

**CONVENTION CONCERNING SAFETY IN THE USE OF ASBESTOS**

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,  
Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International  
Labour Office, and having met in its Seventy-second Session on 4 June  
1986, and

Noting the relevant international labour Conventions and Recommendations,  
and in particular the Occupational Cancer Convention and Recommendation,  
1974, the Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration)  
Convention and Recommendation, 1977, the Occupational Safety and  
Health Convention and Recommendation, 1981, the Occupational Health  
Services Convention and Recommendation, 1985, the list of occupational  
diseases as revised in 1980 appended to the Employment Injury Benefits  
Convention, 1964, as well as the *Code of practice on safety in the use of  
asbestos*, published by the International Labour Office in 1984, which  
establish the principles of national policy and action at the national level,

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to safety in  
the use of asbestos, which is the fourth item on the agenda of the session,  
and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international  
Convention;

adopts this twenty-fourth day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and  
eighty-six the following Convention, which may be cited as the Asbestos  
Convention, 1986:

**PART I. SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS**

*Article 1*

1. This Convention applies to all activities involving exposure of workers to asbestos in the course of work.
2. A Member ratifying this Convention may, after consultation with the most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, and on the basis of an assessment of the health hazards involved and the safety measures applied, exclude particular branches of economic activity or particular undertakings from the application of certain provisions of the Convention when it is satisfied that their application to these branches or undertakings is unnecessary.
3. The competent authority, when deciding on the exclusion of particular branches of economic activity or particular undertakings, shall take into account the frequency, duration and level of exposure, as well as the type of work and the conditions at the workplace.

*Article 2*

For the purpose of this Convention—

- (a) the term “asbestos” means the fibrous form of mineral silicates belonging to rock-forming minerals of the serpentine group, i.e. chrysotile (white asbestos), and of the amphibole group, i.e. actinolite, amosite (brown asbestos, cummingtonite-grunerite), anthophyllite, crocidolite (blue asbestos), tremolite, or any mixture containing one or more of these;
- (b) the term “asbestos dust” means airborne particles of asbestos or settled particles of asbestos which are liable to become airborne in the working environment;