

Asbestos

Trade union action at EU level

15th Seminar on workers' protection and chemicals

Lisbon, 27-28 June

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of Building
and Woodworkers



Content

1. EFBWW asbestos campaign
2. EU legislation
3. Resolutions and opinions
4. Project: Trade Union Guide on Using Asbestos Registries (2018)
5. Revision of EU legal provisions?

EFBWW Asbestos Campaign

“Europe 2023 - Asbestos Free”

1. Registration, notification and medical surveillance
2. Safer working conditions
3. Training of workers
4. Recognition of asbestos related diseases
5. Recognition procedures and compensation of asbestos-related diseases

EU legislation

- ▶ Regulation (EC)1907/2006 REACH 2007
- ▶ Directive 2009/148/EC Protection of workers from asbestos 2009
- ▶ Commission publication Practical guidelines info + training 2012
- ▶ Directive (EU)2018/844 Amending EPBD directive 2018

Resolutions and opinions

- ▶ *EP resolution* *Abolishing all existing asbestos* *2013*
 - ▶ *Article 1: “Calls on the EU to develop ... a model for asbestos screening and registration ...”*
- ▶ *EESC/CCMI opinion* *Freeing the EU from asbestos* *2015*
- ▶ *EESC opinion* *Asbestos in energy renovation* *2019*

Resolutions and opinions

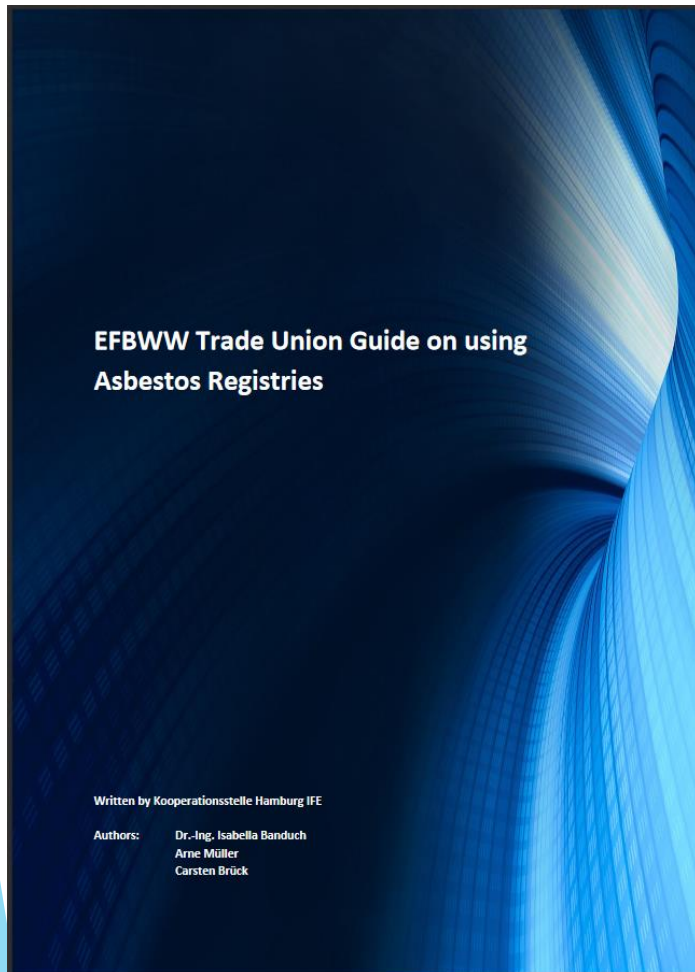
EFBWW Guide, 2018:

- ▶ *“...the resolutions and opinions did not yet trigger any further initiatives or legislative measures and that at the moment, asbestos and the prevention of asbestos related risks are not in the focus of the EU OSH policy makers”*

European Commission, April 2019:

- ▶ Legal framework on asbestos *“is robust and addresses the most important specific risks”* (COM answer to Written Question by an MEP)

Trade Union Guide on Using Asbestos Registries



- European project 2018
- Asbestos registration and identification models
- How to access and use relevant information and expert services in all EU states (excl. Czech Republic)
- Project financed by EU Commission
- **Available at: efbww.org --- EU projects**

Methodology

- ▶ Literature review
- ▶ Survey to national experts
- ▶ Regional seminars
 - ▶ Feedback from national experts, experts from social partner associations, and other stakeholders

Content

- ▶ Asbestos registration models
 - ▶ National data source / alternative means
- ▶ Legal obligations
 - ▶ EU and national
- ▶ Removal strategies
- ▶ Safety and health at the workplace

Registries - Country fact sheets (1)

POLAND

English

Overview of national data sources

This chapter presents fact sheets with national data sources that are publicly accessible. Data source means: database, register, inventory, report, etc. They include information about asbestos-containing buildings or products which can be used to protect workers in case of removal or demolition actions. Each fact sheet contains the following modules:

- 1. Basic data**
 - Name/ title of the data source (original)
 - Name (translated by the author into English)
 - Originator/ owner of the data source
 - Publication form and reference
 - Short description of the data source
 - Type of the data source (Database, Register etc.)
 - Covered types of buildings (Government, Medical etc.)
 - Covered types of products
 - Time period of data collection: the year(s) of data compilation and the frequency of updates
 - Covered language(s)
 - Covered geographical area(s)
- 2. Request access to information**
 - Fees for using the data source
 - Other constraints (others than user fees) for using the data source
 - Request/ access to information

Name (original):
Baza azbestowa

Name (translated into English):
Asbestos Database

Originator/owner:
Ministry of Enterprise and Technology

Publication form and reference:
www.bazaazbestowa.gov.pl

Main site
ASBESTOS (ASBESTOS) register for collecting and processing information about asbestos-containing products on the territory of Poland. The database is managed by the Ministry of Economic Development and Labour of the Republic of Poland for the implementation of the Programme for Asbestos Abatement in Poland (2009-2032).

Recent quantities of asbestos-containing products located in Poland

Activity chart of asbestos in Poland

News
• Welcome to the Asbestos Database

EFBW Trade Union Guide on using Asbestos Registries - Fact sheets POLAND

Short description:

ASBESTOS DATABASE is a tool for collecting and processing information about asbestos-containing products on the territory of Poland. The database is maintained by the Ministry of Enterprise and Technology, and it is one of the tools for monitoring the implementation of the Programme for Asbestos Abatement in Poland 2009-2032. The database includes the GeoAzbest module which is based on the use of an orthophotomap as a basic layer and of a digital land and building register and uses the database of asbestos-containing products (see following picture). GeoAzbest is available at: <https://www.bazaazbestowa.gov.pl/pl/geoazbest/o-portalu-geoazbest>. Visualization of asbestos containing buildings at country, regional and local level using GeoAzbest shows the following picture.

Type of the data source:
Database (includes also registers and reports)

Covered types of buildings:

- Government (public administrations, fire or police stations, post offices etc.)
- Medical (hospitals, nursing homes, health services etc.)
- Educational (schools, libraries cultural institutions etc.)
- Agricultural
- Commercial (hotels, offices, warehouses, human services etc.)
- Industrial

Covered types of products:

- Asbestos-cement flat sheets
- Corrugated asbestos cement sheets
- Asbestos-cement pipes and joints
- Sprayed insulation materials
- Asbestos-rubber friction products
- Woven and woven tapes, cords and strings
- Asbestos-cement coverings, flame retardant boards
- Membranes, putties, and waterproofing masses, sealants
- Asbestos packing
- Roads
- Industrial networks

Time period of data collection: year(s) of data compilation and the frequency of updates:
Start 2003, updated annually till 31st January. The data from building owners is collected at the local and regional level and put into the database by the local and regional administration.

Covered language(s):
Polish

Covered geographical area(s):
Poland

Further results

- ▶ Registries often not accessible for companies and workers
 - ▶ E.g. Cyprus: Department of Public Works records governmental buildings containing asbestos
 - ▶ Data not publicly accessible for construction workers
- ▶ Updates:
 - ▶ Some daily, some irregularly, some not at all
- ▶ Incompleteness:
 - ▶ E.g. Italy: national database, but no homogenous criteria for data collection in regions
- ▶ No registries:
 - ▶ But asbestos surveys prior to refurbishment or demolition

Proposal:

EU minimum standards for registries

1. Information about the type of building (private, public, business)
2. Particular location of harmful substances and work (inside/outside; floors, walls, ceilings, roofs ...)
3. Year of construction (before national asbestos ban?)
4. Type + amounts of material (e.g. asbestos cement, insulation, putty)
5. Kind of works (repairs, removal, etc.), method (drilling, cutting etc.), duration (e.g. 2h)
6. Timeline for removal and management plan until asbestos is removed
7. Accessibility for companies and workers (e.g. in a centralized database or a building specific 'log book' such as a building renovation passport)

Registries and recognition of ARD

- ▶ **Digital Portmap Bremen**

- ▶ From 1950's: Bremen port main trade-location for asbestos
- ▶ Project by local health insurance 'AOK' 2006 to 2014

- ▶ **Research:**

- ▶ 45 different places (museums, archives, clubs, companies, agencies, press archives, institutes)
- ▶ Use of “log files of barns”, interviews with former employees

- ▶ **Aim:**

- ▶ Recognition of asbestos related occupational diseases
- ▶ Prove occupation-related exposure to asbestos to statutory accident insurance

Revision of EU legal provisions?

Directive 2009/148/EC

- ▶ Binding minimum standards for national asbestos registries
 - ▶ All buildings
 - ▶ Specialised companies
 - ▶ Workers (regular or occasional work with asbestos)
- ▶ Lower *Binding Occupational Exposure Limit Values* (BOELV)
 - ▶ ICOH recommendation: max. 1000 fibres/m³ (now: 100.000 f/m³)
- ▶ Annex to directive with standards for two types of training:
 - ▶ Occasional contact
 - ▶ Specialised

Revision of EU legal provisions?

Further provisions:

- ▶ Occupational diseases
 - ▶ Complete the EU list of occupational diseases with all forms of ARD (e.g. ovarian cancer)
 - ▶ COM recommendation --- EU directive?
 - ▶ Recognition (procedures), compensation, assistance?
 - ▶ Application of duty of documentation
- ▶ Standards for waste disposal
 - ▶ Collection, containers, transport, approved landfills
- ▶ Building renovation passports (EPBD directive)
 - ▶ Include asbestos