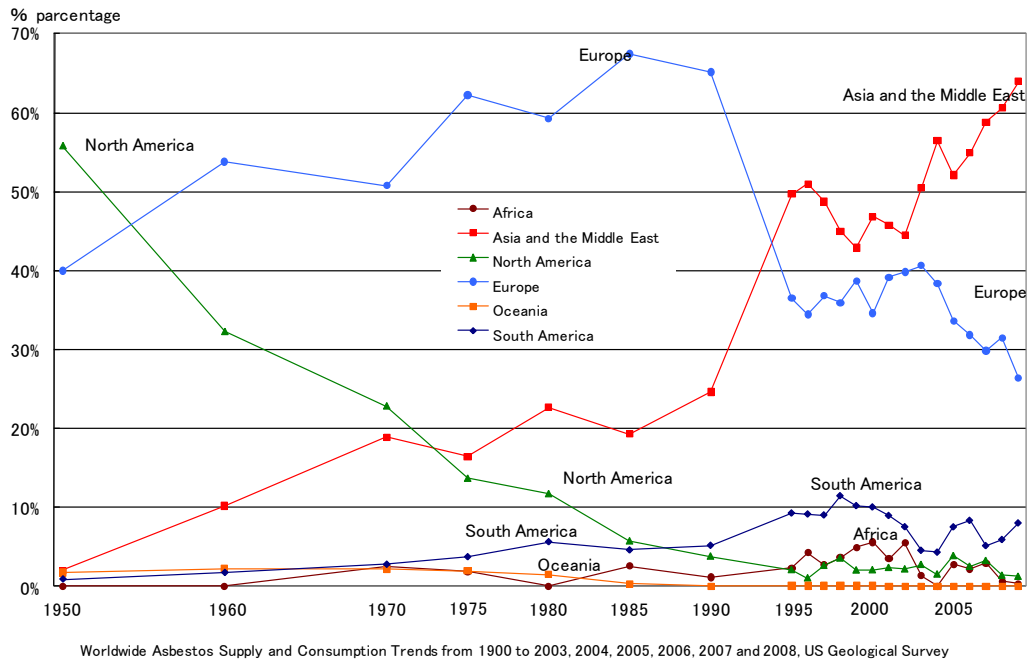


<sup>5</sup> The data used to construct the pie charts and bar graph was taken from Canada Export Statistics, Commodity: 2524, Asbestos as obtained by Canadian MP Pat Martin.

## Canadian Asbestos Exports 1999-2009



## Global Asbestos Consumption 1950-2009<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> Source: USGS.

