



Health and
Safety
Executive

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News Bulletin Service

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION CONSULTS ON PROHIBITING CERTAIN TYPES OF ASBESTOS



The Health and Safety Commission have published a consultative document containing draft regulations to prohibit certain types of asbestos.

The draft regulations prohibit:-

- the importation, use in manufacture and marketing of blue and brown asbestos (crocidolite and amosite), and the products containing these minerals;
- asbestos spraying
- asbestos insulation

The Commission hope to submit final proposals to the Secretary of State for Employment with a view to their introduction by June 1984.

The proposed prohibition of amosite and products containing it was recommended by the Health and Safety Commission at their meeting on 23 August. The Commission decided, on the basis of a recent review of the medical evidence (the Acheson and Gardner report) that amosite should be treated similarly to crocidolite. In addition to the proposed prohibition amosite will have the same control limit as crocidolite (0.2 fibre/millilitre) from 1 August 1984.

The proposed prohibition of crocidolite and products containing it will implement Article 2 of the European Community Asbestos (Marketing and Use) Directive, which was adopted on 19 September 1983.

The proposed prohibition on asbestos spraying will implement Article 5 of the European Community Asbestos (Worker Protection) Directive, also adopted on 19 September 1983.

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The proposed prohibition of asbestos insulation is linked with the Asbestos (Licensing) Regulations, laid before Parliament on 8 November 1983. Placing a prohibition on the application of asbestos insulation will ensure that work in removing asbestos insulation, which is recognised as particularly hazardous and which will be covered by licensing regulations from 1 August 1984, will decline with time and eventually cease.

NOTES

1. The Asbestos (Prohibition) Draft Regulations are available from Sales Point, HSE. Room 414, St Hugh's House, Stanley Precinct, BOOTLE, Merseyside L20 3LZ, tel 051 951 4450, price £1.00. ISBN 0 7176 0171 4.