



COUNCIL ^{OF}
MOTORING
CLUBS ^{OF WA (INC)}

Prohibition on the use of chrysotile asbestos

On 17 October 2001, the National Occupational Health & Safety Commission (NOHSC) declared a prohibition on the use of chrysotile asbestos in Australia. The prohibition will take effect simultaneously under regulations in each Australian OHS jurisdiction on 31 December 2003.

Chrysotile asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous silicate mineral that is a known carcinogen (causes cancer). Like other forms of asbestos, exposure to chrysotile can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma, in humans and animals. The objective of this prohibition is to reduce future death and illness.

Chrysotile asbestos is found in:

- friction materials eg: some brake pads and clutch linings;
- thermal and acoustic insulation;
- asbestos cement sheeting and meter boards;
- compressed asbestos gaskets; and
- high stress seals.

All use of chrysotile asbestos will be banned except for:

- bona fide research or analysis;
- removal or disposal (in accordance with South Australia's safe removal requirements utilising a licensed operator where this is appropriate and as described in the asbestos regulations in the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations 1995);
- where it is encountered during non-asbestos mining or quarrying; or
- where there is another specified exception.

The ban will not apply to chrysotile products "in situ". Therefore, if you have chrysotile products in place in your business at the date the prohibition takes effect, 31 December 2003, they can stay in place until they are required to be replaced or disturbed. When they are replaced, it must be with non-chrysotile alternatives, the chrysotile products must be removed and disposed of in accordance with OHS Regulations.

The Commonwealth Government will prohibit the export and the importation of chrysotile asbestos and products containing asbestos, through amendments to the Customs legislation. The Commonwealth has indicated that these regulations will be proclaimed to come into operation on 31 December 2003.

The European Union will ban all uses of asbestos (including the importation and export of products containing asbestos) from 1 January 2005.

Further information about chrysotile and its prohibition can be found at the Workplace Services' website www.eric.sa.gov.au and the NOHSC website, www.nohsc.gov.au or by telephoning Workplace Services on 1300 365 255.