

## Detailed Information 6

# Overview of asbestos measures by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Asbestos is fibrous mineral produced from natural environment, hazardous for human health and may cause lung cancer and mesothelioma after decades of latent period when inhaling its dust particle.

### Measures to prevent future damage

1. Total ban on manufacturing asbestos (Industrial Safety and Health Act)
  - Based on the "asbestos comprehensive measures" (Meeting on asbestos issue by concerned ministers on December 27, 2005), manufacture, import, transfer, provision and use of asbestos containing products has been totally prohibited excluding products that the ban is stayed on manufacturing exceptionally ( products of exclusion from application of prohibition) since September 1, 2006
  - Manufacturing the products of exclusion from application of prohibition is to be gradually banned after the safety of the substitutes is confirmed( this procedure is to be completed in FY 2011)
2. Prevention measures of diffusion and exposure at the time of taking down buildings(Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to Asbestos)
  - Measures have been intensified by implementing 'Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to Asbestos in February, 2005. ← formerly stipulated by Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to Specified Chemical Substances
  - [Outline of Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to Asbestos]  
Pre-examination of construction materials, submission to the authorities, isolation of working sites, use of inhalation protection equipment, storage of working records, health check-ups, etc.

### Response to anxiety of the people

3. Health management of resignees (Personal Health Record System based on Industrial Safety and Health Act)
  - Personal Health Record is issued for those who have been engaged in handling asbestos for a certain period (Health check-ups by the government's burden- every 6 months)
4. Disclosure of working places where workers have been certified as being afflicted with asbestos exposition

### Relief of the victims without a gap

5. Relief based on Industrial Accidents Compensation Insurance Act
  - Insurance benefits for victims and the bereaved families afflicted with employment injuries by asbestos
6. Relief based on Act on Asbestos Health Damage Relief
  - Payment of the special surviving family benefits to those who have lost the right to receiving the surviving families compensation benefits pursuant to lapses due to prescription based on the industrial accidents insurance