

been demonstrated. Canadian government regulation of asbestos-containing products has therefore been directed at controlling exceptional cases where a potential hazard has been found to be present: in wearing apparel, certain products used by children, dry-wall joint cements, wall patching compounds and artificial decorative ash (for fireplaces). Prevention of the sale of free asbestos fibre to other than industrial users is planned.

Although Canadian fibre producers are currently using warning labels, it is planned that such labels on packaging for asbestos fibre will be made mandatory. If appropriate, such labels will be extended to some manufactured products containing asbestos offered for sale to the public, in particular those which may emit fibres during installation.

Further research will be undertaken in Canada on existing products to determine the degree of fibre emission associated with installation and wear. Products which cannot be used safely will have to be improved or withdrawn from commerce.

Substitutes

Canada recognizes that substitutes for asbestos fibre in certain applications also may pose risk to the health of workers and the public. A research program should be undertaken to establish their relative safety before such substitutes are used.

Transportation

Handling and transportation of packages of free asbestos fibre are potentially hazardous activities, but the hazard can be minimized through appropriate practice and regulation. Proposed Canadian legislation follows generally the United Nations' recommendations for the transport of dangerous goods. Similar requirements have been adopted by the U.S. Department of Transport and are being proposed by the International Maritime Consultative Organization.

Summary

In conclusion, workers and the public in general can be protected from the risks associated with asbestos dust exposure through enforcement of appropriate regulations on occupational health, environmental control, use of products, handling and transportation of asbestos.