




Basic information	
<p><b>2022/0298(COD)</b></p> <p>COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive</p>	Procedure completed
<p>Protection of workers from asbestos</p> <p>Amending Directive 2009/148 <a href="#">2006/0222(COD)</a></p> <p><b>Subject</b></p> <p>4.15.15 Health and safety at work, occupational medicine</p> <p><b>Legislative priorities</b></p> <p><a href="#">Joint Declaration 2022</a> <a href="#">Joint Declaration 2023-24</a></p>	

Key players				
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>		<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<a href="#">EMPL</a> Employment and Social Affairs		TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique (Renew)	10/11/2022
			Shadow rapporteur FRANSSEN Cindy (EPP) VIND Marianne (S&D) MATTHIEU Sara (Greens /EFA) KOPCIŃSKA Joanna (ECR) LIZZI Elena (ID) VILLUMSEN Nikolaj (The Left)	
	<b>Committee for opinion</b>		<b>Rapporteur for opinion</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<a href="#">ENVI</a> Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		MESURE Marina (The Left)	24/11/2022
Council of the European Union				
European Commission	<b>Commission DG</b>		<b>Commissioner</b>	
	Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion		SCHMIT Nicolas	
European Economic and Social Committee				

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/09/2022	Legislative proposal published	COM(2022)0489 	Summary
06/10/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
26/04/2023	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
26/04/2023	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
28/04/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0160/2023	Summary
08/05/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)		
10/05/2023	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)		
07/09/2023	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations		
02/10/2023	Debate in Parliament		
03/10/2023	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0332/2023	Summary
03/10/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
23/10/2023	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
22/11/2023	Final act signed		
30/11/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2022/0298(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Amendments and repeals	Amending Directive 2009/148 <a href="#">2006/0222(COD)</a>
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 114
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	<a href="#">European Economic and Social Committee</a> <a href="#">European Committee of the Regions</a>
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/9/10227

## Documentation gateway





**European Parliament**

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE738.719</a>	11/01/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE742.461</a>	10/02/2023	
Committee opinion	<a href="#">ENVI</a>	<a href="#">PE740.714</a>	22/03/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A9-0160/2023</a>	28/04/2023	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">T9-0332/2023</a>	03/10/2023	<a href="#">Summary</a>

**Council of the EU**

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	<a href="#">00048/2023/LEX</a>	22/11/2023	

**European Commission**

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	<a href="#">COM(2022)0489</a> 	29/09/2022	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Document attached to the procedure	<a href="#">SEC(2022)0342</a>	29/09/2022	
Document attached to the procedure	<a href="#">SWD(2022)0310</a> 	29/09/2022	
Document attached to the procedure	<a href="#">SWD(2022)0311</a> 	29/09/2022	
Document attached to the procedure	<a href="#">SWD(2022)0312</a> 	29/09/2022	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	<a href="#">SP(2023)557</a>	19/12/2023	

**National parliaments**

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	<a href="#">CZ_SENATE</a>	<a href="#">COM(2022)0489</a>	31/01/2023	
Contribution	<a href="#">RO_CHAMBER</a>	<a href="#">COM(2022)0489</a>	22/02/2023	

**Other institutions and bodies**

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	<a href="#">CES4829/2022</a>	14/12/2022	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	<a href="#">CDR5655/2022</a>	16/03/2023	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
EP Research Service	Briefing	13/12/2023
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

## Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

### Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	19/06/2023	EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
FRANSSEN Cindy	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	05/06/2023	Permanente Vertegenwoordiging België bij de EU
FRANSSEN Cindy	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	27/04/2023	Zweeds Voorzitterschap
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	24/04/2023	Eurofins
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	30/03/2023	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND WOODWORKERS EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
FRANSSEN Cindy	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	27/03/2023	ACV
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	21/03/2023	Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail European Trade Union Institute Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research TNO Fedasbest (Belgian federation of recognised asbestos laboratories and asbestos experts) Finnish Institute of Occupational Health
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	15/03/2023	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND WOODWORKERS EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
MESURE Marina	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	09/03/2023	Partenaires sociaux de Belgique
FRANSSEN Cindy	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	09/03/2023	European Builders Confederation EBC
VIND Marianne	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	06/03/2023	Byggefagenes Samvirke
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	27/02/2023	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND WOODWORKERS EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
VIND Marianne	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	23/02/2023	3F Sjælland
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	14/02/2023	Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	07/02/2023	European Federation of Public Service Unions
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	02/02/2023	ACV-CSV
MESURE Marina	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	02/02/2023	Comité européen des régions
POLFJÄRD Jessica	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	02/02/2023	Swedish Confederation of Enterprises

MESURE Marina	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	01/02/2023	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND WOODWORKERS
MESURE Marina	Rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	01/02/2023	European Construction Industry Federation
POLFJÄRD Jessica	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	ENVI	01/02/2023	Swedish Unions: LO, TCO and Saco
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	31/01/2023	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND WOODWORKERS EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION European Trade Union Institute
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	30/01/2023	European Trade Union Institute
VIND Marianne	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	30/01/2023	FIEC
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	24/01/2023	European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)
VIND Marianne	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	03/01/2023	Dansk EI-Forbund
VIND Marianne	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	03/01/2023	Dansk EI Forbund
VIND Marianne	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	20/12/2022	BAT
VIND Marianne	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	19/12/2022	Blik&Rør
VIND Marianne	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	19/12/2022	3F
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	07/12/2022	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND WOODWORKERS
FRANSSEN Cindy	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	07/12/2022	EFBWW
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	07/12/2022	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND WOODWORKERS European Trade Union Institute
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	06/12/2022	European Building Confederation Confédération de l'Artisanat et des Petites entreprises du Bâtiment
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	06/12/2022	European Construction Industry Federation
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	02/12/2022	Fagligt Fælles Forbund Byggefagenes samvirke
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	01/12/2022	SIDIANE
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	01/12/2022	European Construction Industry Federation Fédération Française du Bâtiment
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	30/11/2022	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND WOODWORKERS European Trade Union Institute
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	29/11/2022	EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	17/11/2022	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND WOODWORKERS
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	17/11/2022	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND WOODWORKERS
FRANSSEN Cindy	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	17/11/2022	EFBWW
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	11/11/2022	European Asbestos Forum
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	10/11/2022	European Federation of Public Service Unions

VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	10/11/2022	European Asbestos Forum
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	09/11/2022	United Federation of Danish Workers (3F)
VIND Marianne	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	09/11/2022	3F
VIND Marianne	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	08/11/2022	3F
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	08/11/2022	Fagligt Fælles Forbund
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	01/11/2022	Blik og Rør
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique	Rapporteur	EMPL	13/10/2022	EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
LIZZI Elena	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	11/10/2022	Deliveroo
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	EMPL	07/06/2022	EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF BUILDING AND WOODWORKERS

## Other Members

Transparency		
Name	Date	Interest representatives
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	11/10/2023	Eurofins
LENAERS Jeroen	27/03/2023	Aedes vereniging van woningcorporaties
FRANSSEN Cindy	20/09/2022	OVAM

Final act
<a href="#">Directive 2023/2668</a> <a href="#">OJ L 000 30.11.2023, p. 0000</a> <span style="float: right;"><a href="#">Summary</a></span>

# Protection of workers from asbestos

2022/0298(COD) - 30/11/2023 - Final act

PURPOSE: to strengthen the protection of workers from the risks of exposure to asbestos.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Directive (EU) 2023/2668 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work.

CONTENT: the new directive **updates the existing rules** (Directive 2009/148/EC) in line with the latest scientific and technological developments, with a view to improving the protection of workers exposed to asbestos. It significantly reduces the current limit values for asbestos and provides for **more accurate means of measuring exposure levels**.

Asbestos is an extremely dangerous carcinogen. According to the European occupational diseases statistics, it is by far the major cause of occupational cancer, with as much as 78 % of occupational cancers recognised in the Member States as being related to exposure to asbestos. Based on current knowledge, exposure to asbestos fibres can cause at least the following conditions: asbestosis, mesothelioma, lung cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, cancer of the larynx, ovarian cancer and non-malignant pleural disorders.

### **Exposure of workers reduced to a minimum**

The Directive provides that the exposure of workers to dust arising from asbestos or materials containing asbestos in the workplace must be reduced to a minimum and, in any event, to as low a level as technically possible below the relevant limit value, in particular by means of the following measures:

- the number of workers exposed or likely to be exposed to dust arising from asbestos or materials containing asbestos shall be limited to the lowest possible figure;
- work processes shall be designed so as not to produce asbestos dust or, if that proves to be impossible, to avoid the release of asbestos dust into the air;
- workers shall be subject to an appropriate decontamination procedure for work carried out under confinement, adequate protection shall be ensured;
- all premises and equipment involved in the treatment of asbestos shall be capable of being regularly and effectively cleaned and maintained and subject to regular cleaning and maintenance;
- asbestos or dust-generating materials containing asbestos shall be stored and transported in suitable sealed packing;
- waste, other than waste arising from mining activities, shall be collected and removed from the place of work as soon as possible in suitable sealed packing with labels indicating that it contains asbestos and shall then be dealt with.

#### ***A lower exposure limit***

The new rules will initially reduce the maximum limit for exposure to **0.01 fibres of asbestos per cm<sup>3</sup>**, which is ten times lower than the current limit of 0.1 f/cm<sup>3</sup>.

**From 21 December 2029**, Member States will be required to implement a new method for measuring asbestos levels, **electron microscopy (EM)**, which is more sensitive than the phase-contrast microscopy (PCM) currently used and makes it possible to measure thin asbestos fibres. Having introduced EM, Member States will have **two options**:

- to measure thin asbestos fibres, in which case the maximum exposure limit will remain at **0.01 f/cm<sup>3</sup> as an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA)**;
- not to measure thin asbestos fibres, in which case the maximum exposure limit will be reduced to **0.002 f/cm<sup>3</sup> as an 8-hour TWA**.

#### ***Prevention and protection measures***

Undertakings intending to carry out demolition or asbestos removal work must obtain a permit from the national authority before starting the work.

The employer should record, before the start of any asbestos removal project, or of any demolition, maintenance or renovation work, **information relating to the presence or presumed presence of asbestos** in buildings, ships, aircrafts or other installations that were built before the entry into force of the Member State's asbestos ban. To this end, they may, for example, obtain information from the owners of the building or other employers, or consult other relevant sources of information such as registers.

Workers exposed or likely to be exposed to asbestos will have to wear **adequate personal protective equipment** and undergo compulsory **training**, in accordance with the minimum quality requirements set out in the directive.

#### ***Register***

Member States should keep a register of all cases of medically diagnosed asbestos-related occupational diseases.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 21.12.2023.

TRANSPOSITION: 21.12.2025 with the exception of the introduction of electron microscopy as a measurement method, for which Member States will have to comply with the directive by 21.12.2029 at the latest.

## **Protection of workers from asbestos**

2022/0298(COD) - 29/09/2022 - Legislative proposal

**PURPOSE:** to amend the Directive on asbestos at work, in particular as regards updating the limit value for asbestos in order to protect workers against risks to their health and safety which may result from exposure to asbestos at work.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council.

**ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

**BACKGROUND:** asbestos is an **extremely hazardous carcinogen**, which continues to impact on various economic sectors, such as construction and renovation, mining, waste management and fire-fighting, where workers face a high risk of exposure.

Occupational cancer is the leading cause of work-related death in the EU. It is mainly caused by exposure to carcinogens such as asbestos. Up to **78% of cancers** recognised as work-related in the Member States are asbestos-related. It is estimated that between 4.1 and 7.3 million workers are currently exposed to asbestos.

The Asbestos at Work [Directive 2009/148/EC](#) protects workers against risks to their health arising or likely to arise from exposure to asbestos at work. Under the Asbestos at Work Directive, for all activities in which workers are or may be exposed to dust from asbestos or materials containing asbestos,

exposure must be reduced to a minimum and in any case below the fixed binding occupational-exposure limit (OEL) of 0.1 fibres/cm<sup>3</sup> as an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA).

The **limit value for asbestos** set out in Directive 2009/148/EC should be **revised** in the light of the Commission's evaluations and recent scientific evidence and technical data. Its revision is also an effective way to ensure that preventive and protective measures are updated accordingly in all Member States.

This proposal delivers on the commitment made in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and the EU strategic framework on health and safety at work for 2021-2027 to further reduce workers' exposure to asbestos, which is a highly dangerous carcinogenic substance.

Protecting workers from asbestos exposure is also a priority for the European Parliament. In its [resolution](#) of October 2021, the European Parliament outlined a comprehensive approach to tackling the legacy of asbestos-related problems.

CONTENT: the proposal provides for the **amendment of the Asbestos at Work Directive**, including the updating of the limit value for asbestos and other minor aspects related to the lowering of the current OEL.

Under the proposed Directive, employers should ensure that **no worker is exposed to a higher airborne concentration of asbestos than 0.01 fibres/cm<sup>3</sup> as an 8-hour TWA**.

As it is possible to measure an OEL equal to 0.01 f/cm<sup>3</sup> with phase-contrast microscope (PCM), no transition period is needed for the implementation of the revised OEL.

Fibre counting will be carried out by phase-contrast microscope (PCM) in accordance with the method recommended in 1997 by the World Health Organization (WHO) or, wherever possible, any other method giving equivalent or better results, such as a method based on electron microscopy.

The proposal also clarifies the obligation of employers to reduce the exposure of workers to dust from asbestos or materials containing asbestos at the place of work to a minimum, with the precision that in any case it must be as low a level as is technically possible below the limit set by the proposal.

Lastly, the obligation of employers to take all necessary steps to identify presumed asbestos containing materials before beginning demolition or maintenance work by obtaining information from the owners of the premises, is extended to cover other relevant sources of information, such as **relevant registers**.

According to the Commission, this initiative should prevent cases of work-related cases of cancer, while mitigating certain effects, such as suffering of workers and their families, reduced quality of life or undermined well-being. It is estimated that **663 cases of cancer** (lung cancer, mesothelioma, laryngeal cancer and ovarian cancer) could be prevented. The estimated monetised health benefit of the initiative is between EUR 166 and 323 million.

The revision of the ELV set in the Asbestos at Work Directive will result in a greater harmonisation of limit values across the EU, which should ensure a more level playing field for businesses.

## Protection of workers from asbestos

2022/0298(COD) - 28/04/2023 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs adopted the report by Véronique TRILLET-LENOIR (Renew Europe, FR) on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work.

The committee responsible recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the proposal as follows:

### ***Occupational exposure limit (OEL)***

The report noted that taking into account the relevant scientific expertise and the need to increase the protection of workers at Union level, a revised OEL, equal to 0.001 fibres/cm<sup>3</sup> as an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA), should be established. That revised OEL should apply after a transitional period. Until four years after the date of entry into force of this Directive, a transitional OEL, equal to 0.01 fibres/cm<sup>3</sup> as an 8-hour TWA, should apply. Such an approach is underpinned by a public health objective aiming at the necessary safe removal of asbestos and the need to take into account technical considerations with regard to monitoring compliance.

### ***Removal techniques***

The report stated that the safe removal and disposal of asbestos-containing materials should be a priority, because repair, maintenance, encapsulation or sealing lead to the postponement of removal, which can perpetuate the risks to the workers and occupants of the buildings concerned for many years.

The encapsulation and sealing of asbestos-containing materials which can technically be removed should be prohibited, while not putting poorer households at a disadvantage because of their inability to afford necessary renovations. Appropriate accompanying measures are therefore needed.

In that regard, the Union provides significant funding, in particular through the Recovery and Resilience Facility, to be used to support national measures for the removal of asbestos in the context of renovations. Where asbestos is not removed, the relevant structures should be identified, registered and regularly monitored.

#### ***Updated list of diseases***

The report suggested updating the Annex to Directive 2009/148/EC related to the medical surveillance of workers in light of current knowledge on diseases that can be caused by asbestos exposure. When it is demonstrated that a disease is linked to occupational exposure to asbestos, the information should be used to feed statistical registers to ensure more complete epidemiological monitoring.

Current knowledge indicates that exposure to free asbestos fibres can give rise to at least the following diseases: lung carcinoma; carcinoma of the larynx; carcinoma of the ovary; non-malignant pleural diseases.

#### ***Training***

Members included a new Annex on the minimum requirements for training. Workers who are, or who are likely to be, exposed to dust from asbestos or asbestos containing materials should receive mandatory training.

The training should be adapted as closely as possible to the characteristics of the profession.

## **Protection of workers from asbestos**

2022/0298(COD) - 03/10/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 614 votes to 2, with 4 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the Commission proposal as follows:

#### ***Notification of activities***

The directive will apply to activities in which workers are exposed or likely to be exposed during their work to dust from asbestos or materials containing asbestos. These activities will be subject to a **notification system managed by the responsible authority in the Member State**.

The notification should include at least a brief description of:

- the location of the worksite and, where relevant, the specific areas where the work is to be carried out;
- the type and quantity of asbestos used or handled;
- the activities and processes involved, including with regard to the protection and decontamination of workers, waste disposal and, where relevant, air exchange when working under confinement;
- the number of workers involved, a list of the workers likely to be assigned to the site concerned, the workers' individual training certificates and the date of the latest assessment of the workers' health pursuant to Article 18;
- the starting date and duration of the work;
- measures taken, including an overview of the equipment used, to limit the exposure of workers to asbestos.

#### ***Occupational exposure limit (OEL)***

The occupational exposure limit (OEL) will be reduced from **0.1 to 0.01 asbestos fibres per cubic centimetre (cm<sup>3</sup>)**, measured in relation to an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA), without a transition period.

After a maximum transition period of six years, Member States should switch to more modern and sensitive technology that can detect fibres, namely **electron microscopy**. They will then have the option to either decrease the level to **0.002** fibres of asbestos per cm<sup>3</sup> excluding thin fibres, or to **0.01** fibres of asbestos per cm<sup>3</sup> including thin fibres.

#### ***Protection of workers***

Where the relevant limit value is exceeded, or if there is reason to believe that materials containing asbestos which are not identified prior to the work have been disturbed so as to generate dust, **work should stop immediately**. Work should not be continued in the affected area until adequate measures have been taken for the protection of the workers concerned. The reasons for the limit value being exceeded should be identified and appropriate measures to remedy the situation should be taken as soon as possible.

During periods of work which require the use of such equipment, provision should be made for regular breaks appropriate to the physical and climatological conditions and, where relevant, in consultation with the workers and/or their representatives within the undertaking or establishment, in accordance with national law and practice.

For certain activities, such as demolition, asbestos removal, repair and maintenance work, where it is foreseeable that the relevant limit value will be exceeded, the employer should define the measures intended to ensure the protection of workers during these activities, including the following:

- workers must be issued with suitable **personal protective equipment** to be worn, which should be appropriately handled and, as regards respiratory equipment in particular, individually adjusted, including through fitting checks;
- the **spread of dust** arising from asbestos or materials containing asbestos outside the premises or site of action will be prevented, and for work performed under confinement, the enclosure will be airtight and under mechanical extraction ventilation;
- when the asbestos demolition or removal work has been completed, the **absence of risks of exposure** to asbestos at the place of work will be verified in accordance with national law and practice before other activities resume.

### ***Training***

Workers who are exposed, or are likely to be exposed, to dust from asbestos or materials containing asbestos will be required to undergo compulsory training meeting **minimum requirements** defined in a new annex. Each worker who has satisfactorily completed the training will receive a training certificate. The content of the training must be easily understood by the workers and must enable them to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills in the field of prevention and safety.

### ***Register***

Member States should keep a register of all cases of medically diagnosed asbestos-related occupational diseases. An indicative list of diseases that can be caused by exposure to asbestos is set out in Annex I. These include: asbestosis, mesothelioma, lung carcinoma, gastro-intestinal carcinoma, carcinoma of the larynx, carcinoma of the ovary, non-malignant pleural diseases.