



EFBWW Trade Union Guide on using asbestos registries in European countries

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Content

Kooperationsstelle Hamburg IFE

EFBWW Trade Union Guide on using Asbestos
Registries in European countries



Kooperationsstelle Hamburg IFE

- Former public research institute, **specialized on OSH and chemicals**, private from January 2010 on
- Practical **substitution projects** (metal, printing, textile and construction industry)
- Major national and EU-wide background studies on **chemical management**
- Developer of **CLEANTOOL** - a database for innovative metal surface cleaning in four languages (www.cleantool.org)
- Developer and coordinator of **SUBSPORT** an international substitution portal (www.subsport.eu)



Guide presentation

EFBWW Trade Union Guide on using Asbestos Registries in European countries

- Goals, target group and expected outcomes
- Methodology
- Asbestos registration models
- Alternative means of asbestos detection
- Obligations for asbestos removal
- National OSH strategies
- National asbestos removal strategies



EFBWW Trade Union Guide on using Asbestos Registries

The guide was prepared by the Kooperationsstelle Hamburg IFE (KOOP) and commissioned by the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) with the financial support of the European Commission (VS / 2016 / 0244).



Goals

- Mapping of existing registries for harmful substances such as asbestos
- Getting information how to access this data as a preventive health and safety tool
- Identifying alternative means of asbestos detection
- Making EU Policy recommendations for establishing new and improving existing registries



Target group

- **Workers' representatives** responsible for health and safety in construction companies including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and
- **Policy makers**



Outcomes

- Description of different registration models in European countries
- Alternative means of detection when asbestos registers are not available
- How to identify and access relevant services, e.g. expert assessment and lab analysis
- Information on legal obligations of owners, employers, employees and authorities
- How to promote Health and Safety at the work place (national OSH and asbestos removal strategies)
- EU Policy recommendations



Methodology

1. Preparatory stage, including literature review
2. Survey and interviews with national experts - Mai 2017 - March 2018
3. Data collection (literature plus survey plus interviews) - ongoing
4. In-depth analysis, synthesis and reporting
5. Feedback from national experts



Table 1: List with national organisations that provided information - part 1

Country	Organisation
Austria	Federal Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
Belgium	General Belgian Trade Union (ABVV)
Bulgaria	General Labour Inspectorate Executive Agency (GLI EA)
Croatia	Croatian Institute for Health Protection and Safety at Work (1) Ministry of Labour and Pension System, Labour Inspectorate (2) The Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund (3)
Cyprus	Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, Department of Labour Inspection
Denmark	Working Environmental Authority
Estonia	Labour Inspectorate of Estonia
Finland	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (1) Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (2)
France	INRS French Institute of Occupational Health (1) EUROGIP (2)
Germany	Health and Consumer Protection Authority Hamburg, Department of Occupational Safety (AfA) (1) Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (2)
Greece	Greek Labour Inspectorate (SEPE), Central service, Directorate for Planning and Coordination of OSH Inspectorate
Hungary	Building, Wood, and Construction Workers' Trade Union Confederation (ÉFÉDOSZSZ) (1) National Public Health Institute (2)

Table1: List with national organisations that provided information – part 2

Ireland	Health and Safety Authority
Italy	Institute for Study and Prevention of Cancer (1) National Labor Inspectorate (2)
Latvia	State Labour Inspectorate of Latvia
Lithuania	State Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Lithuania (1) Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (2) National Public Health Surveillance Laboratory Head of Chemical Testing Department (3)
Malta	Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA)
Netherlands	Expertise Center of the Dutch Labour Inspectorate
Poland	National Labour Inspectorate (1) Chief Sanitary Inspectorate (2)
Portugal	Working Conditions Authority (ACT) (1) General Confederation of Portuguese Workers (2)
Romania	Romtens Foundation
Sweden	Swedish Work Environment Authority (Arbetsmiljöverket, SWEA)
Slovakia	Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic
Slovenia	National Institute of Public Health (1) Slovenian Environment Agency (2) Institute of Occupational, Traffic and Sports Medicine (3)
Spain	Safety and Health Secretary Comisiones Obreras (CCOO)
Switzerland	Swiss National Accident Insurance Fund Suva (Suva)
UK	Health and Safety Executive

Methodology

The research team is very grateful to all the individuals and institutions that offered support and provided detailed information for the guide.



Asbestos registration models

The chapter includes an overview of asbestos registration models in European countries and information how to identify and request information.



Asbestos registration models: Country fact sheets



DATA SOURCE: ASBESTOS DATABASE
COUNTRY: POLAND

ASBESTOS BAN: 1997

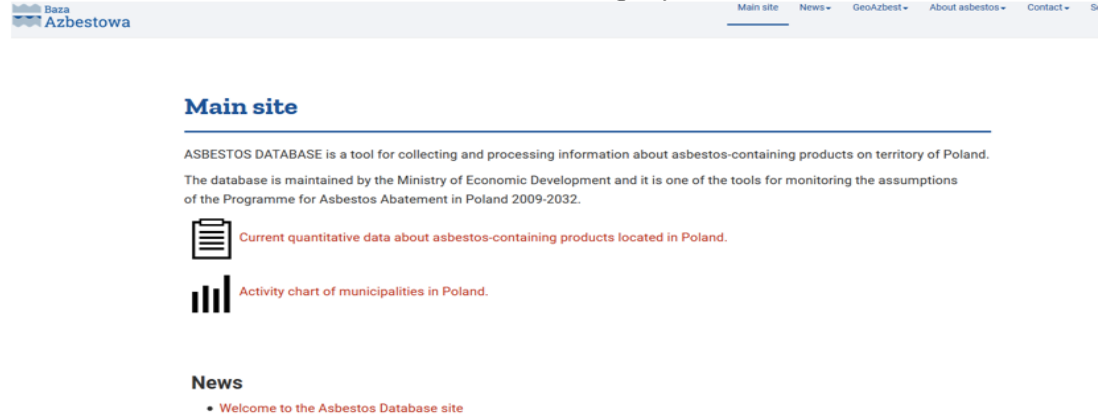
BASIC DATA

Name (original): Baza azbestowa

Name (translated into English): Asbestos Database

Originator / owner: Ministry of Enterprise and Technology

Publication form and reference: www.bazaazbestowa.gov.pl



The screenshot shows the website's header with navigation links: Main site, News, GeoAzbest, About asbestos, Contact, and Search. The main content area features a 'Main site' heading, a description of the ASBESTOS DATABASE as a tool for collecting and processing information about asbestos-containing products in Poland, and a list of news items, including 'Welcome to the Asbestos Database site'.

Short description: ASBESTOS DATABASE is a tool for collecting and processing information about asbestos-containing products on the territory of Poland. The database is maintained by the Ministry of Enterprise and Technology and it is one of the tools for monitoring the assumptions of the Programme for Asbestos Abatement in Poland 2009-2032. The data base includes the **GeoAzbest** module which is based on the use of an orthophotomap as a basic layer and of a digital land and building register and use of the database of asbestos-containing products (see following picture). GeoAzbest is available at: <https://www.bazaazbestowa.gov.pl/pl/geoazbest/o-portalu-geoazbest>. Visualization of asbestos containing buildings at country, regional and local level using GeoAzbest shows the following picture.



Type of the data source: Data base (includes also registers and reports)

Covered types of buildings:

- Government (public administrations, fire or police stations, post offices etc.)
- Medical (hospitals, nursing homes, health services etc.)
- Educational (schools, libraries cultural institutions etc.)

- Agricultural
- Commercial (hotels, offices, warehouses, human services etc.)
- Industrial
- Private (residential houses etc.)

Covered types of products:

- Asbestos-cement flat sheets
- Corrugated asbestos cement sheets
- Asbestos-cement pipes and joints
- Sprayed insulation materials
- Asbestos-rubber friction products
- Woven and woven tapes, cords and strings
- Asbestos-cement coverings, flame retardant boards
- Membranes, putties, and waterproofing masses, sealants
- Asbestos packing
- Roads
- Industrial networks

Time period of data collection: year(s) of data compilation and the frequency of updates:

Start 2003, updated annually till 31st January. The data from building owners is collected at the local and regional level and put into the database by the local and regional administration.

Covered language(s): Polish

Covered geographical area(s): Poland

REQUEST ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Fees for using the data source:

- Free of charge: Yes
- Liable to pay costs: terms and conditions to access the data source: No

Other constraints (others than user fees) for using the data source:

- No constraints in access to the basic information.
- The module *data management system* is limited to specific user groups: authorities of municipal level, voivodship level and central level.

Request access to information:

Searching the online database: <https://www.bazaazbestowa.gov.pl/>;
<https://www.bazaazbestowa.gov.pl/pl/geoazbest/o-portalu-geoazbest>



Asbestos registration models: Findings

Data sources for asbestos provide information about where asbestos is located in buildings or where there might be asbestos, and the amount and condition.

Data sources for asbestos exist at different administrative levels (state, regional or local).

- E.g.1: The national asbestos database in Poland (*Baza azbestowa*, English translation: **Asbestos Database**), and
- E.g.2: The local government project *Digitale Hafenkarte* (English translation: **Digital Port Map**) in Bremen, Germany.



Asbestos registration models: Findings

Kind of data sources

- Data bases
- Reports
- Registers
- Inventories



Asbestos registration models: Findings

The legal basis for data sources is mainly national legislation.

Data sources cover the time period from 1986 until today.

Frequencies of updates

- Daily
- Irregularly
- Not updated



Asbestos registration models: Findings

Request access to information

- Free of charge
- Liable to pay costs
- Publicly accessible
- Accessible for specific user groups (authorities etc.)



Asbestos registration models: Findings

Many **data sources are not accessible by the companies and workers** who perform work on the buildings contained in the data source.

The guide provide information about assessments of harmful substances (also referred to as inventories, audits or surveys) that are performed by a competent person commissioned by companies or owners before beginning work on a building. These are not considered registries as such as the information is not stored in a central and accessible place for future reference.



Alternative means of asbestos detection

The chapter includes information about alternative means of asbestos detection if there is no official data source, information how to identify and access relevant services e.g. lab analysis or expert assessments.



Alternative means of asbestos detection: Country fact sheets



ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR DETECTION POLAND

Practical information when working with asbestos:

Information available at:

<https://www.bazaazbestowa.gov.pl/pl/> (1)

<https://www.biznes.gov.pl/przedsiębiorcy/biznes-w-polsce/prowadze-firme/prawa-i-obowiazki/co-zrobic-z-wyrobami-zawierajacymi-azbest> (2)

<http://www.mpit.gov.pl/strony/zadania/bezpieczenstwo-gospodarcze/usuwanie-azbestu/> (3)

<https://www.biznes.gov.pl/przedsiębiorcy/biznes-w-polsce/prowadze-firme/prawa-i-obowiazki/co-zrobic-z-wyrobami-zawierajacymi-azbest> (4)

Alternative steps if there is no official data source:

1. Analysis of technical documentation
2. Visual analysis
3. Sampling of test material
4. Performing of concentration measurements

Assessment methods used when asbestos is present in building:

- Identification of the real magnitude of asbestos-containing products
- Building owners or managers post warning signs which identify the location of asbestos-containing products, where appropriate
- Sampling of test material
- Performing of concentration measurements

Key steps to take when asbestos is present in buildings:

1. Determining the condition of asbestos-containing products in order to take a decision about their removal or securing,
2. Notification to the competent construction supervision body, the competent district labour inspector and the competent state sanitary inspector about the intention to remove or secure such products,
3. Ensuring safe and healthy conditions of performing work; ensuring training and preventive health care for workers; ensuring coordination of work,
4. Preventing third persons from entering the work area and marking it with information about hazards from asbestos dust,
5. Correct packing, labelling and disposal of asbestos-containing waste.

Institutions able to perform audits and laboratory analysis:

1. Authorised scientific units,
2. Accredited laboratories,
3. Private companies.

Enterprises authorised to safely remove asbestos and connected with asbestos issue (e.g. asbestos removal, laboratories, education issues, programmes of asbestos-containing products removal) can be found at the following website: <https://www.bazaazbestowa.gov.pl/pl/usuwanie-azbestu/firmy>

Quality requirements for construction companies to work with asbestos:

1. Company registration by the competent voivodeship marshal,
2. Conducting training for employees in the field of OSH and removal of asbestos-containing products: 1. Introductory training (3 hours), 2. General training for a specific position (8 hours), 3. Periodic training (16 hours for manager, 8 hours for worker), 4. OSH training when working with asbestos (5,5 hours),
3. Developing of a detailed plan for removing asbestos-containing products (risk assessment for employees, control of workers' exposure to asbestos dust),



4. Possession of the necessary technical and social equipment (reducing or eliminating dust emissions by using appropriate machines, equipment and working methods, work wear, PPE),
5. Notification of the intention to carry out asbestos work to sanitary inspection, labor inspection and construction supervisory authority at least 7 days in advance,
6. Caring for the protection of the environment and proper asbestos waste disposal.

Who is obligated to pay for services⁵¹:

- Owner/ manager of building
- Municipality or eligible unit (in the case of refunds)
- Municipality or eligible unit and owner or manager (in the case of co-financing)

Possibility to get a (state) financial support:

- Transport and recycling costs of asbestos waste can be taken over by the State until 2032.
- Dismantling, transport and recycling costs of asbestos waste can be taken over by the Municipality or eligible unit in case of co-financing.



Alternative means of asbestos detection: Findings

Identification of asbestos in buildings

- Usually made by the employer
- Made by the owner (France, Italy, Poland, Sweden and the UK (owner of non-domestic premises))
- Done by a competent asbestos consultant or supervisor (Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, UK)
- In some countries where buildings are built before a specific year, an asbestos survey of a building must be completed prior to any removal or demolition (Hungary: 1990, Finland: 1994, France: 1997, Ireland and UK: 2000, Switzerland: 1990)



Alternative means of asbestos detection: Findings

Assessment methods used when asbestos is present in buildings

- Determination of asbestos fibres: mostly by phase-contrast microscopy (PCM); but also by scanning electron microscopy (SEM)
- Determination of asbestos fibres concentration in the air: different international and national method (e.g. in Romania, the fibre counting methods described in the 1) Directive 83 / 477 / EEC and 2) national standard method 7400)



Alternative means of asbestos detection: Findings

Key steps to take when asbestos is present in buildings

- Conducting a risk assessment
- Writing a work plan, safety plan
- Sending notification to the competent authority (mostly the labor inspection, also sanitary inspection or construction supervisory authority)
- Giving information and instruction for workers
- Using prevention measures
- Determining removal process
- Conditioning and disposal of asbestos-containing waste
- Checking the proper treatment of asbestos-containing products



Alternative means of asbestos detection: Findings

Institutions able to perform audits and laboratory analysis

- Private (accredited) laboratories
- Public accredited laboratories
- Scientific units
- Consumer institutions (Germany)
- Cyprus and Slovenia do not have accredited laboratories and send samples abroad
- Examples of services can be found in the guide



Obligations for asbestos removal

This chapter includes EU-information on legal obligations of owner, employer, employee and labour inspections.



Obligations for asbestos removal: Country fact sheets



SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL POLAND

Information about rights and obligations when working with asbestos:

Regulation of the Minister of Economy and Labour of 14 October 2005 on safety and health rules for work at securing and removing asbestos-containing products and the curriculum of training in safe use of such products (Journal of Laws 2005.216.1824),

<http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU20052161824> (1),

Regulation of the Minister of Economy, Labour and Social Policy of 2 April 2004 on the methods and conditions of safe use and removal of asbestos-containing products (Journal of Laws 2004.71.649, as amended, <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU20040710649>) (2),

Ministry of Enterprise and Technology, search with catchword "azbest" on the webpage:

<https://www.mpit.gov.pl/szukaj/?param=azbest#/param=azbest/rodzaj=0/domyslnie=1> (3)

Service information service for entrepreneurs BIZNES.GOV.PL

(<https://www.biznes.gov.pl/przedsiębiorcy/biznes-w-polsce/prowadze-firme/prawa-i-obowiazki/co-zrobic-z-wyrobami-zawierajacymi-azbest>) (4)

Who is obligated to identify asbestos in building:

Before commencement of the work, employer is obliged to develop a detailed work plan for the removal of asbestos-containing products. The plan should include, in particular: identification of asbestos in materials planned for removal, on the basis of information confirmed in documents and provided by the owner or administrator of the building, or on the basis of examinations conducted by a laboratory which is equipped with devices enabling proper analysis of materials and which is able to use appropriate identification techniques.

Who determine priorities for renovation, removal and covering:

An owner/investor has the duty to inspect the technical condition of a building or another place containing asbestos (Journal of Laws 2004.71.649). The conducted inspection is the basis for drawing up an assessment of the condition and possibility of safe use of asbestos-containing products. One copy of the assessment is kept together with other documents concerning the place containing asbestos, the building, construction facility or industrial installation. The second copy of the assessment is forwarded to the competent body for construction supervision. The assessment is the basis for a decision as to whether the asbestos products should be removed, or whether they can be secured if their condition allows it.

Is mapping of asbestos-containing buildings for construction workers available:

There is an obligatory IT tool, **Asbestos Database**, free of charge, to be used by all units of local self-government authorities for making inventory of asbestos-containing products. It is also available to all those who are interested in the subject of safe withdrawal from use of asbestos products. The Database is maintained by the Ministry of Enterprise and Technology and it is one of the tools for monitoring tasks resulting from the "Programme for Asbestos Abatement in Poland 2009-2032". The Asbestos Database in its basic form (without sensitive data) is available at:

<http://www.bazaazbestowa.gov.pl/> **GeoAzbest**, the Electronic System of Spatial Information integrates data from the Asbestos Database with spatial data. The objective of using the System of Spatial Information is to process data which includes spatial information and the accompanying descriptive information about locations where asbestos-containing products are used or where asbestos waste is disposed of. It is available at: <https://esip.bazaazbestowa.gov.pl/>

Is there time limit for removal:

31st December 2032

Is delayed removal (e.g. encapsulation or covering or protection) allowed:

It is permissible to perform work related to securing and removing of asbestos-containing products, as well as safe using of asbestos-containing products with the volume density equal to or higher than 1000 kg/m³, once it has been made certain that there are no visible defects which may create the conditions for asbestos dust release into the environment.



Deadlines for notification of work with asbestos for construction companies to the relevant authority:

Authorities for construction supervision, the labour inspection and the sanitary inspection should be notified at least 7 days before starting to work such removal or securing of asbestos-containing products. Notification about such works should also be submitted to the administrative authority for architectural and construction matters.

Are there quality controls after asbestos removal:

There are organoleptically controls after asbestos removal.

Is there obligation to train construction workers dealing with asbestos: Yes

Is there duty for certification for construction companies working with asbestos: No

Quality requirements for construction companies to work with asbestos:

- Company registration by the competent voivodeship marshal,
- Conducting training for employees in the field of OSH and removal of asbestos-containing products: 1. Introductory training (3 hours), 2. General training for a specific position (8 hours), 3. Periodic training (16 hours for manager, 8 hours for worker), 4. OSH training when working with asbestos (5,5 hours),
- Developing of a detailed plan for removing asbestos-containing products (risk assessment for employees, control of workers' exposure to asbestos dust),
- Possession of the necessary technical and social equipment (reducing or eliminating dust emissions by using appropriate machines, equipment and working methods, work wear, PPE),
- Notification of the intention to carry out asbestos work to sanitary inspection, labor inspection and construction supervisory authority at least 7 days in advance,
- 6. Caring for the protection of the environment and proper asbestos waste disposal.

Quality requirements for construction companies to work with asbestos:

- Appropriate school education;
- OSH trainings when working with asbestos

Obligation of waste disposal:

The producer of asbestos waste is responsible disposal. In case of co-financing, removal from the ground and transport to the waste disposal site and disposal can be taken over by the Municipality or eligible unit until 2032.



Obligations for asbestos removal: Findings

Owner

- Identifying of asbestos-containing materials in buildings (France, Italy, Poland, Sweden and the UK (non-domestic premises))
- Checking regularly parts of the building that contain asbestos,
- Submitting relevant information to competent authorities (e.g. in Poland annually)
- Giving the information on asbestos materials to the employer



Obligations for asbestos removal: Findings

Employer

- Applying asbestos regulations
- By removal and demolition, obtaining certification or licence from the competent authorities to deal with asbestos (Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and UK)
- Conducting asbestos survey
- Assessing risk
- Appointment of asbestos consultant (e.g. Malta, Ireland, UK)



Obligations for asbestos removal: Findings

Employer

- Determining the responsible person (manager) in the company and having qualified employees
- By maintenance (licensed) work involving asbestos, sending notification to the competent authority (e.g. labour inspectorates, construction supervisory authorities) in writing or online from between 2 and up to 30 days before work begins
- Training construction workers dealing with asbestos and informing them about possible asbestos in the construction site before starting work on building



Obligations for asbestos removal:

Findings

Employer

- Drafting fact sheets of exposure for employees and competent authorities
- Using of suitable Personal Preventive Equipment (PPE)
- Using of suitable technical equipment
- Organising proper waste disposal complying with national hazardous waste rules.



Obligations for asbestos removal: Findings

Employee

- Receiving specific asbestos training
- Having medical certificates for fitness
- Preventing the emission and sowing of asbestos dust
- Complying with all instructions given to prevent the presence of asbestos in the work environment
- Proper using wear personal protective equipment and working according to established internal instructions and
- Notifying the site manager of all the malfunctions found in the particulate collection and retention system



Obligations for asbestos removal: Findings

Labour Inspection

- Supervising the application of laws in the field of occupational safety and health
- Supervising the notification of starting asbestos work,
- Assessing of the risk assessment and the work plan
- Conducting inspection of employers and of working conditions, and monitoring companies on site
- In some countries labour inspection is obligated to control the waste management like in Hungary



National OSH strategies

The chapter includes information about strategies to promote health and safety at the work place.



National OSH strategies: Findings

22 (from 28) Member States and the Switzerland have a national OSH Strategy. These are based on the EU Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Strategic Framework 2014-2020.

However, **not all of these countries include safe dealing with asbestos as a part of their strategy.**

Some countries have other measures in place which are not a part of the national OSH strategy, e.g. national asbestos removal strategies.

An overview of national OSH strategies can be found in the guide.



National asbestos removal strategies

The chapter includes information about national asbestos removal strategies.



National asbestos removal strategies: Findings

- The Polish Asbestos Removal Strategy
- Practical guidelines regarding dealing with asbestos published by the appropriate authorities in Ireland or the UK
- Croatian Waste Treatment Management Plan which includes asbestos removal activities, or
- Lithuanian Asbestos Removal Action Plan 2017 – 2020

An overview of national asbestos regulation and asbestos removal strategies can be found in the guide.



Thank you for your attention

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