

**Bills Committee on
Air Pollution Control (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2013**

**Follow-up actions required of the Administration
(as at 3 December 2013)**

The Administration was requested by members at the meeting on 2 December 2013 to provide, in consultation with Gammon Construction Limited, Construction Industry Council and Hong Kong Construction Association, a list of machinery/products which consist of asbestos-containing material.

Asbestos had been widely used in friction, fireproofing, insulation and building materials before the mid-1980s because of its very high tensile strength and good heat and chemical resistance properties. The potential health risks associated with asbestos have triggered off the development of substitutes which are free of asbestos. Proven and safer substitutes are now available in many applications such as building materials, friction products, brake lining, seals and gaskets. Information on suppliers of substitutes for asbestos products is available from the Environmental Protection Department's webpage:

http://www.epd.gov.hk/cgi-bin/epd/com_search.pl?lang=eng

For some of the old machinery/products used in construction sites, asbestos containing materials may still be found. We have contacted the Construction Industry Council (CIC), Gammon Construction Limited (GCL) and the Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) for their input on machinery/products which might contain asbestos containing materials. CIC advised that they did not have an exhaustive list of the machinery/products. GCL, being a member of HKCA, informed us that they had an internal procurement practice to phase out the use of asbestos containing materials and would provide input to HKCA for the list of machinery/products containing asbestos. While we are waiting for HKCA's input, we have compiled a list of machinery/products which may contain asbestos containing materials:

Machinery / Products	Components which may contain asbestos containing materials
Trucks / Vehicles	Brake pads, Brake lining Clutches; Valve rings; Valve stem packing
Electrical supply systems	Electrical panel; Electrical switching terminal boards; Fuse box (insulation cloth behind the fuse); Plastic (as fireproofing agent)
Generators	Roofing and tiling materials; gaskets
Pumps	Seals; gaskets
Lift equipment / elevators	Braking unit; pads; brake shoes
Overhead crane	Braking unit; pads
Fire fighting equipment	Fire blankets; cloth
Welding equipment	Welding blankets; apron; welding rods; filler in acetylene gas cylinders

We shall update the above list after receiving inputs from HKCA.

Environment Bureau/Environmental Protection Department
13 December 2013