



# Asbestos Conference

Dresden 3 September 2003

---

## ILO and Asbestos

**J. Takala , SafeWork**

InFocus Programme on Safety and Health at Work  
and the Environment

**International Labour Organization**



[www.ilo.org/safework](http://www.ilo.org/safework)



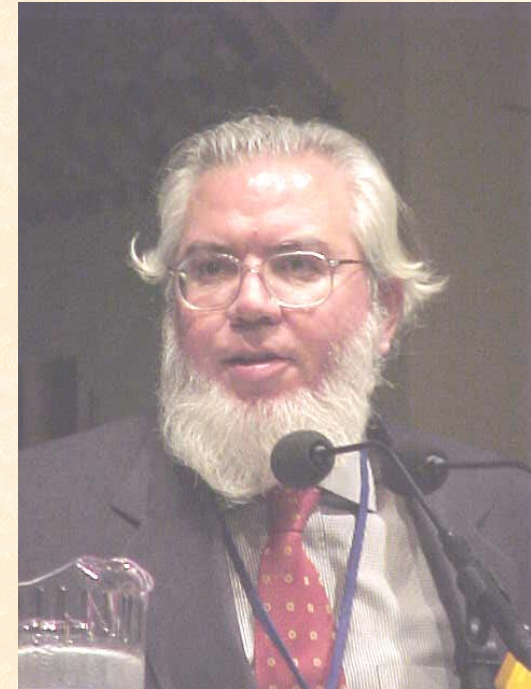
# Deaths, Disability and Disease

---

- Estimate of work related deaths in 2000:

**1.9 –2.3 Million**

**10% were exposed already as working children**



[www.ilo.org/safework](http://www.ilo.org/safework)



# Deaths, Disability and Disease

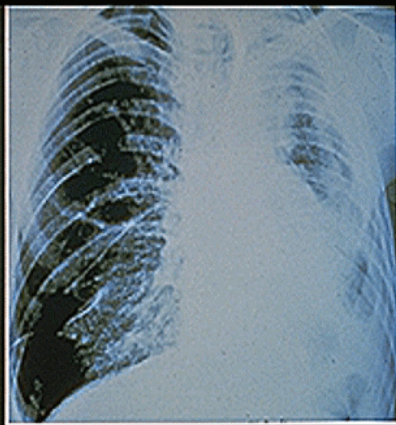
(data from 1998...2000)

---

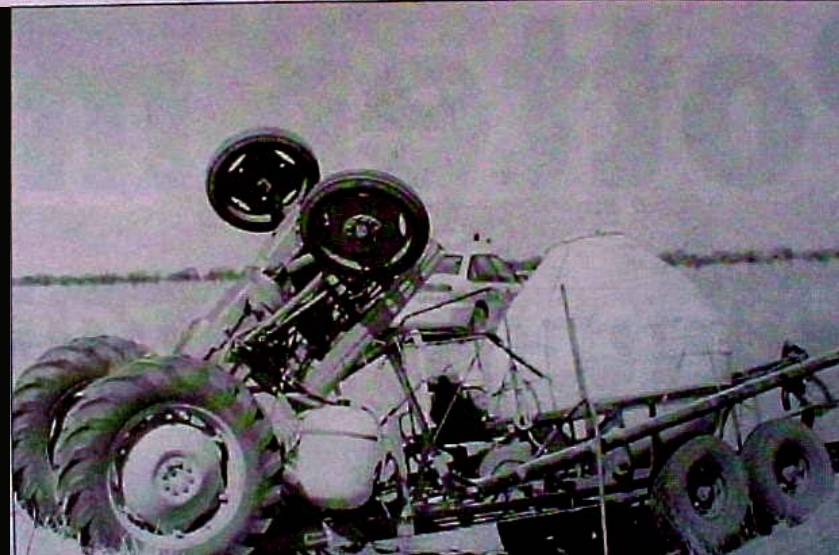
- Fatal occupational accidents: **355 000**
- Fatal work-related diseases: **1.574 000**
- Fatal commuting accidents: **158 000**



normal lung



asbestosis  
+ cancer





**normal lung**



**asbestosis  
+ cancer**





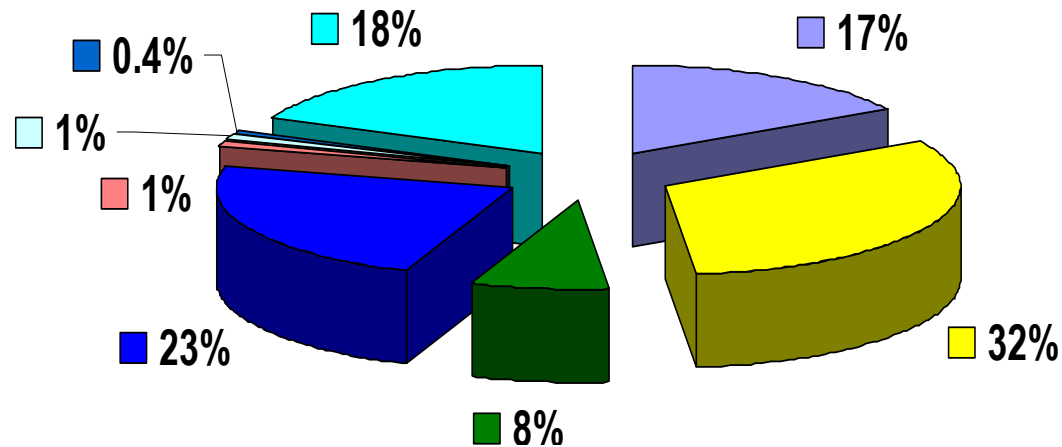
# Work-related Annual Deaths - World

- Economically active population: 2.7 billion
  - **Deaths attributed to occupation 1.9 - 2.3 Million**
  - **Work-related diseases:(lower limit) 1.6 Million**
    - communicable diseases, w/r 320 000
    - cancer, w/r 610 000
    - circulatory diseases, w/r 449 000
    - chronic respiratory diseases (silicosis 36 000), w/r 145 000
    - nervous system disorders, w/r 20 000
    - digestive system diseases, w/r 21 000
    - genito-urinary disorders, w/r 9 000
- 
- **Deaths caused by work accidents 355 000**
  - Commuting injuries (not included in overall deaths above) 158 000



# Work-related Annual Deaths - World

## Deaths attributed to work



Communicable diseases

Respiratory Diseases

Mental Disorders

Genitourinary system

Cancer

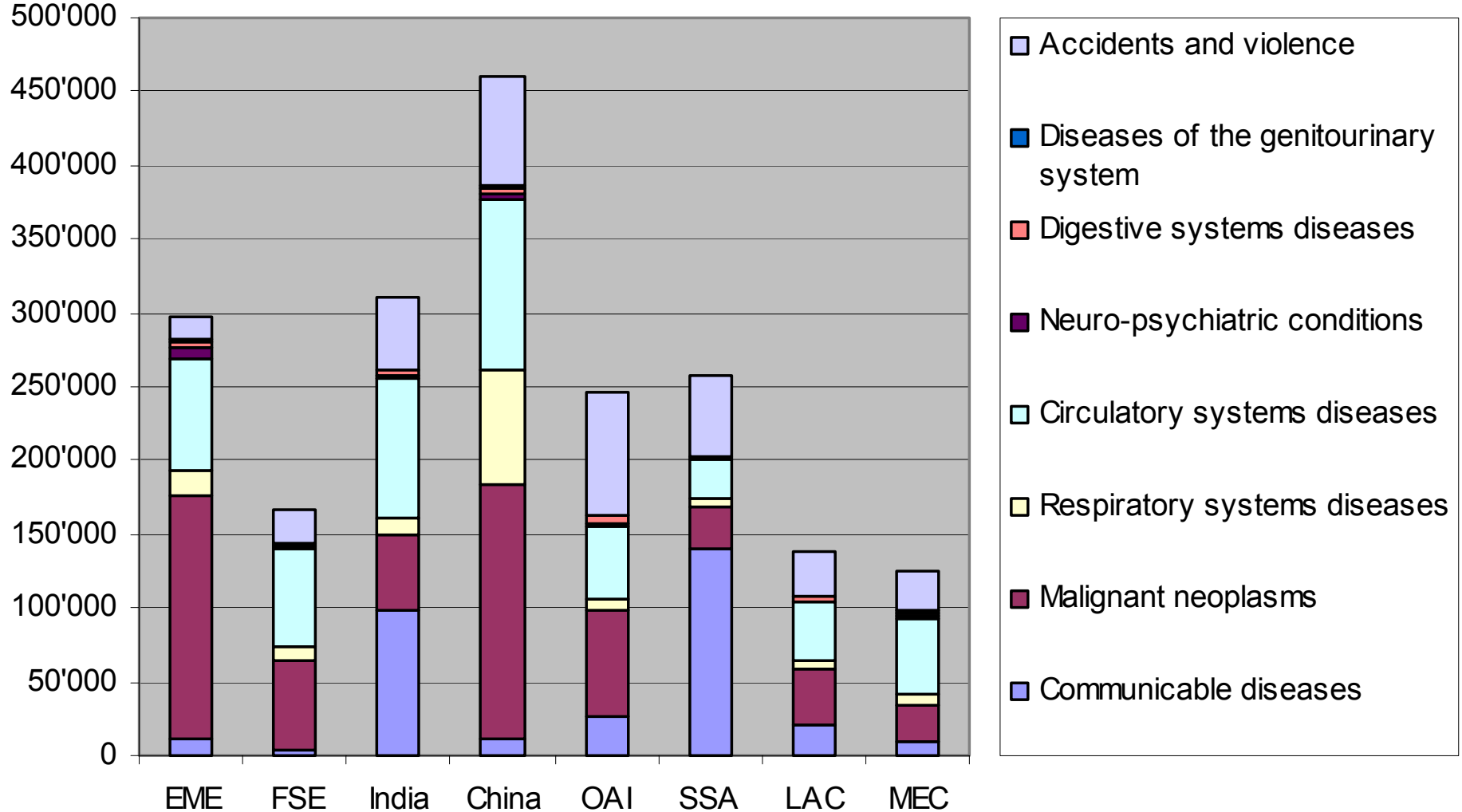
Circulatory diseases

Digestive systems diseases

Accidents and violence



# Fatalities caused by Occupational Accidents and Work-related diseases



# Hazardous occupations

---

**Most dangerous jobs from the point of view of carcinogenicity in Finland:**

***Men:***

Knitters  
Asphalt roofers  
Cutting/sewing workers  
Glass and ceramic decorators  
Tobacco industry  
Insulators  
Metal platers and coaters  
Hairdressers and barbers

***Women:***

Telephone installers  
Agricultural workers  
Wholesalers  
Sculptors, painters



*Decent Work must be Safe Work*

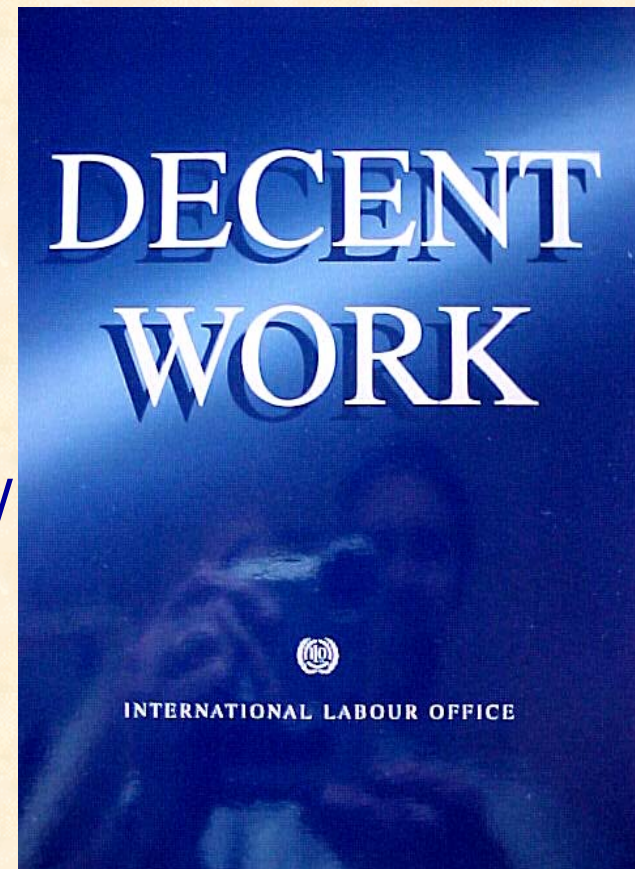
# ILO Response

---

## **ILO Standards,**

Conv. 155, 161 and 81 and 88  
other relevant conventions,

- Convention 162 on Safety in the Use of Asbestos
- Global Safety and Health Strategy adopted in 2003
- **ILO SafeWork - Programme**



[www.ilo.org/safework](http://www.ilo.org/safework)





## The number of ratifications out of 20 key ILO occupational safety and health conventions

---

- Sweden **18** conventions ratified
- Finland **17**
- Brazil **15**
- Germany, Norway, Spain **14**
- Uruguay **13**
- 53 countries.... **4...12**
- Afghanistan...Botswana, Benin, Chad, China, Comoros,... Congo, Gabon, ...Kenya, Libya, Malaysia ...Mali, Mauritania,... Mozambique, Philippines,..Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Sudan ..Thailand, Vietnam, D.Rep.Congo (Zaire), **2-3**
- A large number of countries **0-1**

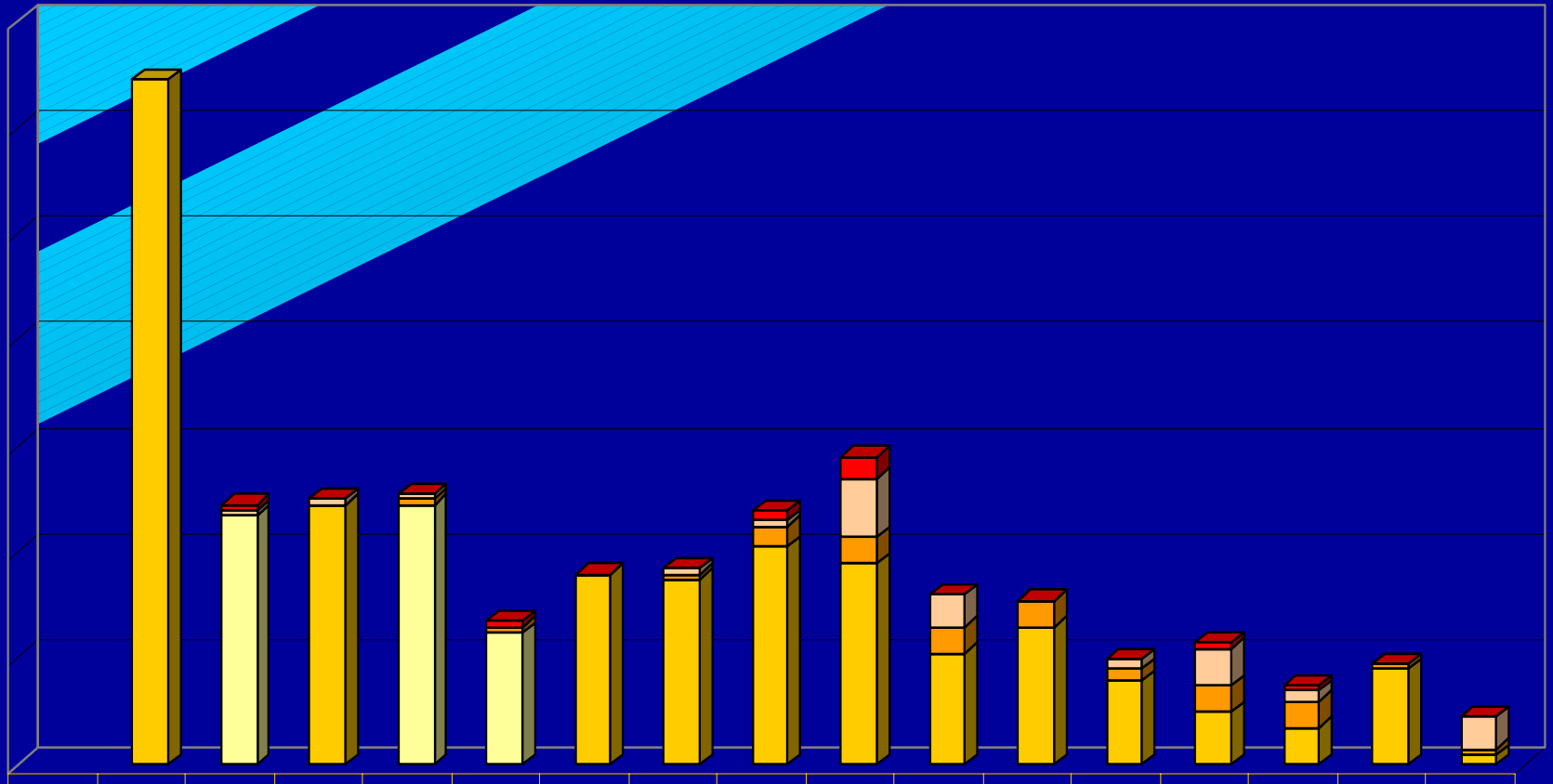


[www.ilo.org/public/english/50normes/index](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/50normes/index)



# IMPACT OF STANDARDS

ifications ■ Used as Guidance ■ Intention to Ratify ■ Used as Guidance and Intend to Ratify



# Measures taken against asbestos

- 27 ratifications of the ILO Convention):

Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Guatemala Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, Uruguay, Zimbabwe (only 8 out of 15 EU member States)

- 25 Countries **banned** asbestos:

- EU 15, Argentina, Australia, Chile, Croatia, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Switzerland



# Measures taken against asbestos

---

- **Not ratified (covered by EU ban) :**  
Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, United Kingdom
- **Not ratified, not banned, action expected (candidate countries):**  
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Iceland



# Figures on asbestos fatalities

---

- **Finland** (source Nurminen, Karjalainen, Scand J WEH, 2001)

Lung cancer at work, men:	<b>207</b>
Lung cancer at work, women	<b>2</b>
Mesothelioma at work, men	<b>38</b>
Mesothelioma at work, women	<b>4</b>
<b>Employed work force (1996)</b>	<b>2.1 million</b>

- **Rates:**

Lung cancer, men and women	<b>9.9/100,000</b> workers
Mesothelioma, m/w	<b>2.0/100,000</b>





# Figures on asbestos, cont.

- **Estimated deaths** (using Finland and UK as references)

– Country	Lung cancer	Mesothelioma
– UK	2 700	1 700
– USA	13 100	8 100
– Russia	6 400	4 000
– Belgium	420	260
– Germany	3 600	2 250
– Switzerland	380	240
– Norway	225	140
– Poland	1 600	1 000
– Estonia	60	40
– Established Market Econ.	38 000	24 000
– Former Socialist Econ.	16 000	10 000
– China(??)	70 000	44 000

## Lung cancer/mesothelioma rate

- Finland
- UK (J. Peto, Br, Journal of Cancer, 1999)

4-5:1 (not representative)

1.6:1 (reliable)



# Figures on asbestos, cont.

- World estimate, work-related deaths:

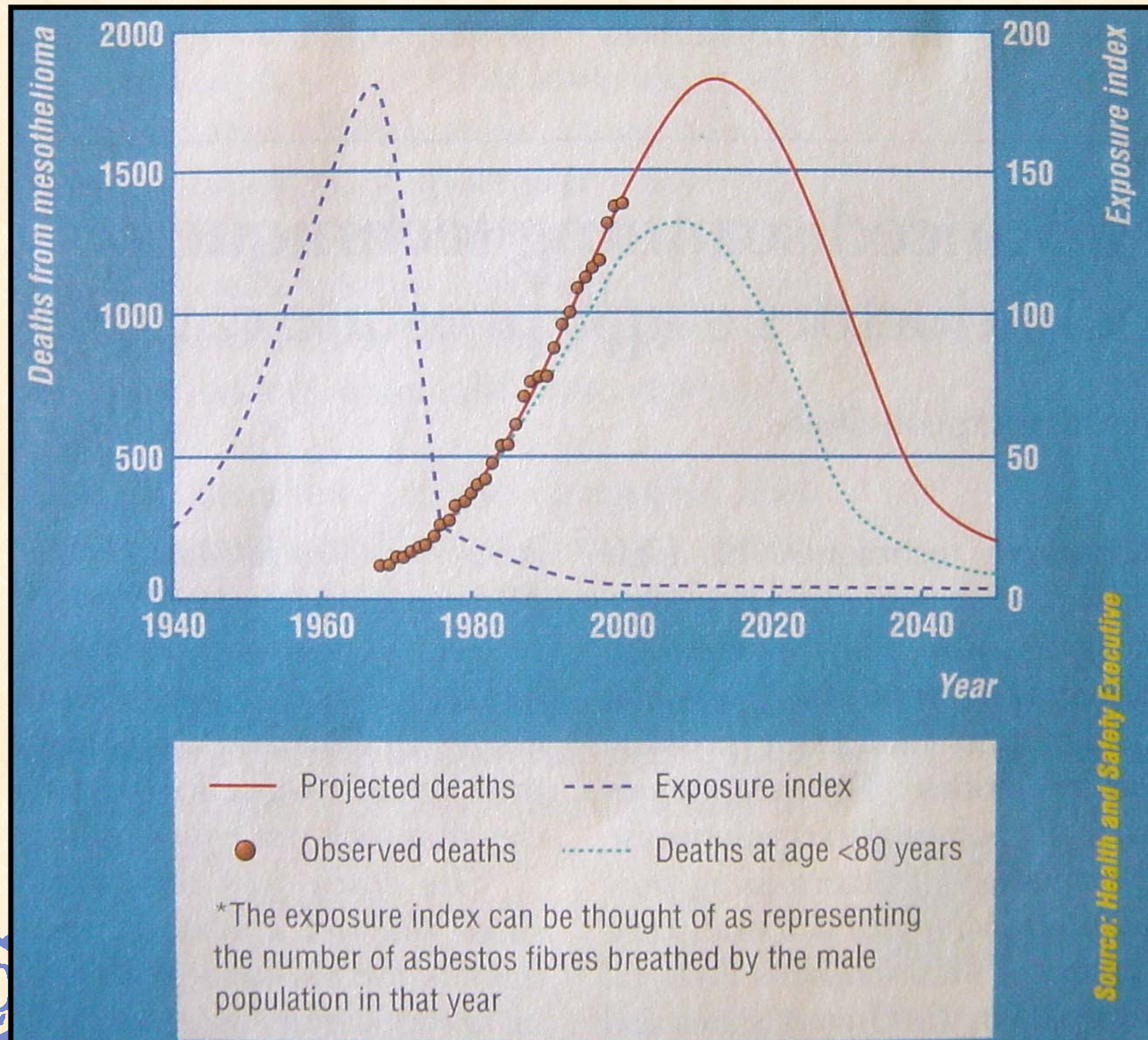
**100,000** every year



[www.ilo.org/safework](http://www.ilo.org/safework)



# Observed and projected deaths from mesothelioma in British men (with exposure index\*)



Source: Health and Safety Executive



## Annual deaths from mesothelioma in Britain to reach 2000 by 2010

Professor Peto said that in Britain the annual number of deaths from the disease had now reached 1700, up from less than 200 in the 1960s. But the numbers would continue to rise, peaking at 2000 a year by 2010, a figure lower than previously thought, but still substantial.



# ILO MEANS OF ACTION

- **Development, promotion and supervision of International Labour Standards**
- **Development of Inspection Systems**
- **Development and promotion of Codes of Practice and other instruments**
- **Knowledge management**
- **Technical cooperation**
- **Inter-agency cooperation**

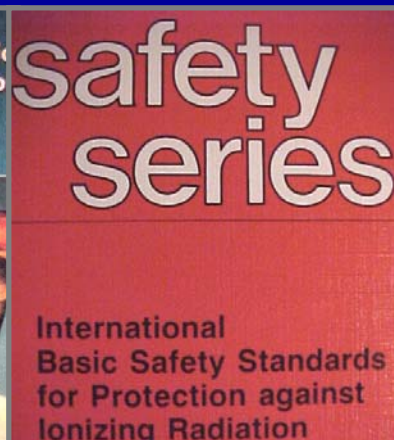
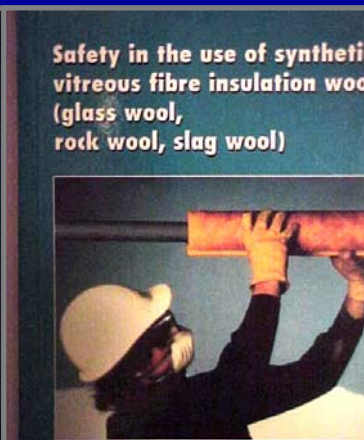
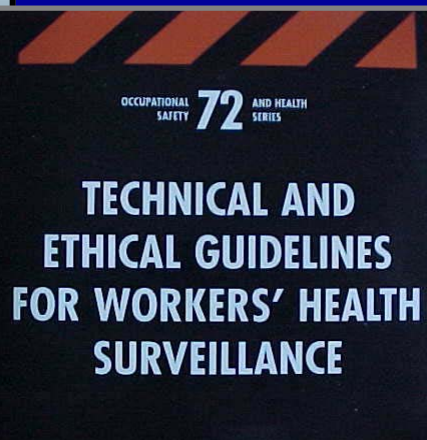
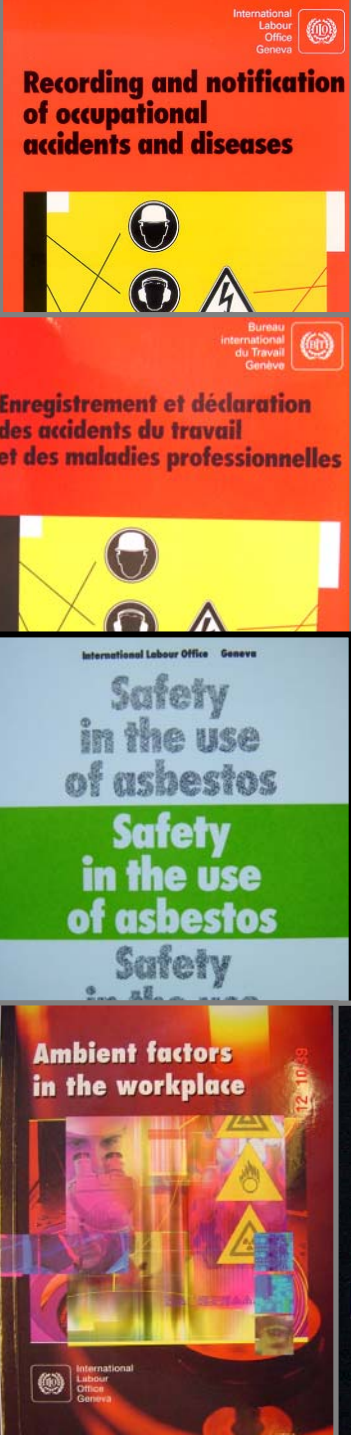
# CODES OF PRACTICE

~ 37 CoP on OSH

■ Indications of impact

■ Requests for translations

■ Related activities and requests for assistance

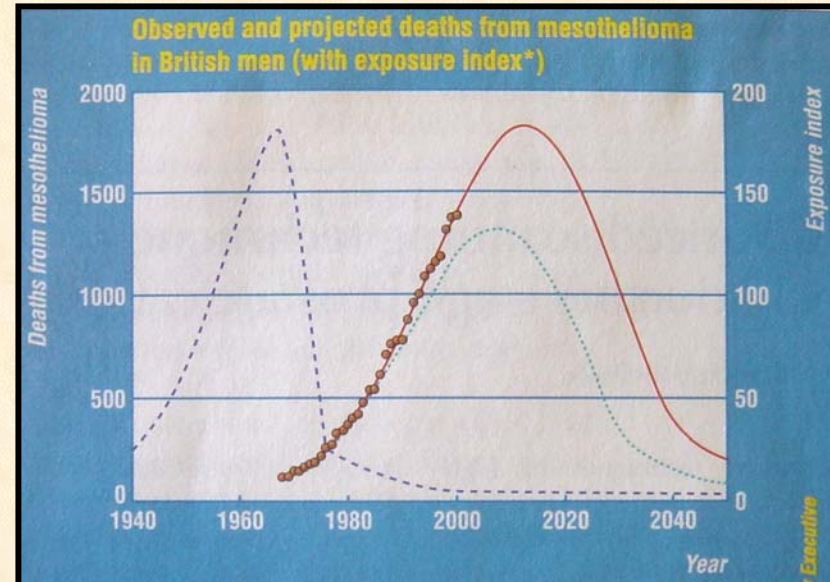
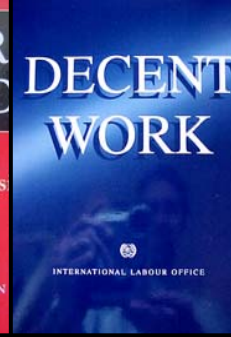
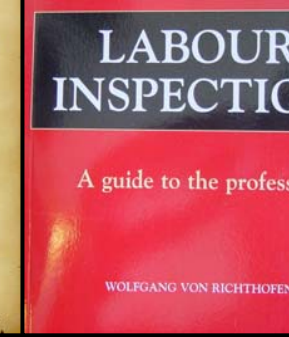




normal lung



asbestosis  
+ cancer



**Thank you !**



[www.ilo.org/safework](http://www.ilo.org/safework)

