

SNAPSHOT NEWS

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PRIORITIZE A SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE

The assessment based on a potential threat as opposed to a genuine health risk used by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to draw its list of carcinogenic products doesn't mean that the use of those products should be banned across the world.

The ICA has reviewed this long list which currently comprises 120 products, substances, agents or processes, and noted that it includes products currently used in most countries, including those who dare to call for a ban on chrysotile fibre.

Countries and organizations who like to position themselves as health white knights are very familiar with this list where one can find products such as oral contraceptives, X-rays, alcoholic beverages, tobacco smoke and products, processed meats, diesel fumes, wood dust... and many others.

Wherever these products, substances, agents or processes are used, their responsible, safe and controlled use is always preferred to an irresponsible approach that would entail their banishment. In this regard, the use of crystalline silica (Silica Dust, Crystalline on the IARC list), especially in European countries, is very enlightening.

The IARC's approach allows for the identification of a potential health hazard, but the addition of a product on its list is not synonymous with banning its use. The evaluation is based on a potential risk. Unless acting in bad faith, nobody can seriously argue that such evaluation is in itself a scientifically acceptable way to determine a real risk level.

A potential hazard is not synonymous with an actual health risk when these products, substances, agents or processes are manufactured and used in controlled and responsible conditions. Nevertheless, in the crusade against a responsible use of chrysotile, those principles are deliberately set aside. Is such an approach, too remote from science to be credible, motivated by important, vested interests? The answer is obvious. What are the real interests at stake for the anti-asbestos crusaders and the countries that want to force the prohibition of the use of chrysotile fibre? Do they truly boil down only to issues of human health? We doubt it.

For the complete IARC list, click [here](#).