3. Such monitoring programmes should concentrate primarily on areas where potential sources of asbestos emissions are present.

4. The monitoring should be done at fixed sites with continuous sampling on filters. In view of the biological importance of integrated exposures and to reduce the number of samples, each filter should sample continuously for one week or more.

   Gravimetric determinations should be done on most of the samples; a fibre count and size and limited identification (chrysotile and amphiboles) on a selected number; and a detailed identification on a few samples.

5. An intercomparison programme has been initiated by the Commission in order to gain knowledge about the magnitude of the possible differences which may be found in the results. Standardisation of sampling and sample preparation methods would be considered, as necessary, in a second stage. The results of this programme will help determine the point in time when routine monitoring for asbestos in air could be undertaken.

Water

6. Drinking water is not monitored systematically for asbestos in most Member States; however, a few specific studies have been conducted.

7. The analytical techniques applicable to air samples can also be used for water. In general, the monitoring programme for asbestos in water at the tap may be much less extensive than for air, but attention should be paid to areas where water may come in contact with asbestos material. Most of the samples might be examined by optical microscopy with a few random samples checked by electron microscopy with the same procedure as described for air.

8. The sampling and preparation problems involved with the determination of asbestos material in other beverages and food items is more complicated than for drinking water, and monitoring could be envisaged only when there is a suspicion of contamination.

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