

they are not applicable to the Quebec chrysotile miners/millers and they may not be appropriate for friction products manufacture or some other chrysotile-only exposures, or perhaps mixed exposures where the composition (i.e. the proportions of airborne fibre types) is known with precision (virtually never the case for end-use exposures). The fibre concentrations in lung tissue refer primarily to the amphibole content related to mixed exposures; for amphibole-only exposures, higher concentrations are required, and asbestos fibre measurements in lung tissue are unsuitable in general for estimates of cumulative exposure to chrysotile only. In the future, a lower cumulative asbestos exposure than say 25 fibres/mL-years or an equivalent occupational history may be acceptable for attribution of lung cancer to asbestos among those with an identifiable genetic susceptibility profile for lung cancer, and a higher cumulative asbestos exposure would be required to impose the same lung cancer risk among those with an identifiable genotype that confers a measure of protection against the carcinogenic effects of asbestos. Use of the upper 95th percentile confidence interval for assessment of risk for some cancers²⁷ arguably goes some way towards addressing differences in risk related to a variety of factors including differential G_S/G_R, in terms of probabilistic approaches to the causation of disease in the individual; use of the mean, based on average exposures with no individualisation of exposure estimates or consideration of innate susceptibility/resistance factors, does not.

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POTENTIAL CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST STATEMENT DWH and JL have prepared reports on asbestos exposure and lung cancer for the Courts in Australia, notably the Dust Diseases Tribunal (DDT) in New South Wales (and in the United Kingdom for DWH and the USA for JL), and have given courtroom testimony on this issue. No equivalent issues were identified for KR and H-JW. None of the authors has any affiliation with the Asbestos Industry or any non-professional group that lobbies for or against the Industry.

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