

ICA STATEMENT

THE SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF CHRYSOTILE

The International Chrysotile Association is an association registered under Quebec (Canada) legislation, with the principal purposes, as set forth in Article 1 of its Bylaws, to promote the worldwide safe and responsible use of chrysotile. Further, it is our mission to disseminate and provide educational information to member associations and other parties related to scientific and technical matters, both occupational and environmental that support the responsible and safe use of chrysotile.

Over the last 50 years, the serpentine form of asbestos (chrysotile) has been one of the most thoroughly researched fiber additives in existence. No other natural resource, product or substance has been studied or evaluated as thoroughly (both the amphibole and serpentine forms). Over time, national and international regulators along with users have worked closely to develop a comprehensive array of standards, technologies, working procedures and production processes that have resulted in a proven framework for safe and controlled use. The ICA has tirelessly promoted a “safety in use” approach, based on an overwhelming body of scientific evidence. The ICA believes safe use is the only acceptable approach to using chrysotile today.

The ICA supports fully and without hesitation the total ban of amphibole usage. There is no ambiguity that amphiboles differ significantly from the serpentine form (of chrysotile) in terms of their physical, mineralogical and chemical properties, rendering chrysotile amenable for safe use. Moreover, approximately 95% of industrial applications manufactured today using chrysotile, employ fibers encapsulated in a non-friable cement matrix (roofing, ceiling, pipes). This differentiated approach is recognized by all international agencies (WHO, ILO and Rotterdam Convention) and represents a cornerstone of the ICA’s safe use philosophy.

Over the span of several decades, the chrysotile industry has created and advanced a safe use program based on systematic efforts, supported by effective regulations and international rules. Throughout this process, a regime of safe use has reflected the active participation of multiple stakeholders, including national governments, relevant authorities, and regulators, as well as workers and employers; all working together to develop rigid and effective procedures that effectively protect worker and public health.

Today, the safe and controlled use of chrysotile is accepted in the majority of nations around the world, representing 2/3 of the humankind, and the ICA is dedicated to promoting policies that protect worker and public health.

Finally, chrysotile is widely recognized as an affordable, high-quality product aligned with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Its safe use contributes to providing developing countries with affordable access to safe housing, water, hygiene and sanitation solutions.