



International Chrysotile Association

For environmental, occupational health, safe and responsible use

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**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON CHRYSOTILE, NEW DELHI, INDIA  
DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Delhi December 2013**

The most recent scientific research determined clearly and reported that the use of chrysotile alone in high-density cement products as well as other applications and the implementation of controls and mining and manufacturing provide a framework for establishing safe use. A serious review of numerous recent scientific studies and many robust published data showed that low exposures to chrysotile asbestos fibres type do not present a detectable risk to health.

The International Chrysotile Association (ICA), in collaboration with the Asbestos Cement Manufacturers Association, has organized this “International Conference on Chrysotile”. The purpose of this meeting was to ensure that the strategy to protect the health and safety of the workers is relying exclusively on Science and not on perception and propaganda.

The conference succeeded in gathering a group of internationally recognized scientists to share their knowledge and experience on a much debated topic: the health and safety aspects of the modern uses of chrysotile asbestos.

All avenues of present and past scientific investigations were covered, from epidemiological studies through toxicological investigations, and in the light of current, real-life conditions and health outcomes in today’s work place.

The scientists highlighted the coherence between epidemiological and toxicological data, especially concerning the great difference in risk between chrysotile and the amphiboles varieties of asbestos, a difference of at least two orders of magnitude, and pointing in particular to the evidence that exposure to amphiboles is the overwhelming cause of mesothelioma. On that point, the toxicological evidence coming from comparisons of the biopersistence of different types of asbestos, has shown that when inhaled, chrysotile is cleared very rapidly from the lungs, while the amphiboles varieties of asbestos (crocidolite and amosite) are retained and persist for very long periods.

They also gave evidence from well-conducted studies in different work places and settings around the world where chrysotile was used according to the best work practices as set out in the ILO Code of Practice “Safety in the Use of Asbestos”. The scientists concluded that in the absence of amphiboles, chrysotile, in its modern-day applications such as chrysotile-reinforced cement construction materials, can and have been used without any demonstrable excess risk. This was found to be true not only in the manufacture of such materials, but also in their actual use in home and buildings, thus recognizing that the safety of such materials is also the case for the general population.



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The modern chrysotile-cement industry is committed to follow the best work practices, the strict vigilance by hygienists in order to comply with the mandated lowest exposure levels possible, the full training of the workers, and the constant contribution of occupational physicians. The industry is confident that this scientific update by international experts will contribute to the safe and responsible use of chrysotile in its present applications.

The International Chrysotile Association wanted to recall that its mandate is to promote the worldwide safe and responsible use of chrysotile fibres, to create a full awareness of potential health problems associated with the irresponsible use, to provide prompt information service to member associations and other parties covering medical, scientific and technical matters both occupational and environmental and to put forward the view of the international chrysotile fibres industry and support it against unwarranted attacks, propaganda and or unhealthy lies.

Finally ICA wanted to propose again that a controlled and responsible use of potential dangerous products or substances must be the common right for the use of such substances or products in industrial applications. The programme defended by ICA for chrysotile fibres must be an example for many others kinds of industry.

For ICA, in fact, the arguments long-time supported by the anti-asbestos lobby in close collaboration with a powerful litigation lobby are more and more suffering severe rebuff from numerous recent peer reviewed papers and scientific studies by internationally recognised asbestos experts.

The Conference in which more than 13 scientists from different part of world have presented the results of serious research and more than 150 participants present has been a great success that permit to explained above all what is the real status of the science and has also permit to established exaggerated propaganda and the famous crusade against countries that believed in a responsible and controls use approach.

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