



Programme for the Promotion  
of Chemical Safety

International Agency  
For Research on Cancer

***WHO Workshop on Mechanisms of Fibre Carcinogenesis and  
Assessment of Chrysotile Asbestos Substitutes***

**IARC, Lyon, France, 7-10 September, 2005**

**REQUEST FOR DATA AND LIST OF PRIORITY ALTERNATIVES FOR ASSESSMENT**

***Background***

The tenth session of the International Negotiation Committee for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade requested the World Health Organization (WHO) to conduct an assessment of alternatives to chrysotile asbestos. At the request of WHO, the Interim Chemical Review Committee (ICRC) for the Rotterdam Convention considered alternatives proposed by governments and developed a priority list of alternatives for consideration by WHO, along with a list of additional alternatives for assessment. These lists appear at Annex 1.

WHO advised the various meetings convened for the Rotterdam Convention that the requested assessment would be conducted as a technical workshop in conjunction with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a specialized agency of WHO, and that the workshop would consider the mechanisms of fibre carcinogenesis as part of the assessment of the alternatives proposed by the ICRC.

***Submission of data***

Governments, interested organizations, producers, and individuals are invited to submit data for the evaluation of the mechanisms of fibre carcinogenesis and the substances listed in Annex 1. The submitted data may be published or unpublished and should contain detailed reports of laboratory studies, including individual animal data. Relevant published studies should also be provided, where applicable. Summaries in the form of monographs are helpful, but they are not in themselves sufficient for evaluation.

Unpublished studies that are submitted will be used only for evaluation purposes by the WHO workshop. Summaries of the studies will be published by IARC/WHO after the meetings in the form of the workshop report. Key data will be stored as part of official records.

### **Categories of Data Requested:**

Data are specifically requested on the substances listed in Annex 1, however other data relevant to the evaluation of the mechanisms of fibre carcinogenesis are also requested, as is information on any important alternatives to chrysotile asbestos not listed in Annex 1. The data may include (but need not be limited to):

1. Physicochemical properties as analysed by physical and chemical methods
2. Purity and contamination information
3. Durability and leaching characteristics as assessed in *in vitro* tests
4. Marketed uses and exposure patterns for the substances
5. Distribution in the airways
6. Toxicity *in vitro* (genotoxicity, DNA damage from free radicals, interference with mitosis, cell proliferation)
7. Biopersistence *in vivo*
8. Lung injury (inflammation, cell proliferation, fibrosis) as assessed in short term inhalation and intratracheal instillation studies
9. Carcinogenicity in animal models (inhalation, intratracheal and intraperitoneal instillation, etc.)
10. Carcinogenicity in humans
11. Any other information relevant to the health effects of the Annex 1 listed substances, or important alternatives not listed in Annex 1.

The secretariat encourages electronic submissions. Such data should be presented preferably using standard word processing or document formats, and should be submitted by email, copied to IARC and WHO/PCS at the below-listed addresses. If the files are large they should be submitted on CD-ROM (copy to IARC and WHO/PCS). If electronic submission is not possible, then a hard copy must be provided (copy to IARC and WHO/PCS).

The submission of data is requested as soon as possible, and before:

**9 May 2005**

All data should be sent to IARC and WHO/PCS at the following addresses:

For Email submissions please include the words "WHO Workshop on Chrysotile Asbestos Substitutes" in the subject heading.

#### **IARC**

Email electronic submissions to: [Cogliano@iarc.fr](mailto:Cogliano@iarc.fr)

Hard copy submissions should be sent to:

Dr Vincent Cogliano

Chief, Unit of Carcinogen Identification and Evaluation

International Agency for Research on Cancer

150 cours Albert-Thomas

F-69372 Lyon Cedex 08

France

Tel: +33 4 72 73 84 76

**WHO/PCS**

*Email electronic submissions to: [ipcsmail@who.int](mailto:ipcsmail@who.int)*

If you have any difficulty in sending data by email, please contact Mrs Pearl Harley  
at Tel: +41 22 791 2119

*Hard copy submissions should be sent to:*

PCS Attention Mrs Pearl Harley

World Health Organization

20, Avenue Appia

CH-1211 Geneva 27

Switzerland

**All submissions will be acknowledged (please ensure you receive this confirmation).**

**Alternatives for Assessment  
(as requested by countries participating in the Prior Informed Consent Procedure)**

**List 1: Substances identified and prioritized by the PIC ICRC for assessment**

- Aramid and para-aramid fibres
- Fibrous glass (glass fibres, glass wool)
- Carbon/graphite
- Ceramic fibres
- Wollastonite
- Cellulose fibres
- Mineral wool (rock wool, slag wool)
- Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) fibres
- Polypropylene fibres
- Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) fibres
- Attapulgate
- Polyethylene fibres

**List 2: Substances identified as alternatives to chrysotile by the PIC ICRC, to be assessed if resources allow**

- Aluminium silicates
- Basic magnesium sulphate whisker
- Erionite
- Ductile iron
- Mica
- Phosphate
- Polyacryl nitril
- Polytetrafluoroethylene
- Potassium titanate whisker
- Semi-metallics
- Silicon carbide whisker
- Steel fibres

***In addition, this data call for the WHO Workshop requests information on any important alternatives to chrysotile asbestos not identified in the above lists.***