

# THE GREAT ASBESTOS DECEPTION

**The story I want to tell you today is about the massive business that has been developed as a result of the UK's 1999 ban on chrysotile asbestos.**

**This is a business that is worth hundreds of billions of dollars and probably not a single life has been, or will be saved as a result.**

**First we should identify the main culprits behind this deception.**

**Slide 1**

- 1 Claims Lawyers**
- 2 Alternative producers of non-asbestos fibres**
- 3 Asbestos Removal Contractors**
- 4 Asbestos wastes disposal companies**
- 5 Asbestos surveyors**
- 6 Chartered surveyors**
- 7 Unions**
- 8 Doctors**
- 9 Political Parties**

**I will deal with all of these as we progress this story.**

**So, how do they all manage to make this into such a prosperous business?**

**Firstly they need to create the fear and panic from asbestos exposure that will drive their commercial operations.**

**All the culprits co-operate in contributing to paying for mass media examples of asbestos that claim even minute amounts of asbestos fibre can kill masses of workers, their families and children.**

**Lets first put this risk into an understandable assessment.**

**If you take a lump of Plutonium it will kill you for certain, but the same type of radiation is present in the dial of your watch. However, if anyone tried to fool you into parting with a lot of cash to remove your watch and encouraged you to sue the maker on the basis that it was the same killer as Plutonium, everyone would think you were mad.**

**But in the asbestos world, this is EXACTLY what is happening. Lawyers cleverly take the risks associated with saturation exposure to raw Blue asbestos and transpose those risks onto exposure to asbestos cement, which makes up 90% of all asbestos material.**

**This is how they do it.**

**Slide 2 [ news paper headline ]**

**147 teachers die from pinning children's drawings to asbestos walls.**

**This was a recent Sunday National paper.**

**Slide 3**

**Showing another major article for 'mesothelioma day' on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2006, so named by the Ban Asbestos Group.**

**All of the items shown in the picture are of made from white asbestos materials that are not a cause of mesothelioma.**

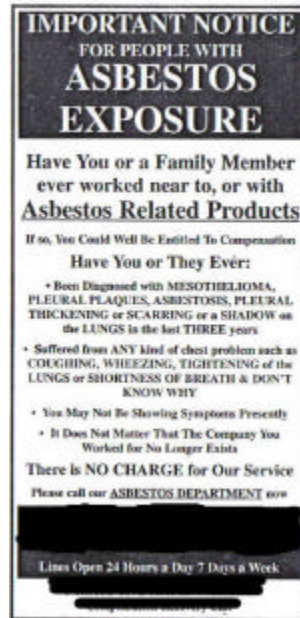
**Both these articles ran simultaneously, and alongside several other similar ones in quite a few newspapers. At the same time, there was also some TV coverage.**

**In actual fact, these are not really articles, but adverts that have cost around £250,000 to place, submitted by the same publicity agency.**

**The question you have to ask is the one I put in my complaint to the papers, 'why would a band of lawyers pay so much of their own money to print this so-called story that had no scientific foundation whatsoever?'**

**Are we really supposed to think that suddenly claims lawyers are really concerned about saving peoples' lives from an illness they can no longer contract? Everyone in the UK who has an asbestos related disease, whether they know it or not yet, already contracted it many years ago.**

**Slide 4**



**Showing an advert used by lawyers to trawl for business.**

**Once they have scared the pants off everyone, they follow up the press releases and articles with adverts like this that appear in many local papers and magazines.**

**Slide 5 shows the 4 main headlines**

**These are the 4 main headlines used in the regulations (which the lobby groups helped to write to enforce the belief you are dealing with a potent killer dust).**

**Firstly. “White asbestos is a class one carcinogen”. This is true; under the EU regulations a material only has to show carcinogenic potential. Some of the other materials in the same list are:**

**Nickel plated alloys - that’s what the coins in your pocket are made of.**

**Contraceptive pills  
Alcoholic beverages**

**And 500 other common products in regular use are also in this list.**

**Suddenly, when put into context, it does not seem such a serious problem.**

**Second. “Asbestos fibres are so long lasting in the lungs”. This is clear proof that the authorities are assessing chrysotile asbestos as if it is the blue or brown type. White asbestos dissolves readily in the lungs.**

**Thirdly. “One fibre kills”. This outdated bit of junk science is still used to exaggerate any risks from asbestos fibres that could still be around. The amount of asbestos fibres occurring naturally in the air is not something the lobby groups want you to know too much about. On an average day, each one of us breathes in approximately 20, 000 asbestos fibres perfectly naturally, but there is no need to spoil a good scare story with any facts.**

**Finally. “3500 people die each year in the UK from asbestos disease”. Well that is simply not true. The so-called science that came to that conclusion was based actually quite deliberately on the wrong type of asbestos. The 3500 predicted deaths are only an estimate based around 10% of all lung cancers being asbestos related and we have 35,000 cancer deaths per year in UK. The actual death rate from asbestos disease is unknown but is estimated to be around 1200. This is still a very serious number that is until you again put it into the correct perspective. 95% of those deaths are from workers born before 1940 and the rest, except in some very rare cases, were all born before 1950. This is NOT a modern ongoing disease.**

**Slide of the formula to calculate the asbestos rate of mortality**

$$F^{A+1} = \sum_{A,T} \left[ \sum_{l=0} W_{A-l} D_{T-l} \{l+1-1\}^k 0.5^{l/H} \right] Dx_T P_{A,T}$$

**WOW This is really impressive**

**This shows the actual calculation used by the regulators to calculate the asbestos death rate. It assumes that all asbestos fibres have a half-life of 1000 years and yet in fact 90% of all asbestos assessed by this formula has a half-life**

**of just 15 days. Such a stark difference in figures greatly affects the outcome of this formula, largely inflating death estimates. This is not an error. It is a deliberate piece of misleading information designed to enhance the perceived risks of asbestos exposure and to include white asbestos as being as much of a risk as the blue and brown all under the same definition of the word 'asbestos'.**

### **UK Government Enforcement agencies**

**In amongst all this emotive death scaremongering, what about the actual monitoring of asbestos fibre release and exposure? Surely the measurements of asbestos fibre levels, which are designed to control and prosecute any offence with asbestos fibre release, should be the objective foot-hold in this subjective matter? Not so.**

**We have 2 Government agencies for this enforcement.**

**Firstly we have the HSE or Health and Safety Executive. They have to control the fibre levels during working with asbestos materials.**

**All the other disciplines, over which they have authority, are actually quite sensible. Dust control levels for materials such as the Respirable Crystalline Silica, are enforced by measuring milligrams of pollutant per cubic metre. In a scientific world where we have instruments that can weigh bacteria this would seem to be a wholly sensible control.**

**However if the same regulations only required the physical measurement of the dust particles it would be immediately apparent that the method of control was now totally flawed. How big is a particle? The size of the particles would have to be estimated taking away any accuracy or consistency. So naturally they stick to a weight criteria.**

**Not so with the 'Control of Asbestos at Work' laws, they measure it with the number of fibres. So what is a fibre? One chrysotile fibre at 40x magnification can actually be seen to be hundreds at 4000x magnification. How long is a fibre? How many times has it been fractured to turn one fibre into many? The questions are endless.**

**Not content with just that level of confusion, for the purposes of the regulations, ANY old fibre will do for the count. The actual count? Well that's another matter altogether.**

**Slide 7 showing the regulations**

**You will have breached the regulations if you exceed 72 fibre /hours per ml of air over a continuous 12 week period.**

**This is all about to change to bring all the asbestos types to have a limit of 1 fibre per litre over an 8 hour period.**

**What is shocking, however, is that NONE of the HSE's thousands of officers who can prosecute for this have any idea what it really means and never actually use this measurement. Instead they use their judgement to decide if an offence has been committed. Many of them do not even know what asbestos is.**

**Not surprisingly, the commercial enterprises are using all this ambiguity for profit. Enter the asbestos removal companies and waste disposal 'experts'.**

**Last Christmas a Church near London had the obligatory asbestos survey and the surveyors discovered some asbestos gaskets in the organ motor. They did air monitoring measurements and found such high levels of fibre they shut the church and reported it to the HSE and the local press. The quote for cleaning the place was £ 106,000.**

**Asbestos Watchdog was called in and took dust samples from old dust that would show any asbestos release from hundreds of years ago. No asbestos was found and the Church was re-opened for little cost. The BBC ran the story and when I was asked on the program if this was an unusual case I had to answer that I had had no fewer than 8 identical cases involving churches and asbestos in the organ from all round the UK and all in the same month.**

**The other authority is the Environment Agency who manage waste disposal.**

**They have their own measurements for asbestos contamination; any waste that contains more than 0.1% by weight of asbestos fibre in the spoil is deemed to be hazardous waste and has to receive special treatment. Unfortunately there again is no method to reliably calculating the offence.**

**Recently in the UK a small family firm of waste disposal contractors had some builder's waste delivered to their site that contained a few asbestos cement roof slates. The Environment Agency sent a very young lady officer who was so horrified at the sight of asbestos she shut the company down and put in place such a complicated procedure to remove the total 800 tons of existing, and now in her opinion asbestos contaminated, waste that the bill came to £180,000. The family could not afford to pay and were forced to close.**

**Slides of Marlee skips and Sun Tel article.**

**This case is still current. I told the Environment Agency at a recent meeting that this case was a good example of exaggerated application of the regulations. I suggested that if one of them was caught speeding in his car 1 mph over a speed limit and was prosecuted to the point that he lost his car, his business and his home, they would feel that the law was very harsh. But that is exactly what is happening, except that with the speeding offence you have a speedometer and the police can accurately measure your offence, so whilst it may be hard you at least have some measurability and control over your offence. With the Agency, however, no one has any idea if you have exceeded the control levels, the site could have been covered with 3 feet of blue asbestos instead of under 0.1 % of a totally encapsulated white asbestos fibre from which you cannot get respirable fibres.**

**Asbestos Watchdog are using this case to highlight the nonsense of the monitoring of asbestos that only benefits the removal industry who actually wrote the regulations in the first place.**

**Every situation is guided by the mantra that there is no safe level of exposure so the 'one fibre kills' determines the costs of removal.**

**All this basic junk science is used to fuel other parts of this poisonous industry.**

**We have been fighting back with over 24 major articles in a UK National Sunday newspaper.**

**Slides 8&9 [ 2 examples of Sun Tel headlines]  
Billions to be spent on non-existent risk and Asbestos scare costs home-owners millions.**

**You may well ask how it can it cost homeowners millions when domestic property is not included in the regulations? Very easily.**

**When you come to sell your home in the UK you have to have a survey completed. It is becoming a very common deception for the surveyor to state that your home MAY have asbestos material in it. You will then have to pay to have an asbestos 'expert' inspect the property and he will usually find asbestos in textured plaster used on walls and ceilings. Then you will have to pay up to £3000 per room to have it removed before you can sell your house. This is all enforced by the Building Societies who will not issue a mortgage until the asbestos is removed. Unsurprisingly, the original surveyor will receive commission from the asbestos removal companies.**

**Sadly, the asbestos removal contractors are not content to only remove asbestos from genuine situations. Some of them are indeed not beyond adding asbestos debris to a site only to conveniently discover it during an inspection. This happens regularly.**

**Slide 10 Picture of the rubble remains from a hospital**

**This was a site of a demolished smallpox hospital. The asbestos removal gangs found some asbestos on the site and insisted the entire demolished building had to be taken away as contaminated waste. The cost of removal was to be over a £1 million.**

**Asbestos Watchdog were called in and found that the asbestos had been imported by 'persons unknown'. Once this was reported the asbestos contractors contacted the local press with the headline news in an attempt to pressure the property owners into paying for the expensive removal .**

**Slide 11 Headline . Asbestos Time bomb. Asbestos risk to kids etc.**

**Fortunately the authorities were eventually convinced that this was a deception and allowed the waste to be used as hard core as was originally intended.**

**The last group in my list of beneficiaries are Doctors, Unions and Political Parties.**

**We have discovered that a disturbing number of well respected doctors are referring any patients with respiratory problems to claims lawyers and also giving the cause of any death from lung disease as asbestos related so the families can claim. For this service they receive generous commissions. This unfortunate part of the deception has another effect of distorting the death statistics that go to make up the final count. Furthermore having added their contribution to the business many of them add value to their income by becoming expert witnesses at claims cases.**

**The Unions, who have so publicly supported the asbestos ban, trawl through their members and encourage them to have medical checks and subsequently make asbestos related claims for which they also receive commissions from the law firms.**

**Remember the 147 deaths?**

**I talked to the teacher's union health director and he was not at all pleased when I was able to show evidence that his members were not in fact dying of asbestos related mesothelioma. He was only interested in the massive commissions they receive from claims lawyers.**

**Political parties. How on earth can I include them? Well, the unions who benefit so greatly from this Great Asbestos Deception make contributions to their political party. So you could say that a government could award taxpayers' money for compensations and in return get back a percentage as party funds.**

**Is there anything that can be done to make life a little cheaper for our embattled business? Well yes there is.**

**90% of all asbestos materials are actually asbestos cement.**

**Now it is common knowledge that chrysotile fibres in brake pads actually change their chemistry to an entirely different mineral called Forsterite.**

**You may be surprised, however, to discover that cement reacts with chrysotile to also alter the fibre chemistry and structure (these are the two factors that**

**are both needed to change to show the original mineral has officially been altered). Prof Pooley from Cardiff University carried out some research duplicating several other research papers and confirmed that this change does indeed take place.**

**Slide 13.**

**This shows the fingerprint of raw chrysotile and also that of the altered fibre bonded in cement.**

**Clearly they are different; the fibres in the cement are chemically bonded to each other, and to the cement particles, so it has clearly changed its structural state. As the fibres are also now no longer respirable, its physical properties have also altered. We have called this new mineral Casitile. If the UK government accepts that Casitile is not a banned asbestos it will save the UK farmers and property owners some £20 billion in waste disposal costs alone. The HSE laboratories are currently evaluating the data.**

**The UK Asbestos Watchdog has saved UK property owners and businesses over £26 million in the last 18 months and we will continue to promote the correct science in order to try to tame this Great Asbestos Deception.**

**In the meantime, asbestos is truly a risk to your wealth rather than to your health.**

**Thank you**