Asbestos Conference
Dresden 3 September 2003

ILO and Asbestos

J. Takala, SafeWork
InFocus Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment

International Labour Organization

www.ilo.org/safework
Deaths, Disability and Disease

• Estimate of work related deaths in 2000:
  1.9 – 2.3 Million

10% were exposed already as working children
Deaths, Disability and Disease
(data from 1998…2000)

- Fatal occupational accidents: 355 000
- Fatal work-related diseases: 1.574 000
- Fatal commuting accidents: 158 000
normal lung

asbestosis + cancer
Work-related Annual Deaths - World

- Economically active population: 2.7 billion
- *Deaths attributed to occupation* 1.9 - 2.3 Million
- *Work-related diseases:* (lower limit) 1.6 Million
  - communicable diseases, w/r 320 000
  - cancer, w/r 610 000
  - circulatory diseases, w/r 449 000
  - chronic respiratory diseases (silicosis 36 000), w/r 145 000
  - nervous system disorders, w/r 20 000
  - digestive system diseases, w/r 21 000
  - genito-urinary disorders, w/r 9 000
- *Deaths caused by work accidents* 355 000
- Commuting injuries (not included in overall deaths above) 158 000
**Work-related Annual Deaths - World**

**Deaths attributed to work**

- **Communicable diseases**: 17%
- **Respiratory Diseases**: 32%
- **Circulatory diseases**: 8%
- **Mental Disorders**: 23%
- **Digestive systems diseases**: 1%
- **Genitourinary system**: 1%
- **Accidents and violence**: 1%
- **Cancer**: 0.4%
Fatalities caused by Occupational Accidents and Work-related diseases

Hazardous occupations

Most dangerous jobs from the point of view of carcinogenicity in Finland:

**Men:**
- Knitters
- Asphalt roofers
- Cutting/sewing workers
- Glass and ceramic decorators
- Tobacco industry
- Insulators
- Metal platers and coaters
- Hairdressers and barbers

**Women:**
- Telephone installers
- Agricultural workers
- Wholesalers
- Sculptors, painters

Source: Pukkala ao.
Decent Work must be Safe Work

ILO Response

ILO Standards,
Conv. 155, 161 and 81 and 88 other relevant conventions,

• Convention 162 on Safety in the Use of Asbestos
• Global Safety and Health Strategy adopted in 2003

• ILO SafeWork - Programme

www.ilo.org/safework
The number of ratifications out of 20 key ILO occupational safety and health conventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Ratified Conventions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany, Norway, Spain</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53 countries</td>
<td>4...12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan...Botswana, Benin, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Gabon, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Thailand, Vietnam, D.Rep.Congo (Zaire),</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A large number of countries</td>
<td>0-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.iло.org/public/english/50normes/index
Measures taken against asbestos

• 27 ratifications of the ILO Convention:
  Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Guatemala Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, Uruguay, Zimbabwe (only 8 out of 15 EU member States)

• 25 Countries banned asbestos:
  • EU 15, Argentina, Australia, Chile, Croatia, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Switzerland
Measures taken against asbestos

- **Not ratified** (covered by EU ban): Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, United Kingdom

- **Not ratified, not banned, action expected** (candidate countries): Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Iceland
Figures on asbestos fatalities

- **Finland** (source Nurminen, Karjalainen, Scand J WEH, 2001)
  - Lung cancer at work, men: 207
  - Lung cancer at work, women: 2
  - Mesothelioma at work, men: 38
  - Mesothelioma at work, women: 4
  - Employed work force (1996): 2.1 million

- **Rates:**
  - Lung cancer, men and women: 9.9/100,000 workers
  - Mesothelioma, m/w: 2.0/100,000

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Figures on asbestos, cont.

- **Estimated deaths** (using Finland and UK as references)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Lung cancer</th>
<th>Mesothelioma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>2 700</td>
<td>1 700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>13 100</td>
<td>8 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>6 400</td>
<td>4 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3 600</td>
<td>2 250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>1 600</td>
<td>1 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Established Market Econ.</td>
<td>38 000</td>
<td>24 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Socialist Econ.</td>
<td>16 000</td>
<td>10 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China(??)</td>
<td>70 000</td>
<td>44 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lung cancer/mesothelioma rate
- Finland: 4-5:1 (not representative)
Figures on asbestos, cont.

- World estimate, work-related deaths:

  100,000 every year
Observed and projected deaths from mesothelioma in British men (with exposure index*)

*The exposure index can be thought of as representing the number of asbestos fibres breathed by the male population in that year.
Annual deaths from mesothelioma in Britain to reach 2000 by 2010

Professor Peto said that in Britain the annual number of deaths from the disease had now reached 1700, up from less than 200 in the 1960s. But the numbers would continue to rise, peaking at 2000 a year by 2010, a figure lower than previously thought, but still substantial.
ILO MEANS OF ACTION

- Development, promotion and supervision of International Labour Standards
- Development of Inspection Systems
- Development and promotion of Codes of Practice and other instruments
- Knowledge management
- Technical cooperation
- Inter-agency cooperation
CODES OF PRACTICE

~ 37 CoP on OSH

- Indications of impact
- Requests for translations
- Related activities and requests for assistance
Thank you!

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