

# ILO's Position on Asbestos and Actions

International Conference  
Expedite Asia to be Free from Asbestos Hazard  
Global Scientific and Social Evidence  
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## Ingrid Christensen

Sr. Specialist on Occupational Safety and Health  
Decent Work Technical Support Team for South-East and  
East Asia and the Pacific  
International Labour Organization (ILO)

DECENT WORK

A better world starts here.



# The International Labour Organization (ILO)



- Constituted in 1919 to promote universal and lasting peace...based upon social justice;
- Joined the UN in 1946;
- A specialized UN-agency mandated to deal with all issues related to the World of Work;
- Tripartite (ILC, GB and national partners);
- 185 Member States, including all ASEAN countries;
- The current agenda: “Decent Work for All”;
- International Labour Office, the Secretariat for the ILO;
- Approx. 3000 staff (offices and projects);

# Decent Work – the Heart of Social Progress



International  
Labour  
Organization



Advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of:

- freedom,
- equity,
- security and
- human dignity

# Decent Work – the Heart of Social Progress



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Four inseparable, interrelated and mutually supportive strategic objectives

**Decent  
Employment  
and Income  
Opportunities**



**Social  
Protection for  
All, including  
OSH**



**Fundamental  
Principles and  
Rights at  
Work**



**Tripartism  
and Social  
Dialogue**



Poverty eradication, gender equality, labour market information etc. as cross-cutting issues

# ILO instruments related to the use of or exposure to asbestos



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- **Asbestos Convention 1986 (No 162);**
- **Asbestos Recommendation 1986 (No 172);**
  
- **Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 (No 139);**
- **Occupational Cancer Recommendation, 1974 (No 147);**
  
- **Resolution concerning Asbestos, 2006;**
- **Code of Practice on Safety in the Use of Asbestos (1984);**





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# ILO instruments - Asbestos Convention

- **Scope and definitions**
- **General principles**
  - National laws and regulation, implementation, enforcement and review
  - Employer responsibility
  - Workers required, within the limits of responsibility, to comply
  - Bipartite cooperation



# ILO instruments - Asbestos Convention

- **Protective and preventive measures**
  - Exposure shall be prevented and controlled (engineering control, work practices, special rules and practices e.g. authorization)
  - Where necessary and technically practicable: replacement and/or prohibition
  - Prohibition (blue asbestos, spraying)
  - Notification
- **Information and education**
  - Dissemination of information and education of concerned should be promoted
  - Employers to have written policies and procedures
  - Information of workers



# ILO instruments - Asbestos Convention

- **Surveillance of the working environment and the workers' health**
  - **Monitoring and recording – worker access**
  - **Medical examinations**
  - **System of notification of occupational diseases caused by asbestos**

**35 Countries have ratified, including  
Australia, Japan and Republic of  
Korea.**

As of 22 Nov. 2014



# ILO instruments – Occupational Cancer



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- **Article 2: Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall make every effort to have carcinogenic substances and agents to which workers may be exposed in the course of their work replaced by non-carcinogenic substances or agents or by less harmful substances or agents; in the choice of substitute substances or agents account shall be taken of their carcinogenic, toxic and other properties.**

**39 Countries have ratified, including Afghanistan, Japan and Republic of Korea.**

As of 22 Nov. 2014

# Other ILO instruments related to the use of or exposure to asbestos



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- **Other Conventions (and their accompanying Recommendations):**
  - Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No 155) and its Protocol of 2002;
  - Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No 187);
  - Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No 81);
  - Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No 170);
  - Working Environment (Air Pollution, noise and vibration) Convention, 1977 (No 148);
  - Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 (No 161);
  - Employment Injury Benefit Convention, 1963 (No 121);

# Resolution 2006 concerning asbestos



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**Resolves that:**

- **(a) the elimination of the future use of asbestos and the identification and proper management of asbestos currently in place are the most effective means to protect workers from asbestos exposure and to prevent future asbestos-related diseases and deaths; and**
- **(b) the Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162), should not be used to provide a justification for, or endorsement of, the continued use of asbestos.**

# Resolution 2006 concerning asbestos



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Requests... the International Labour Office to:

- (a) continue to encourage member States to ratify and give effect to the provisions of the Asbestos Convention, 1986 (No. 162), and the Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 (No. 139);
- (b) promote the elimination of future use of all forms of asbestos and asbestos containing materials in all member States;
- (c) promote the identification and proper management of all forms of asbestos currently in place;
- (d) encourage and assist member States to include measures in their national programmes on occupational safety and health to protect workers from exposure to asbestos; and
- (e) transmit this resolution to all member States.

# Current initiatives



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- **Promotion of ratification and effective implementation;**
  - **Advocacy, information, gaps analysis between the Conventions and the national legislation, capacity building to implement;**
- **Awareness raising among social partners;**
- **Bringing the possibility of prohibition to the national OSH agenda – sometimes as part of OSH and chemicals;**
- **Detection and diagnosis of asbestos related diseases – (training of medical staff);**
- **Strengthening of national system for reporting of occupational diseases;**
- **Much focus on the prohibition – but the identification and proper management of all forms of asbestos currently in place equally important;**
- **International cooperation;**

# Further information



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The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the ILO website. The address bar shows the URL: [www.ilo.org/safework/areasofwork/occupational-health/WCMS\\_108554/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/safework/areasofwork/occupational-health/WCMS_108554/lang--en/index.htm). The page title is "Occupational health: Asbestos". The main content area includes a breadcrumb trail: "ILO home > About the ILO > How the ILO works > Departments and offices > Occupational Safety and Health > Areas of work > Occupational Health > Occupational health: Asbestos ...". The main heading is "Occupational health: Asbestos". Below the heading, the text states: "In order to address the continuing burden of diseases caused by exposure to asbestos, the ILO has developed international standards and guidelines to contribute to the elimination of asbestos-related diseases (ARD) worldwide." A document date of "07 July 2013" is shown. There are sections for "Key resources" and "Further information", each containing a list of links to various ILO documents and guidelines. A small image shows a mechanic working with asbestos. The page also features a search bar, navigation tabs, and social media sharing options.

[http://www.ilo.org/safework/areasofwork/occupational-health/WCMS\\_108554/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/safework/areasofwork/occupational-health/WCMS_108554/lang--en/index.htm)



# National Preventative Safety and Health Culture

**A national preventative safety and health culture is one in which:**

- ✓ **The right to a safe and healthy working environment is respected at all levels,**
- ✓ **Where governments, employers and workers actively participate in securing a safe and healthy working environment through a system of defined rights, responsibilities and duties, and**
- ✓ **Where the highest priority is accorded to the principle of prevention**



Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health, ILO, 2003 and C187, 2006)

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ASIAN  
DECENT WORK  
DECADE 2006  
2015



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# Thank you

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For more information, please contact:

ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific/

ILO Decent Work Technical Team

Tel: 662 288 1743,

E-mail: [christensen@ilo.org](mailto:christensen@ilo.org)

[www.ilo.org/asia](http://www.ilo.org/asia)

