

General Explanation of the Draft Restrictions on the Importing of Asbestos-Containing Products

Asbestos is classified as a Group 1 substance (carcinogenic to humans) by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Gradual restrictions and bans on the use of asbestos have become an international trend. The Environmental Protection Administration, Executive Yuan (EPA), announced asbestos as a Class 2 toxic chemical substance on May 1, 1989. Relevant asbestos handling regulations have been amended several times, and the use of asbestos has been gradually restricted. The use of asbestos (such as the domestic manufacture of asbestos-containing products) is currently prohibited except for research, experimentation, and educational purposes.

Regarding the control of asbestos-containing products, numerous alternative products are already available. Therefore, to align with the international trend, the EPA is further restricting the import of asbestos-containing products to achieve the goal of maintaining environmental safety. Restrictions on the importing of asbestos-containing products are stipulated and will take effect from the date of the announcement. To be granted an exemption from the restrictions on the importing of asbestos-containing products, verification documents must be provided for review and approval by the central competent authority.

Draft Restrictions on the Importing of Asbestos-containing Products

Announcement	Explanation
<p>Subject: "Restrictions on the Importing of Asbestos-containing Products" is stipulated and takes effect immediately.</p>	<p>The name and effective date of the announcement</p>
<p>Legal basis: Article 21 of the Waste Disposal Act.</p>	<p>Legal basis</p>
<p>Announcement : The importing of asbestos-containing products is prohibited. However, under one of the following conditions, an exemption may be granted. Applicants must provide verification documents for review and approval by the central competent authority.</p> <p>I. Products essential for civil protection and military use.</p> <p>II. Products for research, experimentation, and educational purposes.</p> <p>III. Where no feasible asbestos-free alternative for replacement is available.</p>	<p>I. The importing of asbestos-containing products is now subject to further control towards a comprehensive asbestos ban and therefore prohibited immediately.</p> <p>II. The necessity for the use of asbestos-containing products for certain purposes is taken into consideration. Exemptions to prohibitions on importing asbestos-containing products are stipulated. Applicants who meet the conditions for importing asbestos-containing products must provide verification documents. After being reviewed and approved by the central competent authority, the item applied for may be imported.</p>