

## C162 Asbestos Convention, 1986

Convention concerning Safety in the Use of Asbestos (Note: Date of coming into force: 16:06:1989.)

Convention:C162

Place:Geneva

Session of the Conference:72

Date of adoption:24:06:1986

Subject classification: Toxic Substances and Agents

Subject: **Occupational Safety and Health**

[See the ratifications for this Convention](#)

Display the document in: [French](#) [Spanish](#)

Status: Up-to-date instrument This Convention was adopted after 1985 and is considered up to date.

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Seventy-second Session on 4 June 1986, and

Noting the relevant international labour Conventions and Recommendations, and in particular the Occupational Cancer Convention and Recommendation, 1974, the Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention and Recommendation, 1977, the Occupational Safety and Health Convention and Recommendation, 1981, the Occupational Health Services Convention and Recommendation, 1985, the list of occupational diseases as revised in 1980 appended to the Employment Injury Benefits Convention, 1964, as well as the Code of practice on safety in the use of asbestos, published by the International Labour Office in 1984, which establish the principles of national policy and action at the national level,

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to safety in the use of asbestos, which is the fourth item on the agenda of the session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention;

adopts this twenty-fourth day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and eighty-six the following Convention, which may be cited as the Asbestos Convention, 1986:

### PART I. SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

#### Article 1

1. This Convention applies to all activities involving exposure of workers to asbestos in the course of work.

2. A Member ratifying this Convention may, after consultation with the most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, and on the basis of an assessment of the health hazards involved and the safety measures applied, exclude particular branches of economic activity or particular undertakings from the application of certain provisions of the Convention when it is satisfied that their application to these branches or undertakings is unnecessary.

3. The competent authority, when deciding on the exclusion of particular branches of economic activity or particular undertakings, shall take into account the frequency, duration and level of exposure, as well as the type of work and the conditions at the workplace.

## Article 2

For the purpose of this Convention-

(a) the term **asbestos** means the fibrous form of mineral silicates belonging to rock-forming minerals of the serpentine group, i.e. chrysotile (white asbestos), and of the amphibole group, i.e. actinolite, amosite (brown asbestos, cummingtonite-grunerite), anthophyllite, crocidolite (blue asbestos), tremolite, or any mixture containing one or more of these;

(b) the term **asbestos dust** means airborne particles of asbestos or settled particles of asbestos which are liable to become airborne in the working environment;

(c) the term **airborne asbestos dust** means, for purposes of measurement, dust particles measured by gravimetric assessment or other equivalent method;

(d) the term **respirable asbestos fibres** means asbestos fibres having a diameter of less than 3 micrometre and a length-to-diameter ratio greater than 3:1. Only fibres of a length greater than 5 micrometre shall be taken into account for purposes of measurement;

(e) the term **exposure to asbestos** means exposure at work to airborne respirable asbestos fibres or asbestos dust, whether originating from asbestos or from minerals, materials or products containing asbestos;

(f) the term **workers** includes the members of production co-operatives;

(g) the term **workers' representatives** means the workers' representatives recognised as such by national law or practice, in conformity with the Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971.

## PART II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

### Article 3

1. National laws or regulations shall prescribe the measures to be taken for the prevention and control of, and protection of workers against, health hazards due to occupational exposure to asbestos.

2. National laws and regulations drawn up in pursuance of paragraph 1 of this Article shall be periodically reviewed in the light of technical progress and advances in scientific knowledge.

3. The competent authority may permit temporary derogations from the measures prescribed pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article, under conditions and within limits of time to be

determined after consultation with the most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned.

4. In granting derogations in pursuance of paragraph 3 of this Article, the competent authority shall ensure that the necessary precautions are taken to protect the workers' health.

#### Article 4

The competent authority shall consult the most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned on the measures to be taken to give effect to the provisions of this Convention.

#### Article 5

1. The enforcement of the laws and regulations adopted pursuant to Article 3 of this Convention shall be secured by an adequate and appropriate system of inspection.

2. National laws or regulations shall provide for the necessary measures, including appropriate penalties, to ensure effective enforcement of and compliance with the provisions of this Convention.

#### Article 6

1. Employers shall be made responsible for compliance with the prescribed measures.

2. Whenever two or more employers undertake activities simultaneously at one workplace, they shall co-operate in order to comply with the prescribed measures, without prejudice to the responsibility of each employer for the health and safety of the workers he employs. The competent authority shall prescribe the general procedures of this co-operation when it is necessary.

3. Employers shall, in co-operation with the occupational safety and health services, and after consultation with the workers' representatives concerned, prepare procedures for dealing with emergency situations.

#### Article 7

Workers shall be required, within the limits of their responsibility, to comply with prescribed safety and hygiene procedures relating to the prevention and control of, and protection against, health hazards due to occupational exposure to asbestos.

#### Article 8

Employers and workers or their representatives shall co-operate as closely as possible at all levels in the undertaking in the application of the measures prescribed pursuant to this Convention.

## PART III. PROTECTIVE AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES

### Article 9

The national laws or regulations adopted pursuant to Article 3 of this Convention shall provide that exposure to asbestos shall be prevented or controlled by one or more of the following measures:

- (a) making work in which exposure to asbestos may occur subject to regulations prescribing adequate engineering controls and work practices, including workplace hygiene;
- (b) prescribing special rules and procedures, including authorisation, for the use of asbestos or of certain types of asbestos or products containing asbestos or for certain work processes.

### Article 10

Where necessary to protect the health of workers and technically practicable, national laws or regulations shall provide for one or more of the following measures-

- (a) replacement of asbestos or of certain types of asbestos or products containing asbestos by other materials or products or the use of alternative technology, scientifically evaluated by the competent authority as harmless or less harmful, whenever this is possible;
- (b) total or partial prohibition of the use of asbestos or of certain types of asbestos or products containing asbestos in certain work processes.

### Article 11

1. The use of crocidolite and products containing this fibre shall be prohibited.
2. The competent authority shall be empowered, after consultation with the most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, to permit derogations from the prohibition contained in paragraph 1 of this Article when replacement is not reasonably practicable, provided that steps are taken to ensure that the health of workers is not placed at risk.

### Article 12

1. Spraying of all forms of asbestos shall be prohibited.
2. The competent authority shall be empowered, after consultation with the most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, to permit derogations from the prohibition contained in paragraph 1 of this Article when alternative methods are not reasonably practicable, provided that steps are taken to ensure that the health of workers is not placed at risk.

## Article 13

National laws and regulations shall provide that employers shall notify to the competent authority, in a manner and to the extent prescribed by it, certain types of work involving exposure to asbestos.

## Article 14

Producers and suppliers of asbestos and manufacturers and suppliers of products containing asbestos shall be made responsible for adequate labelling of the container and, where appropriate, the products, in a language and manner easily understood by the workers and the users concerned, as prescribed by the competent authority.

## Article 15

1. The competent authority shall prescribe limits for the exposure of workers to asbestos or other exposure criteria for the evaluation of the working environment.
2. The exposure limits or other exposure criteria shall be fixed and periodically reviewed and updated in the light of technological progress and advances in technological and scientific knowledge.
3. In all workplaces where workers are exposed to asbestos, the employer shall take all appropriate measures to prevent or control the release of asbestos dust into the air, to ensure that the exposure limits or other exposure criteria are complied with and also to reduce exposure to as low a level as is reasonably practicable.
4. When the measures taken in pursuance of paragraph 3 of this Article do not bring exposure to asbestos within the exposure limits or do not comply with the other exposure criteria specified in pursuance of paragraph 1 of this Article, the employer shall provide, maintain and replace, as necessary, at no cost to the workers, adequate respiratory protective equipment and special protective clothing as appropriate. Respiratory protective equipment shall comply with standards set by the competent authority, and be used only as a supplementary, temporary, emergency or exceptional measure and not as an alternative to technical control.

## Article 16

Each employer shall be made responsible for the establishment and implementation of practical measures for the prevention and control of the exposure of the workers he employs to asbestos and for their protection against the hazards due to asbestos.

## Article 17

1. Demolition of plants or structures containing friable asbestos insulation materials, and removal of asbestos from buildings or structures in which asbestos is liable to become airborne, shall be undertaken only by employers or contractors who are recognised by the

competent authority as qualified to carry out such work in accordance with the provisions of this Convention and who have been empowered to undertake such work.

2. The employer or contractor shall be required before starting demolition work to draw up a work plan specifying the measures to be taken, including measures to-

(a) provide all necessary protection to the workers;

(b) limit the release of asbestos dust into the air; and

(c) provide for the disposal of waste containing asbestos in accordance with Article 19 of this Convention.

3. The workers or their representatives shall be consulted on the work plan referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article.

#### Article 18

1. Where workers' personal clothing may become contaminated with asbestos dust, the employer, in accordance with national laws or regulations and in consultation with the workers' representatives, shall provide appropriate work clothing, which shall not be worn outside the workplace.

2. The handling and cleaning of used work clothing and special protective clothing shall be carried out under controlled conditions, as required by the competent authority, to prevent the release of asbestos dust.

3. National laws or regulations shall prohibit the taking home of work clothing and special protective clothing and of personal protective equipment.

4. The employer shall be responsible for the cleaning, maintenance and storage of work clothing, special protective clothing and personal protective equipment.

5. The employer shall provide facilities for workers exposed to asbestos to wash, take a bath or shower at the workplace, as appropriate.

#### Article 19

1. In accordance with national law and practice, employers shall dispose of waste containing asbestos in a manner that does not pose a health risk to the workers concerned, including those handling asbestos waste, or to the population in the vicinity of the enterprise.

2. Appropriate measures shall be taken by the competent authority and by employers to prevent pollution of the general environment by asbestos dust released from the workplace.

### PART IV. SURVEILLANCE OF THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND WORKERS' HEALTH

## Article 20

1. Where it is necessary for the protection of the health of workers, the employer shall measure the concentrations of airborne asbestos dust in workplaces, and shall monitor the exposure of workers to asbestos at intervals and using methods specified by the competent authority.
2. The records of the monitoring of the working environment and of the exposure of workers to asbestos shall be kept for a period prescribed by the competent authority.
3. The workers concerned, their representatives and the inspection services shall have access to these records.
4. The workers or their representatives shall have the right to request the monitoring of the working environment and to appeal to the competent authority concerning the results of the monitoring.

## Article 21

1. Workers who are or have been exposed to asbestos shall be provided, in accordance with national law and practice, with such medical examinations as are necessary to supervise their health in relation to the occupational hazard, and to diagnose occupational diseases caused by exposure to asbestos.
2. The monitoring of workers' health in connection with the use of asbestos shall not result in any loss of earnings for them. It shall be free of charge and, as far as possible, shall take place during working hours.
3. Workers shall be informed in an adequate and appropriate manner of the results of their medical examinations and receive individual advice concerning their health in relation to their work.
4. When continued assignment to work involving exposure to asbestos is found to be medically inadvisable, every effort shall be made, consistent with national conditions and practice, to provide the workers concerned with other means of maintaining their income.
5. The competent authority shall develop a system of notification of occupational diseases caused by asbestos.

## PART V. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

### Article 22

1. The competent authority shall make appropriate arrangements, in consultation and collaboration with the most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, to promote the dissemination of information and the education of all concerned with regard to health hazards due to exposure to asbestos and to methods of prevention and control.

2. The competent authority shall ensure that employers have established written policies and procedures on measures for the education and periodic training of workers on asbestos hazards and methods of prevention and control.

3. The employer shall ensure that all workers exposed or likely to be exposed to asbestos are informed about the health hazards related to their work, instructed in preventive measures and correct work practices and receive continuing training in these fields.

## PART VI. FINAL PROVISIONS

### Article 23

The formal ratifications of this Convention shall be communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration.

### Article 24

1. This Convention shall be binding only upon those Members of the International Labour Organisation whose ratifications have been registered with the Director-General.

2. It shall come into force twelve months after the date on which the ratifications of two Members have been registered with the Director-General.

3. Thereafter, this Convention shall come into force for any Member twelve months after the date on which its ratification has been registered.

### Article 25

1. A Member which has ratified this Convention may denounce it after the expiration of ten years from the date on which the Convention first comes into force, by an act communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration. Such denunciation shall not take effect until one year after the date on which it is registered.

2. Each Member which has ratified this Convention and which does not, within the year following the expiration of the period of ten years mentioned in the preceding paragraph, exercise the right of denunciation provided for in this Article, will be bound for another period of ten years and, thereafter, may denounce this Convention at the expiration of each period of ten years under the terms provided for in this Article.

### Article 26

1. The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall notify all Members of the International Labour Organisation of the registration of all ratifications and denunciations communicated to him by the Members of the Organisation.

2. When notifying the Members of the Organisation of the registration of the second ratification communicated to him, the Director-General shall draw the attention of the Members of the Organisation to the date upon which the Convention will come into force.

#### Article 27

The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for registration in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations full particulars of all ratifications and acts of denunciation registered by him in accordance with the provisions of the preceding Articles.

#### Article 28

At such times as it may consider necessary the Governing Body of the International Labour Office shall present to the General Conference a report on the working of this Convention and shall examine the desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of its revision in whole or in part.

#### Article 29

1 Should the Conference adopt a new Convention revising this Convention in whole or in part, then, unless the new Convention otherwise provides-

(a) the ratification by a Member of the revising Convention shall ipso jure involve the immediate denunciation of this Convention, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 25 above, if and when the new revising Convention shall have come into force;

(b) as from the date when the new revising Convention comes into force this Convention shall cease to be open to ratification by the Members.

2. This Convention shall in any case remain in force in its actual form and content for those Members which have ratified it but have not ratified the revising Convention.

#### Article 30

The English and French versions of the text of this Convention are equally authoritative.

## C170 Chemicals Convention, 1990

Convention concerning Safety in the use of Chemicals at Work (Note: Date of coming into force: 04:11:1993.)

Convention:C170

Place:Geneva

Session of the Conference:77

Date of adoption:25:06:1990

Subject classification: Toxic Substances and Agents

Subject: **Occupational Safety and Health**

[See the ratifications for this Convention](#)

Display the document in: [French](#) [Spanish](#)

Status: Up-to-date instrument This Convention was adopted after 1985 and is considered up to date.

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its 77th Session on 6 June 1990, and

Noting the relevant international labour Conventions and Recommendations and, in particular, the Benzene Convention and Recommendation, 1971, the Occupational Cancer Convention and Recommendation, 1974, the Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention and Recommendation, 1977, the Occupational Safety and Health Convention and Recommendation, 1981, the Occupational Health Services Convention and Recommendation, 1985, the Asbestos Convention and Recommendation, 1986, and the list of occupational diseases, as amended in 1980, appended to the Employment Injury Benefits Convention, 1964, and

Noting that the protection of workers from the harmful effects of chemicals also enhances the protection of the general public and the environment, and

Noting that workers have a need for, and right to, information about the chemicals they use at work, and

Considering that it is essential to prevent or reduce the incidence of chemically induced illnesses and injuries at work by:

- (a) ensuring that all chemicals are evaluated to determine their hazards;
- (b) providing employers with a mechanism to obtain from suppliers information about the chemicals used at work so that they can implement effective programmes to protect workers from chemical hazards;
- (c) providing workers with information about the chemicals at their workplaces, and about appropriate preventive measures so that they can effectively participate in protective programmes;
- (d) establishing principles for such programmes to ensure that chemicals are used safely, and

Having regard to the need for co-operation within the International Programme on Chemical Safety between the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organisation as well as with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, and noting the relevant instruments, codes and guide-lines promulgated by these organisations, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to safety in the use of chemicals at work, which is the fifth item on the agenda of the session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention;

adopts this twenty-fifth day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety the following Convention, which may be cited as the Chemicals Convention, 1990:

## PART I. SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

### Article 1

1. This Convention applies to all branches of economic activity in which chemicals are used.

2. The competent authority of a Member ratifying this Convention, after consulting the most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned, and on the basis of an assessment of the hazards involved and the protective measures to be applied:

(a) may exclude particular branches of economic activity, undertakings or products from the application of the Convention, or certain provisions thereof, when:

(i) special problems of a substantial nature arise; and

(ii) the overall protection afforded in pursuance of national law and practice is not inferior to that which would result from the full application of the provisions of the Convention;

(b) shall make special provision to protect confidential information whose disclosure to a competitor would be liable to cause harm to an employer's business so long as the safety and health of workers are not compromised thereby.

3. This Convention does not apply to articles which will not expose workers to a hazardous chemical under normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use.

4. This Convention does not apply to organisms, but does apply to chemicals derived from organisms.

### Article 2

For the purposes of this Convention:

(a) the term **chemicals** means chemical elements and compounds, and mixtures thereof, whether natural or synthetic;

(b) the term **hazardous chemical** includes any chemical which has been classified as hazardous in accordance with Article 6 or for which relevant information exists to indicate that the chemical is hazardous;

(c) the term **use of chemicals at work** means any work activity which may expose a worker to a chemical, including:

(i) the production of chemicals;

(ii) the handling of chemicals;

(iii) the storage of chemicals;

(iv) the transport of chemicals;

(v) the disposal and treatment of waste chemicals;

(vi) the release of chemicals resulting from work activities;

(vii) the maintenance, repair and cleaning of equipment and containers for chemicals;

(d) the term **branches of economic activity** means all branches in which workers are employed, including the public service;

(e) the term **article** means an object which is formed to a specific shape or design during its manufacture or which is in its natural shape, and whose use in that form is dependent in whole or in part on its shape or design;

(f) the term **workers' representatives** means persons who are recognised as such by national law or practice, in accordance with the Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971.

## PART II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

### Article 3

The most representative organisations of employers and workers concerned shall be consulted on the measures to be taken to give effect to the provisions of this Convention.

### Article 4

In the light of national conditions and practice and in consultation with the most representative organisations of employers and workers, each Member shall formulate, implement and periodically review a coherent policy on safety in the use of chemicals at work.

## Article 5

The competent authority shall have the power, if justified on safety and health grounds, to prohibit or restrict the use of certain hazardous chemicals, or to require advance notification and authorisation before such chemicals are used.

## PART III. CLASSIFICATION AND RELATED MEASURES

### Article 6

#### CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

1. Systems and specific criteria appropriate for the classification of all chemicals according to the type and degree of their intrinsic health and physical hazards and for assessing the relevance of the information required to determine whether a chemical is hazardous shall be established by the competent authority, or by a body approved or recognised by the competent authority, in accordance with national or international standards.
2. The hazardous properties of mixtures composed of two or more chemicals may be determined by assessments based on the intrinsic hazards of their component chemicals.
3. In the case of transport, such systems and criteria shall take into account the United Nations Recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods.
4. The classification systems and their application shall be progressively extended.

### Article 7

#### LABELLING AND MARKING

1. All chemicals shall be marked so as to indicate their identity.
2. Hazardous chemicals shall in addition be labelled, in a way easily understandable to the workers, so as to provide essential information regarding their classification, the hazards they present and the safety precautions to be observed.
- 3.(1) Requirements for marking or labelling chemicals pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall be established by the competent authority, or by a body approved or recognised by the competent authority, in accordance with national or international standards.  
  
(2) In the case of transport, such requirements shall take into account the United Nations Recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods.

### Article 8

#### CHEMICAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS

1. For hazardous chemicals, chemical safety data sheets containing detailed essential information regarding their identity, supplier, classification, hazards, safety precautions and emergency procedures shall be provided to employers.

2. Criteria for the preparation of chemical safety data sheets shall be established by the competent authority, or by a body approved or recognised by the competent authority, in accordance with national or international standards.

3. The chemical or common name used to identify the chemical on the chemical safety data sheet shall be the same as that used on the label.

## Article 9

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUPPLIERS

1. Suppliers of chemicals, whether manufacturers, importers or distributors, shall ensure that:

(a) such chemicals have been classified in accordance with Article 6 on the basis of knowledge of their properties and a search of available information or assessed in accordance with paragraph 3 below;

(b) such chemicals are marked so as to indicate their identity in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 1;

(c) hazardous chemicals they supply are labelled in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 2;

(d) chemical safety data sheets are prepared for such hazardous chemicals in accordance with Article 8, paragraph 1, and provided to employers.

2. Suppliers of hazardous chemicals shall ensure that revised labels and chemical safety data sheets are prepared and provided to employers, by a method which accords with national law and practice, whenever new relevant safety and health information becomes available.

3. Suppliers of chemicals which have not yet been classified in accordance with Article 6 shall identify the chemicals they supply and assess the properties of these chemicals on the basis of a search of available information in order to determine whether they are hazardous chemicals.

### PART IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF EMPLOYERS

## Article 10

### IDENTIFICATION

1. Employers shall ensure that all chemicals used at work are labelled or marked as required by Article 7 and that chemical safety data sheets have been provided as required by Article 8 and are made available to workers and their representatives.

2. Employers receiving chemicals that have not been labelled or marked as required under Article 7, or for which chemical safety data sheets have not been provided as required under Article 8, shall obtain the relevant information from the supplier or from other reasonably available sources, and shall not use the chemicals until such information is obtained.

3. Employers shall ensure that only chemicals which are classified in accordance with Article 6 or identified and assessed in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 3, and labelled or marked in accordance with Article 7 are used and that any necessary precautions are taken when they are used.

4. Employers shall maintain a record of hazardous chemicals used at the workplace, cross-referenced to the appropriate chemical safety data sheets. This record shall be accessible to all workers concerned and their representatives.

## Article 11

### TRANSFER OF CHEMICALS

Employers shall ensure that when chemicals are transferred into other containers or equipment, the contents are indicated in a manner which will make known to workers their identity, any hazards associated with their use and any safety precautions to be observed.

## Article 12

### EXPOSURE

Employers shall:

(a) ensure that workers are not exposed to chemicals to an extent which exceeds exposure limits or other exposure criteria for the evaluation and control of the working environment established by the competent authority, or by a body approved or recognised by the competent authority, in accordance with national or international standards;

(b) assess the exposure of workers to hazardous chemicals;

(c) monitor and record the exposure of workers to hazardous chemicals when this is necessary to safeguard their safety and health or as may be prescribed by the competent authority;

(d) ensure that the records of the monitoring of the working environment and of the exposure of workers using hazardous chemicals are kept for a period prescribed by the competent authority and are accessible to the workers and their representatives.

## Article 13

### OPERATIONAL CONTROL

1. Employers shall make an assessment of the risks arising from the use of chemicals at work, and shall protect workers against such risks by appropriate means, such as:

- (a) the choice of chemicals that eliminate or minimise the risk;
- (b) the choice of technology that eliminates or minimises the risk;
- (c) the use of adequate engineering control measures;
- (d) the adoption of working systems and practices that eliminate or minimise the risk;
- (e) the adoption of adequate occupational hygiene measures;
- (f) where recourse to the above measures does not suffice, the provision and proper maintenance of personal protective equipment and clothing at no cost to the worker, and the implementation of measures to ensure their use.

2. Employers shall:

- (a) limit exposure to hazardous chemicals so as to protect the safety and health of workers;
- (b) provide first aid;
- (c) make arrangements to deal with emergencies.

Article 14

## DISPOSAL

Hazardous chemicals which are no longer required and containers which have been emptied but which may contain residues of hazardous chemicals, shall be handled or disposed of in a manner which eliminates or minimises the risk to safety and health and to the environment, in accordance with national law and practice.

Article 15

## INFORMATION AND TRAINING

Employers shall:

- (a) inform the workers of the hazards associated with exposure to chemicals used at the workplace;
- (b) instruct the workers how to obtain and use the information provided on labels and chemical safety data sheets;

(c) use the chemical safety data sheets, along with information specific to the workplace, as a basis for the preparation of instructions to workers, which should be written if appropriate;

(d) train the workers on a continuing basis in the practices and procedures to be followed for safety in the use of chemicals at work.

#### Article 16

### CO-OPERATION

Employers, in discharging their responsibilities, shall co-operate as closely as possible with workers or their representatives with respect to safety in the use of chemicals at work.

### PART V. DUTIES OF WORKERS

#### Article 17

1. Workers shall co-operate as closely as possible with their employers in the discharge by the employers of their responsibilities and comply with all procedures and practices relating to safety in the use of chemicals at work.

2. Workers shall take all reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise risk to themselves and to others from the use of chemicals at work.

### PART VI. RIGHTS OF WORKERS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

#### Article 18

1. Workers shall have the right to remove themselves from danger resulting from the use of chemicals when they have reasonable justification to believe there is an imminent and serious risk to their safety or health, and shall inform their supervisor immediately.

2. Workers who remove themselves from danger in accordance with the provisions of the previous paragraph or who exercise any other rights under this Convention shall be protected against undue consequences.

3. Workers concerned and their representatives shall have the right to:

(a) information on the identity of chemicals used at work, the hazardous properties of such chemicals, precautionary measures, education and training;

(b) the information contained in labels and markings;

(c) chemical safety data sheets;

(d) any other information required to be kept by this Convention.

4. Where disclosure of the specific identity of an ingredient of a chemical mixture to a competitor would be liable to cause harm to the employer's business, the employer may, in providing the information required under paragraph 3 above, protect that identity in a manner approved by the competent authority under Article 1, paragraph 2 (b).

## PART VII. RESPONSIBILITY OF EXPORTING STATES

### Article 19

When in an exporting member State all or some uses of hazardous chemicals are prohibited for reasons of safety and health at work, this fact and the reasons for it shall be communicated by the exporting member State to any importing country.

### Article 20

The formal ratifications of this Convention shall be communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration.

### Article 21

1. This Convention shall be binding only upon those Members of the International Labour Organisation whose ratifications have been registered with the Director-General.
2. It shall come into force twelve months after the date on which the ratifications of two Members have been registered with the Director-General.
3. Thereafter, this Convention shall come into force for any Member twelve months after the date on which its ratification has been registered.

### Article 22

1. A Member which has ratified this Convention may denounce it after the expiration of ten years from the date on which the Convention first comes into force, by an act communicated to the Director-General of the International Labour Office for registration. Such denunciation shall not take effect until one year after the date on which it is registered.
2. Each Member which has ratified this Convention and which does not, within the year following the expiration of the period of ten years mentioned in the preceding paragraph, exercise the right of denunciation provided for in this Article, will be bound for another period of ten years and, thereafter, may denounce this Convention at the expiration of each period of ten years under the terms provided for in this Article.

### Article 23

1. The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall notify all Members of the International Labour Organisation of the registration of all ratifications and denunciations communicated to him by the Members of the Organisation.

2. When notifying the Members of the Organisation of the registration of the second ratification communicated to him, the Director-General shall draw the attention of the Members of the Organisation to the date upon which the Convention will come into force.

#### Article 24

The Director-General of the International Labour Office shall communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for registration in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations full particulars of all ratifications and acts of denunciation registered by him in accordance with the provisions of the preceding Articles.

#### Article 25

At such times as it may consider necessary the Governing Body of the International Labour Office shall present to the General Conference a report on the working of this Convention and shall examine the desirability of placing on the agenda of the Conference the question of its revision in whole or in part.

#### Article 26

1. Should the Conference adopt a new Convention revising this Convention in whole or in part, then, unless the new Convention otherwise provides:

(a) the ratification by a Member of the new revising Convention shall ipso jure involve the immediate denunciation of this Convention, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 22 above, if and when the new revising Convention shall have come into force;

(b) as from the date when the new revising Convention comes into force this Convention shall cease to be open to ratification by the Members.

2. This Convention shall in any case remain in force in its actual form and content for those Members which have ratified it but have not ratified the revising Convention.

#### Article 27

The English and French versions of the text of this Convention are equally authoritative.

#### **Cross references**

[Conventions: C136 Benzene Convention, 1971](#)

[Conventions: C139 Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974](#)

[Conventions: C148 Working Environment \(Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration\) Convention, 1977](#)

[Conventions: C164 Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981](#)

[Conventions: C161 Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985](#)

[Conventions: C162 Asbestos Convention, 1986](#)

[Conventions: C121 Employment Injury Benefits Convention, 1964](#)

[Conventions: C135 Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971](#)

[Recommendations:R144 Benzene Recommendation, 1971](#)

[Recommendations:R147 Occupational Cancer Recommendation, 1974](#)

[Recommendations:R156 Working Environment \(Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration\) Recommendation, 1977](#)

[Recommendations:R164 Occupational Safety and Health Recommendation, 1981](#)

[Recommendations:R171 Occupational Health Services Recommendation, 1985](#)

[Recommendations:R172 Asbestos Recommendation, 1986](#)