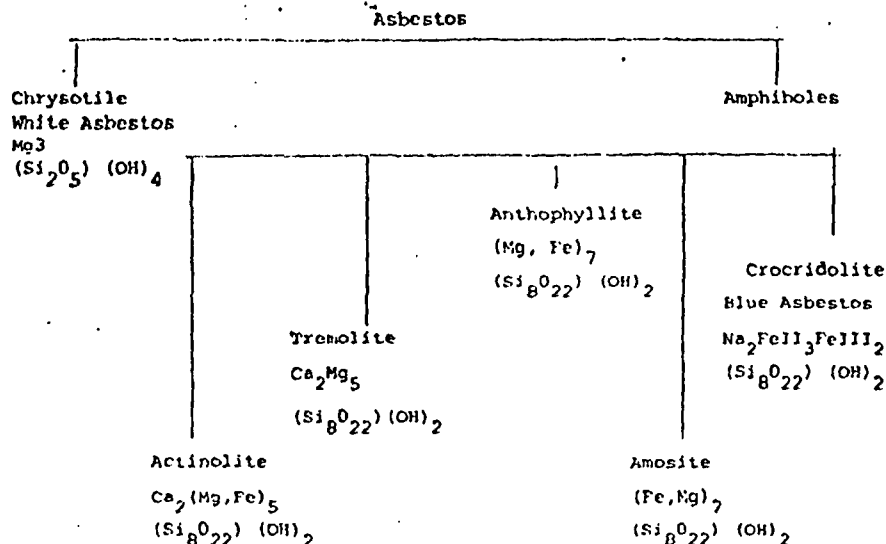


Table 1-1: Varieties of asbestos



Asbestos has been known to mankind for a long period of time, early evidence of its use going back to the stone-age. As a material of commercial importance, asbestos commenced its role in technology around 1660 when largescale mining operations of chrysotile started in Canada and Russia. The mining of crocidolite and amosite on anything like a commercial scale began somewhat later, around 1900. While chrysotile occurs abundantly in several deposits throughout the world, this is not true of the amphibole fibres which can only be found in a few specific regions, which are commercially important. They are more widely distributed in smaller quantities. Of these amphibole fibres only crocidolite and amosite are at present produced on a commercial scale. Fibrous tremolite is of little economic importance. Fibrous anthophyllite was mined in Finland but this was discontinued during 1975. Fibrous actinolite is no more than a curiosity. Approximately 95% of all asbestos produced is chrysotile whilst the remainder consists mainly of amosite and crocidolite. An EC country in which

5001 0711

PRODUCED BY FORD