



**Programme for the Promotion
of Chemical Safety**

Updated Notice Revision 1 (revisions indicated in italics)

**International Agency
For Research on Cancer**

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

IARC, Lyon, France, 9-12 November, 2005

***UPDATE: ADDITIONAL SESSION FOR OBSERVER STATEMENTS WILL TAKE PLACE
ON 8 NOVEMBER 2005***

REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS (BEFORE 1 AUGUST)

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.

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.

A limited number of Observers will be admitted to the workshop.

Request for Observer Status

Scientifically qualified persons and representatives of national government agencies and representatives of intergovernmental organizations may apply to attend the workshop as an "Observer". Applications should be received by the IARC Secretariat (see below), **before 1 August 2005**. At the workshop, the workshop Chair or any Sub-group Chairs may grant observers the opportunity to speak, however observers may not participate in those parts of the meeting where conclusions are drawn, or in any overall evaluations or comparisons of

the substances¹. Applications should include information on the area of specialization of the person proposed that relates to the topic of the workshop. Consideration is given to admitting observers from different constituencies with differing interests. Observers may be presumed to serve the interests of the organizations that nominate or sponsor them, and these interests are fully disclosed to the meeting participants and in the workshop report.

The Secretariat plans to respond to applications in early September.

Email electronic requests for observer or representative status to the IARC Secretariat

At: Cogliano@iarc.fr

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

All requests will be acknowledged.

¹ *Update: Refer to the separate subsequent announcement of the additional Observer Session on 8 November 2005 which further defines the arrangements for observers. Due to the number of requests to observe the workshop, observers should plan to make any statements in the additional session on 8 November and not anticipate being given the floor during the subsequent workshop sessions.*