

ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE PRESENTATION
BY H. W. HENDRY
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Shipments of Canadian asbestos fibre for the first seven months of 1971 were 192,814 tons or 3.3% higher than for the same period in 1970.

The availability of all grades of spinning fibre is good and this situation can be expected to continue for some time in the future.

The application of the U.S. surcharge does not apply to asbestos fibre, but indirectly the surcharge will affect sales of asbestos fibre to such countries as Japan and West Germany. Prior to the application of the surcharge some weakness in demand was evident in many of the International markets.

World production of asbestos fibre in 1970 was 3,122,040 tons versus 3,131,250 tons in 1969 or an increase of approximately 5%.

The problems related to asbestos and health are of continuing concern to the asbestos fibre producers. It is unfortunate indeed that the press representatives continue to take statements out of context and to be more interested in sensationalism rather than facts.

Finally, the following comments are pertinent to the status of some new asbestos producers, viz:

- a) The new producer in Australia is forecast to be in production in early 1972 at a rate of 75,000 tons per year.
- b) The asbestos producer in Brazil, located north of Brasilia, is expected to be increased from 13,000 to 27,000 tons.
- c) The Colombian asbestos fibre prospect could reach the production stage at a rate of approximately 25,000 tons per year.
- d) Work is being continued to develop an asbestos producer in Central Colombia. If financing can be arranged the production rate is expected to be 25,000 tons annually.
- e) Work is being continued by Cerro Corporation toward the evaluation of an asbestos deposit in Central Greece.

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