

THE HYGIENE STANDARD FOR CHRYSOTILE ASBESTOS – 1978
The Lancet March 4 1968

Dear Mr. Peto,

J. Peto, Esq.

- 2 -

3rd October 1977

for example, if the 1% risk occurs at 100 mpcf-years (2 mpcf for 50 years), then 1 mpcf is equivalent to 1 fibre/ml by analogy with the EONS standard. In fact, a study done on five C: Dear Mr. Peto, and their associated mills gave average $\frac{\text{fibre/ml}}{\text{mpcf}}$ ratios varying from

1.7 to 21.9, with an overall mean of 9.1. Our own work on this subject would also confirm a major degree of uncertainty in any attempted correlation of mpcf with fibres/ml.

Yours sincerely,



R. A. Wells
Managing Director

THE HYGIENE STANDARD FOR CHRYSOTILE ASBESTOS – 1978

Dear Mr. Peto,

13th December 1977

My apologies for taking so long to reply to your letter of the 4th November which enclosed the amended text of your paper, but the delay, as you will know, has been occasioned largely by my awaiting the outcome of correspondence between yourself and Dr. Holmes. Following further discussions with Geoffrey Morris and with Steve Holmes, I would comment as follows.

- (a) We would still prefer that you deleted the paragraph starting at the foot of page 10 and continuing on page 11 in which you quote results from Le Bouffant's paper, on the basis that corroborative evidence is lacking. However, if it has to be included we would prefer the penultimate sentence of the re-draft which accompanied your letter of the 25th November to read "Electron microscope studies of the peritoneum and other organs are urgently required to confirm or refute these speculations."

484


Occupational Health

THE HYGIENE STANDARD FOR CHRYSOTILE ASBESTOS*

JULIAN PETO

*D.H.S.S. Cancer Epidemiology and Clinical Trials Unit,
9 Keble Road, Oxford*

Summary Previous studies, including the analysis on which the current 2 fibres/cm³ hygiene standard is based, may have underestimated the



Electron-microscope studies of the peritoneum and other organs are urgently required to confirm or refute these speculations.

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(b) At the bottom of page 5, we would disagree strongly with the sentence "However, it is unlikely that pre-war dust levels have been grossly underestimated."

484

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JULIAN PETO

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Summary Previous studies, including the analysis on which the current 2 fibres/cm³ hygiene standard is based, may have underestimated the

Employment histories are now being re-examined, but the estimates of pre-war asbestos exposure are not reliable, and the assumption that there is no safe threshold cannot be confirmed without long-term prospective observation of workers exposed to low levels.

Memo: Julian Peto Mortality Statistics 20th September, 1979 Dr. J. T. Allardice to T&N

“... he (Peto) has now made several amendments [to his IARC presentation] suggested at the meeting:

- a) A statement to the fact that there is no evidence of gastrointestinal cancer date;
- b) That all are lung cancer cases were cigarette smokers;
- c) A stronger emphasis in the text that the excess of lung cancer in the pre-and post-1951 cohort is about the same (2-3 times) which he feels tends to be in agreement with his previous “predictions” predictions that a lifelong exposure at 2F/mL might eventually cause lung cancer in about 4% of men. + 4%

Mesos

“... Incidentally, he argues, that his own studies and those from other workers show incidence of disease to be related more to length of exposure than to the results from static samples.”

“...JP agrees that the subject matter of the 2 monographs in question should be dealt with by the publication of a more comprehensive joint TBA/Peto paper..”

927
Dear Ray,

Herewith the final drafts - I hope
they arrive in time!

Julian

20 September 1979

Mr. H.D.S. Hardie
Director
Turner & Newall Ltd.
20 St. Mary's Parsonage
Manchester M3 2NL

Dear Mr. Hardie,

I enclose the papers for the Lyon meeting. If you feel that they should be altered it will be possible to do this before the proceedings are published. They will not be read at the meeting, as all papers are being briefly summarized (the mesothelioma paper by Professor McDonald and the lung cancer one by Professor Acheson) to allow more time for discussion. I am not sure whether copies will be distributed at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Peto