



Notification Number: 1998/217/F

Order on conditions for approval of bodies qualified to carry out controls on the concentration of asbestos dust in the air in buildings

Date received : 13/05/1998

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Message

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TELEX 002

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (98) D/51215/2



DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC
TRANSLATION OF TELEX 001
NOTIFICATION 98/0217/F

- 3B1 : 9801215.EN

1. Structured Information Line

TLX 002 IND- 98 0217 F-- EN ----- 980513 --- ---

2. Member State

FRANCE

3. Department Responsible

Secrétariat Général du Comité Interministériel pour les
Questions de Coopération Economique Européenne - 2, boulevard
Diderot - 75012 PARIS

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3. Originating Department

Ministère de l'emploi et de la solidarité - Direction
Générale de la Santé - 8, avenue de Ségur - 75350 PARIS 07 SP

4. Notification Number

98/0217/F

5. Title

Order on conditions for approval of bodies qualified to carry
out controls on the concentration of asbestos dust in the air
in buildings

6. Products Concerned

Measurements of asbestos dust fibres in the air using an
electronic transmission microscope (standard NFX 43-050)

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

The draft order specifies and supplements the approval
procedures for bodies responsible for carrying out
measurements of the concentration of asbestos dust within the
framework of the application of Decree no. 96-97 dated 7
February 1996 on the protection of the population against the
health risks linked to exposure to asbestos in buildings

(article 5).

1. The draft order introduces the obligation, as from 1
January 1999, for a body requesting approval to be
accredited in advance. The accreditation procedure



allows for more accurate selection, in terms of the competence and of the quality standards, of bodies involved. Bodies may be accredited by COFRAC, the French accreditation committee, or any other body adhering to the procedures laid down by standard NF EN 45003 and signatory to the E.A.(European cooperation for Accreditation) multilateral agreement. Accreditation is based on tests defined in accreditation programme no. 144 drawn up by COFRAC or any other equivalent programme, based on adhering to standard X 43-050 "Air quality - Determination of the concentration of asbestos fibres by electronic transmission microscope, indirect method".

2. The draft defines the minimum rules which must be followed by the bodies concerned in order to put forward a request in the correct manner (article 2 and annex 1).
3. The duration of approvals is initially set at 1 year and extended to 3 years (article 2).
4. The content of the annual activity report which the approved bodies must send to the Minister responsible for Health in application of article 4 of the Order of 07.02.1996 is specified (article 5 and annexes 2 and 3).

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

Assessment of the state of preservation of materials containing asbestos requires on most occasions measurement of fibres in the air of the premises containing them. Based on the results of this measurement, it is decided whether or not to carry out work on these materials, which is very costly. The reliability of this measurement depends on the method used and the quality assurance procedures set up by the service

provider. Where there is very little dust (the intervention threshold is 25 fibres per litre), an extremely sensitive testing and counting technique is indispensable. This is the reason for choosing the electronic microscope and establishing standard 43-050 for this purpose. The accreditation procedure makes it possible to guarantee that the service providers have the necessary human and material resources in order to carry out the measurements and a quality assurance programme correctly.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

- Amended Decree no. 96-97 of 7 February 1996 on the protection of the population from health risks linked with exposure to asbestos in constructed buildings
- Order of 7 February 1996 on approval conditions for bodies qualified to carry out controls on the concentration of asbestos dust in the atmosphere of constructed buildings.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No



12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No

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NNNN