

- The original recommendation by ROHS (1969) stated: "Such early clinical signs will be less than 1% for an accumulated exposure of 100 fibre years per cm^3 ". Conversion of this recommendation into a standard of 2 f/ml does not fully comply with the ROHS recommendation which was based upon accumulated exposure.
- Berry (1973) commented critically on the 2 fibre/ml limit: it has mainly been based upon one study in workers of an asbestos-textile factory who worked for at least 10 years; workers who had already left, may have been more susceptible. The 1% limit has a 95% range of confidence up to about 3%; so 99% of workers would be protected with an accumulated dose <51 fibre-years, and more than 97% with a dose of <100 fibre-years.
- The NIOSH criteria document (1972) sums up the following constraints in applicability of research data in the development of recommendations:
 - a) - few epidemiological data or clinical reports with supporting evidence are available;
 - b) - available environmental data on practically all studies were collected only over the last few years and/or collected by other techniques and expressed in terms other than fibres/ml;
 - c) - environmental samples were expressly collected in many cases for control purposes and not for research;
 - d) - there is a lack of data to define with any degree of precision the threshold of development of neoplasms resulting from exposure to asbestos and the relationship of the latent period between exposure and development of neoplasms.
- The approach which led to the permissible limit of 2 fibres/ml is based upon an epidemiological study; one started fibre counts as a measure of exposure, because in animal experiments such an exposure had induced asbestosis. However, there is a very long way to go from such experiments on animal health regarding occupational health (asbestosis) to public health (malignancies).
- The U.K. standard for chrysotile was based upon epidemiological evidence, but the standard for crocidolite was purely based upon an administrative decision, and not on research data.
- According to Weiss (1975) Gillam of NIOSH has found that the lung cancer risk among hard rock miners exposed to an asbestiform material, mostly amosite, was three times that expected, despite the fact that fibre counts (>5 μm) were well below the 1976 standard of 2 fibres/ml; most of the fibres were short; however arsenic was considered a possible factor.

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