



Programme for the Promotion
of Chemical Safety

International Agency
For Research on Cancer

***WHO Workshop on Mechanisms of Fibre Carcinogenesis and
Assessment of Chrysotile Asbestos Substitutes***

IARC, Lyon, France, 9-12 November, 2005

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRE-MEETING SESSION FOR STATEMENTS FROM
OBSERVERS, TO BE HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2005, LYON**

Background

Information on the WHO workshop and the arrangements to admit a limited number of observers to the workshop are contained in a previously published notice titled "Request for observer status", which can be found at:

<http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/asbestos/en/index.html>

Additional session for statements from observers

A significant number of applications to observe the WHO workshop has been received to date. As a result, and due to a desire to accommodate requests to observe the workshop where possible, an additional pre-meeting session to provide for observer statements is scheduled for 8 November, 2005, from 11.00 to 18.00. Registration will open at 10.30. Observers should plan to make any statements in the session on 8 November, and should not anticipate being given the floor in subsequent workshop sessions. The purpose of this session is to provide an opportunity for observers to present their views on the specific topics to be discussed at the workshop, as follows:

1. Characteristics that can predict carcinogenicity of fibres.
2. Characteristics of the chrysotile asbestos substitutes specified in Annex 1, their epidemiology and toxicity in laboratory animal studies, their marketed uses and exposure information.

When the Secretariat responds to applications received for observer status (in September), applicants will be asked to confirm their attendance on 8 November. In addition they will be requested to indicate whether they wish to make a statement and if so, which topic they wish to address, in particular which of the listed substitute/s will be covered in their statement. The available session time will be divided among the observers that have registered to speak.

There will not be an opportunity to submit data at the session. Data submissions must be provided in advance. Please refer to the "call for data" at the above-mentioned website.

**Alternatives for Assessment
(as requested by countries participating in the Prior Informed Consent Procedure)**

List 1: Substances identified and prioritized by the PIC ICRC for assessment

- Aramid and para-aramid fibres
- Fibrous glass (glass fibres, glass wool)
- Carbon/graphite
- Ceramic fibres
- Wollastonite
- Cellulose fibres
- Mineral wool (rock wool, slag wool)
- Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) fibres
- Polypropylene fibres
- Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) fibres
- Attapulgate
- Polyethylene fibres

List 2: Substances identified as alternatives to chrysotile by the PIC ICRC, to be assessed if resources allow

- Aluminium silicates
- Basic magnesium sulphate whisker
- Erionite
- Ductile iron
- Mica
- Phosphate
- Polyacryl nitril
- Polytetrafluoroethylene
- Potassium titanate whisker
- Semi-metallics
- Silicon carbide whisker
- Steel fibres