

Asbestos Hygiene Standards and Limits

A summary of the occupation hygiene standards and limits relevant to asbestos in the UK. The hygiene standards and limits should always be considered in the context of the knowledge, guidance and legislation of the time.

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Date (document)	Type of standard	Values		
		Chrysotile	Amosite	Crocidolite
March 1960 (TFSA)	TLV (limit)	177 ppcc as 8-hour TWA		
1966 (DFAFA)		5 mppcf (= 177 ppcc) as 8-hour TWA		
1968 (DFAFA)		2 mppcf (= 12 f/ml) as 8-hour TWA		
June 1968 (BOHS)	'Hygiene standard'	Negligible: 0 - 0.4 f/ml Low: 0.5 - 1.9 f/ml Medium: 2 - 10.0 f/ml High: Over 10 f/ml	None	None
March 1970 (TDN 13)	'Standard for use with Asbestos Regulations'	2 f/ml (4-hour TWA) or 12 f/ml (10-min TWA)		0.2 f/ml (10-min TWA)
December 1976 (EH10)	'Hygiene standard'	As TDN 13 (above) but subject to 'exposure to be reduced to the minimum reasonably practicable' requirement (requirement to similar effect in all subsequent standard setting documents)		
April 1983 (EH10)	Control Limit	1 f/ml (4-hour TWA)	0.5 f/ml (4-hour TWA)	0.2 f/ml (4-hour TWA)
July 1984 (EH10)		0.5 f/ml (4-hour TWA)	0.2 f/ml (4-hour TWA)	
Feb 1988 (EH10)		0.5 f/ml (4-hour TWA) or 1.5 f/ml (10 min TWA)	0.2 f/ml (4-hour TWA) or 0.6 f/ml (10-min TWA)	
June 1990 (EH10)		As February 1988		
1995 (EH10)		As February 1988		
2001 (EH10)		0.3 f/ml (4-hour TWA) or 0.9 f/ml (10 min TWA)	0.3 f/ml (4-hour TWA) or 0.6 f/ml (10 min TWA)	
2002 (CAWR)		As 2001 EH10		
2005 (HSG248)		As 2001 EH10		
2006 (CAR)		0.1 fibres/cm ³ (4-hour TWA)		
2012 (CAR)		As CAR 2006		

TSFA = 'Toxic Substances in Factory Atmospheres'; DFIFA = 'Dust and fumes in factory atmospheres'; TLV = Threshold Limit Value; TWA = time weighted average; BOHS = British Occupational Hygiene Society; TDN = Technical Data Note; EH = Environmental Hygiene; CAWR = Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations; CAR = Control of Asbestos Regulations. Note: 1 fibre/ml = 1 fibre/cm³ = 1 fibre/cc

Please **contact us** if you would like to discuss the applications and implications of the asbestos hygiene standards and/or limits relevant to any enquiry you may have.

01302 499050 enquiries@pragmaandassociates.co.uk

Pragma+Associates

www.pragmaandassociates.co.uk