

**NOTIFICATION**

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6.

<b>1. Member to Agreement notifying: <u>AUSTRALIA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):</b>
<b>2. Agency responsible:</b>  National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) GPO Box 1577 CANBERRA CITY 2601  Tel: +61 262791000 Fax: +61 262791199 Web: <a href="http://www.nohsc.gov.au">http://www.nohsc.gov.au</a> <b>Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:</b>
<b>3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [ ], 5.6.2 [ ], 5.7.1 [ ], other:</b>
<b>4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):</b> CHRYSOTILE, CAS No. 12001-29-5, CROCIDOLITE, CAS No 12002-28-4, AMOSITE CAS No 12172-73-5, ACTINOLITE, CAS No. 77536-66-4, ANTHOPHYLLITE, CAS No 77536-67-5, TREMOLITE CAS No 77536-68-6  Affected Customs Codes:  All products containing chrysotile asbestos.  2524.00.00 23 (Asbestos), 6811 (Articles of asbestos cement), 6812 (Fabricated asbestos fibres), 6813.10.10 67 (Passenger motor vehicle brake linings containing asbestos), 6813.10.10 45 (Passenger motor vehicle brake pads [may or may not contain asbestos]), 6813.10.90 69 (Non passenger vehicle brake lining containing or not containing asbestos), 6813.10.90 48 (Non passenger vehicle brake linings moulded [may or may not contain asbestos]), 6813.10.90 49 (Friction material non passenger vehicle other brake linings or pads [may or may not contain asbestos]), 6813.10.90 50 ( Non passenger vehicle brake pads [may or may not contain asbestos]), 6813.90.10 70 (Friction material other than brake linings or pads, of a kind used as components in passenger motor vehicles [may or may not contain asbestos]), 6813.90.90 71 (Friction material other than brake lining or pads of a kind not used as components in passenger motor vehicles [may or may not contain asbestos]), 4418 (Sound and heat/fire resistant wood panels).
<b>5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:</b> See 8 (below)

6.	<p><b>Description of content:</b> The Priority Existing Chemical report on chrysotile was a physico-chemical description of chrysotile, including its hazard level and a recommendation that the use of chrysotile cease in Australia.</p> <p>The 2001 discussion paper deals only with chrysotile and presents issues relevant to a prohibition on use. These include the period over which prohibition should be phased in, prohibition on importation of asbestos and asbestos-related products, implications for its use in transport applications and alternatives to a regulatory prohibition.</p> <p>The Chemical Gazette Notices are self-explanatory.</p>					
7.	<p><b>Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:</b> Asbestos is a known human carcinogen. Asbestos, other than chrysotile is not used or mined in Australia and formal bans are in place in most Australian States and Territories. Chrysotile is currently being banned for use in all Australian States and Territories. However, some administrative anomalies have occurred, including the absence of a formal ban to import asbestos. The objective of this proposal is to reduce future death and illness from exposure to asbestos fibres.</p>					
8.	<p><b>Relevant documents:</b> A Public discussion paper, and three supporting documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1a. Technical Assessment of the Impact of a Phase Out of Uses of Chrysotile Asbestos in Australia;</li> <li>1b. Health Assessment of Alternative Materials in the Event of a Phase Out of Uses of Chrysotile Asbestos in Australia; and</li> <li>1c. Initial Economic Impact Assessment of the Proposed Phase Out of Chrysotile Asbestos in Australia.</li> <li>2. Australian Chemical Gazette notice in April 1995 foreshadowing regulations to prohibit import of crocidolite and calling for comment – no comments received.</li> <li>3. Australian Chemical Gazette notice in April 1996 calling for information on use of crocidolite in Australia. No information was received.</li> <li>4. Australian Chemical Gazette notice in February 2000 calling for information from importers, exporters or current users of amphibole asbestos excluding crocidolite: amosite, actinolite, anthophyllite or tremolite. No replies were received to this notice.</li> <li>5. National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) Priority Existing Chemical Report No 9 – Chrysotile.(1999)</li> </ol> <p>[All documents in English].</p>					
9.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="300 1568 766 1612"><b>Proposed date of adoption</b></td> <td data-bbox="774 1568 805 1646" rowspan="2">}</td> <td data-bbox="869 1568 1093 1612">31 December 2001</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="300 1612 766 1666"><b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b></td> <td data-bbox="869 1612 1093 1666"></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Proposed date of adoption</b>	}	31 December 2001	<b>Proposed date of entry into force:</b>	
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10.	<p><b>Final date for comments:</b> 2 November 2001</p>					
11.	<p><b>Texts available from: National enquiry point [ ] or address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available of the other body:</b></p> <p>National Occupational Health and Safety Commission GPO Box 1577 CANBERRA CITY 2601</p> <p>The public discussion paper and supporting documents are available on the NOHSC website at <a href="http://www.nohsc.gov.au/whatsnew_index.htm">http://www.nohsc.gov.au/whatsnew_index.htm</a></p>					