Annex

Description of cohort studies

Wittenoom workers and residents

The Wittenoom crocidolite mining and milling industry operated between 1943 and 1966 and employed 6,905 workers. A cohort study was established in 1974 from employment records. [12] Public records identified a further 4,421 residents who lived in Wittenoom between 1943 and 1992, who were not employed by the asbestos industry. [13] Duration of exposure and time since first exposure were determined from the employment records for the workers and from public records for the residents of Wittenoom.[12 13]

Eternit workers and wives

The Eternit asbestos cement plant in Casale Monferrato, Piedmont, Italy operated between 1907 and 1986. Chrysotile and crocidolite were used in the manufacture of plain and corrugated sheets, chimney tubes and high-pressure pipes. A cohort of workers active at the plant on 1/1/1950 or who were hired between 1950 and 1986 (n=3,434), was established from employment records.[8] Workers' clothes were taken home for laundering. In 1988 the Registrar's Offices of towns where Eternit plant workers were known to reside provided the marital status, name and date of birth of the wife of each member of the workers' cohort.[14]After exclusions of women who had: worked for the Eternit plant (n=383); had incomplete data (n=9); or who had either married after their husbands had stopped working at the plant or whose marriage had ended before the husband started working at the plant (n=238), a cohort of 1,780 women with domestic asbestos exposure was established.

Railway carriage construction and maintenance workers, Italy.

In the early 1950s the Italian Railway Service decreed that all new and subsequently all coaches and passenger cars had to be fully insulated with sprayed crocidolite. Exposure to chrysotile may also have occurred, because of the use or removal of ribbons and boards. At the beginning of the 1980s

the same Railway Service decided that the risk posed by asbestos should be stopped and that the insulation from all coaches and cars be removed.

The employment register was used to identify employees who were active in three factories in the Veneto Region (North East Italy) that were involved in the construction, renovation or repair of railway carriages, during the period 1956 (when exposure to crocidolite commenced) and 1982 when asbestos protection measures became effective (1982). Three cohort studies were established (Officine Meccaniche della Stanga, Padua n=1,706; Officina Meccanica in Cittadella, province of Padua, n=1,853; Main Repair Workshop of the Railroad Service, Vicenza, n=1,135). An evaluation of the mortality of two of the cohorts has been performed previously.[11]

Amosite factory Molina di Ledro, Trento, Italy.

Amosite was mixed with local rocks rich in magnesium and used in the manufacture of preformed insulating products in a factory located in the small mountain village of Molina di Ledro, province of Trento, Northern Italy. The factory operated between 1919 and 1978 in a building without any asbestos protective measures and employed in total 409 workers from the surrounding area, who were alive in the 1950s or hired thereafter. Several sources have been used to identify the employees, since the official employment register was not made available. These included records at the employment office and at the Insurance Institute and interviews with survivors. The present data updates previous work. [10]