

WOLLASTONITE (Group 3)

A. Evidence for carcinogenicity to humans (*inadequate*)

In a small cohort mortality study of 192 male and 46 female workers exposed to wollastonite who were followed from first employment during the period 1923-1980, 79 deaths had occurred by the end of 1980, with 96 expected. Death was due to cancer in ten men (15.6 expected) and two women (3.0 expected). Four lung cancer cases (5.0 expected) were found among the men and none among the women. A rare malignant mesenchymal tumour of the retroperitoneum was reported in one woman¹. The limited power of this study does not allow any conclusion as to the carcinogenicity of wollastonite.

B. Evidence for carcinogenicity to animals (*limited*)

In one experiment in rats, a significant increase in the incidence of pleural sarcomas was observed after intrapleural implantation of wollastonite fibres $>4 \mu\text{m}$ in length and $<0.5 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter¹.

C. Other relevant data

No data were available to the Working Group.

Reference

¹*IARC Monographs*, 42, 145-158, 1987