Estimated figures for the consumption of asbestos fibres in the EEC countries in 1973 are shown in Table II-3. Separate figures for the industrially most important types of asbestos are included in this table.

Table II-3 : Estimated asbestos fibre consumption in EEC-countries year 1973 (metric tons).

	chryso-tile	amosite	croci-dolite	antho-phyllite	Total
Belgium & Luxemburg	76000	5000	5000	---	86000
Denmark	28200	4800	---	---	33000
France	150000	2800	3100	100	156000
Italy	130600	2200	6200	---	139000
Ireland	6400	600	---	---	7000
Netherlands	37400	---	600	---	38000
United Kingdom	147700	24000	---	300	172000
West Germany	173300	1900	3300	1700	180200
Total	749600	41300	18200	2100	811200

While it is not too difficult to estimate the consumption of asbestos fibre in the various EEC countries, it is much more of a problem to compile a breakdown of fibre usage into the main products in which asbestos fibres are used. As a result of the friendly cooperation of the asbestos industries in the various countries, such a breakdown is set out in Table II-4 but it must be stressed that the figures are approximate only. As there are no official statistics, the figures produced rely to a great extent on intimate knowledge of the market by individuals and organisations. They might be described as reasonably accurate for the United Kingdom but no more than very approximate for Italy. Even allowing for a due margin of error, the figures provide a useful analysis of the total quantities of asbestos fibre used in the asbestos manufacturing industries in the EEC countries. These should not be confused with the usage of asbestos-containing products in these countries. The latter statistics are impossible to obtain as they would have to include all imports and exports of asbestos-containing products.

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