

Commission of the European Communities

Asbestos: Directory of Research and Documentation Centres



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Directorate-General Internal Market and Industrial Affairs

Asbestos: Directory of Research and Documentation Centres

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**Asbestos:
Directory of
Research and
Documentation
Centres**

INTRODUCTION

If information on published studies relating to the various aspects of asbestos (health, epidemiology, industrial applications, etc.) is duly provided by existing documentation systems, this has appeared not to be true as regards unpublished studies. The same also applies to information on Research Centres where at least some of their activities are concerned with asbestos, as well as on Documentation Centres having a substantial number of documents which deal with asbestos. The present Directory constitutes a "who's who" of these various Research and Documentation Centres and is accompanied by a companion volume on unpublished studies.

These initiatives have as a common origin a decision taken in the framework of the European Communities - Canada cooperation agreement, whose concrete implementation is being ensured by the editor on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities. If these initiatives contribute both to avoiding unnecessary duplication in research and to promoting international cooperation, their aims will be fulfilled.

NOTICE

The present Directory is the result of a world-wide enquiry through which more than 2000 Centres likely to have an interest in asbestos research or documentation have been contacted. In all, 154 Research Centres and 68 Documentation Centres have accepted to participate in this compilation. Participation has, of course, been entirely the Centre's own decision.

It may well be that the information so obtained constitutes but the visible part of the iceberg, for at least two reasons :

(i) because of the previous lack of comprehensive list of relevant Centres ; (ii) because of the substantial incidence of research linked with commercial interests (e.g. patents), usually not disclosed. A more accurate picture may, however, be achieved in the future for very similar reasons :

(i) those bodies which do not figure in this new Directory might wish to be included ; (ii) inclusion in this Directory may in itself be considered as commercially advantageous.

STRUCTURE OF THE DIRECTORY

This Directory is divided into two Parts, one dedicated to Research Centres, other to Documentation Centres. Each Part starts with a Section giving details, country by country and in alphabetical order, on each Centre considered. A second Section follows with the classification of the Centres according to field of interest (country by country and in alphabetical order) being given alongside the classification scheme reproduced below (see p. xii). In order to give immediate access to the information, each Centre is designated by its full name as supplied by the Centre itself. At the end of the Directory, there is an alphabetical list of Centres with reference to the page on which they are described, as well as an Annex containing additional information on certain Centres which could not be inserted because of lack of space in the relevant Section.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

The explanatory notes which accompanied the various Questionnaires submitted to the relevant Centres are reproduced in summary form below. These notes may be used to clarify the significance of certain of the items contained in the first Sections of each Part.

(1) Items concerning Research Centres

Legal status : state which of the following applies :

- (i) Government-sponsored Centre (legally and financially dependent on some Ministry ; if the latter is the Ministry of Education, see (ii)) ;
- (ii) University Centre (legally and financially dependent on some public or private educational establishment) ;
- (iii) Joint Centre (financed from both public and private funds) ;
- (iv) Industrial Centre (dependent on industrial firms, including multinational corporations, except in case (vi)) ;
- (v) Independent Centre (performing contract research) ;
- (vi) Supplier of machinery and goods (e.g. construction materials, textiles, extraction machinery) ;

(vii) Professional scientific organization (e.g. arrangement of symposia);

(viii) Inter-governmental Centre.

Source of finance : e.g. public (state name of Ministry) or private funds ; own funds ; if joint funds, specify respective proportions.

Amount of the annual budget : this could be the budget for 1980 or 1981, or an average over several years.

Size of company (group) for whom the Centre is working : state in particular the number of persons employed and the turnover of the company (group).

Fields of activity : wherever possible, mention should be made of the principal and subsidiary activities, together with such activities as providing research grants, attending congresses abroad, etc...

Main subjects of research : information under this heading should relate both to projects recently completed (where appropriate, during the period 1976-80) and to projects currently in hand or merely planned (if possible, covering the period 1981-85).

Function code : this code serves for the classification of research centres according to their specialization. The code designations should be chosen from those shown in the following table :

Scheme for the classification of Research and Documentation Centres concerned with asbestos.

| A. DISCIPLINES | B. TECHNIQUES | C. RAW MATERIALS | D. INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 0. Multi-disciplinary | 0. Multi-techniques | 0. Any fibres | 0. Any applications |
| 1. Geology | 1. Prospecting | 1. Chrysolite | 1. Asbestos cement |
| 2. Mining | 2. Extraction | 2. Amphibole | 2. Asbestos textiles |
| 3. Chemistry | 3. Sampling and classification | 3. Modified fibres | 3. Insulation materials |
| 4. Physics | 4. Processing | 4. Artificial fibres | a) fire-proof |
| 5. Mineralogy | 5. Dust control | 5. Other fibres | b) heat |
| 6. "Mineralurgy" (valorization of minerals) | 6. Medical control | a) natural | c) acoustical |
| a) recovery | 7. Animal experiments | b) artificial | d) electrical |
| b) classification | 8. Handling | 6. Asbestos tailings | 4. Friction materials |
| 7. Metrology | a) transport | 7. Other materials | a) brakes |
| 8. Mechanics | b) packaging/labelling | | b) clutches |
| 9. Biology | 9. Quality control | | c) bearings |
| a) experimental (in vitro/in vivo) | 10. Waste management | | d) other |
| b) bio-medicine | a) disposal | | 5. Sealing materials |
| 10. Epidemiology | b) valorization | | a) joints |
| 11. Industrial medicine | 11. Recycling | | b) caulking |
| 12. Environment | a) re-use | | c) other |
| 13. Economy | 12. Energy consumption | | 6. Fillers |
| 14. Legislation | 13. Marketing | | a) plastics |
| 15. Standardization | 14. Other | | b) paintings |
| 16. Other | | | c) joint cement |
| | | | 7. Millboards, felts, papers |
| | | | 8. Asphalt mix |
| | | | a) floor |
| | | | b) roof |
| | | | c) road |
| | | | 9. Filters and diaphragms |
| | | | 10. Refractory products |
| | | | 11. Substitutes |
| | | | 12. Other |

For example: A multi-disciplinary Research Centre carrying out a cytological study in the asbestos textile industry by means of experiments on rats should indicate the following as "function code": A.0 - A.9a) - B.7 - C.0 - D.2

It can be seen that this classification scheme represents one of the cornerstones of this Directory. As far as possible, the codes used are those provided by the Centres themselves, to respect their desire to highlight one aspect or other of their activity. Of course, the fact that a centre claims to specialize, say, in epidemiology does not preclude classification as a "multidisciplinary" Centre. Conversely, the latter classification does not exclude a particular stress being laid upon epidemiology. Further, it may well happen that certain Centres have omitted, for some reason, to mention a particular field of interest. All these elements should be taken into consideration when using this Directory.

(2) Items concerning Documentation Centres

Legal status : state which of the following applies :

- (i) Government-sponsored Centre (legally and financially dependent on some Ministry ; if the latter is the Ministry of Education, see (ii)) ;
- (ii) University Centre (legally and financially dependent on some public or private educational establishment) ;
- (iii) Joint Centre (financed from both public and private funds) ;

(iv) Industrial Centre (dependent on industrial firms,
including multinational corporation);

(v) Inter-governmental Centre.

Source of finance : e.g. public (State name of Ministry) or
private source funds ; own funds ; if joint funds, specify
respective proportions.

Amount of the annual budget : this could be the budget for
1980 or 1981, or an average over several years.

Forms of interrogation : e.g. keywords, natural language.

Cost of services : e.g. free of charge, subscription, billing
or other conditions.

Specialization should be expressed in function code (classi-
fication scheme p. xii).

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(*) Inter-governmental Documentation Centres are dealt with at the end of the Section.

P A R T I :

D I R E C T O R Y O F
R E S E A R C H C E N T R E S

S e c t i o n 1 :

D e s c r i p t i o n o f R e s e a r c h C e n t r e s

b y c o u n t r y a n d i n a l p h a b e t i c a l o r d e r

THE AUSTRALIAN MINERAL DEVELOPMENT LABORATORIES (AMDEL)

Address : Flemington St., Frewville, South Australia phone : 08 791662
5063, Australia telex : AMDEL AA 82520

Legal status : Independent Centre

Affiliation with other organizations : Member firm of the Australian Professional Consultants Council. Affiliated at Council and Board level with the South Australia, Government & the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Source of finance :

Amount of the annual budget :

total : A. \$ 8,400,000 (for the financial of which investment :
year ending June 81, sales were \$ 8,400,000)

Size of staff : Total : 300 Graduate : 80 Administrative : 90
Technical : 110 Other : 20

Cooperation with other Centres : Performs work for major Government Departments and Authorities (i.e. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Departments of Mines and Energy).

Size of company (group) for whom the Centre is working : Numerous clients throughout Australia and overseas.

Fields of activity : Independent national contracting organisation engaged in research, development, consulting and services for industry and Government in the fields of minerals and materials both in Australia & overseas. The six Divisions of AMDEL are analytical chemistry, operations, geological services, materials, applied technology and administration. AMDEL's services relating to Asbestos represent only a small proportion of AMDEL's total services with only 2 personnel being involved in this activity full time.

Main subjects of research : Multidisciplinary - i.e. chemistry, physics, geology, mining, mineralogy, metallurgy, electronic instrumentation, computing.

Code : A.1 - A.3 - A.5 - A.7 - B.3 - B.5 - C.0

Documentation :