

ASBESTOS –WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY NEEDS FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING ASBESTOS?

Lars Vedsmann, asbestos specialist

ABOUT ME

- 30 years experience with asbestos
 - Compensation cases insulation workers
 - Bulding cooperation victims, trade unions, physicians and OCC Health clinics
- Guidelines nationally, EU and global (ILO)
- Regulation of asbestos Denmark, EU
- Steering group EU SLIC campaign
- International presentations: EU, Brazil, China, India, Greece, Germany, Poland, Portugal
- European Parliament expert hearing asbestos
- Contributor to EP initiative report adopted March 2013
- Former coordinator asbestos campaign EFBWW



DIDN'T WE SOLVE THE PROBLEM IN THE 80`ES

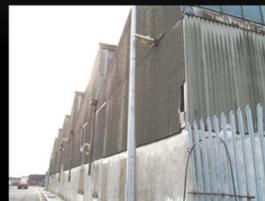
- Many buildings have been refurbished through 20 years, but...
- Urban trains, ships yes – but asbestos remains the largest problem in buildings – it means for **construction workers** and secondly for users and tenants of buildings
- Time works against us: Less and less knowledge of how asbestos has been used and installed – and asbestos will not be less dangerous...

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THE TIME FACTOR

- Even with a ban, time is working against a safe removal of all existing asbestos. People who installed it and know how to identify asbestos-containing materials in buildings are retiring from the construction sector. Newer generations do not have any experience with the old materials they can find when doing maintenance or demolition.
- Some ACM are obvious, others hidden



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ASBESTOS – AN ONGOING PROBLEM

- BAN – yes but still millions of tonnes
- Time working against us
- Break the curve of diseases: Even if no exposure from today, still ARD in 2060
- Safer removal
- Waste
 - impurities in aggregates ?
 - Landfills
 - Farmers' roads?



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WHY STILL FOCUS?

- Several countries had restrictions and bans since 1970'es and 80'es, ongoing until 2005
- 30 years of political and technical negotiations before the ban as well as a Berlaymont building...
- EU has a ban with still few exemptions (diaphragms) and a directive, providing regulation for safe work procedures



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3 WAYS OF MEETING ASBESTOS OCCUPATIONALLY

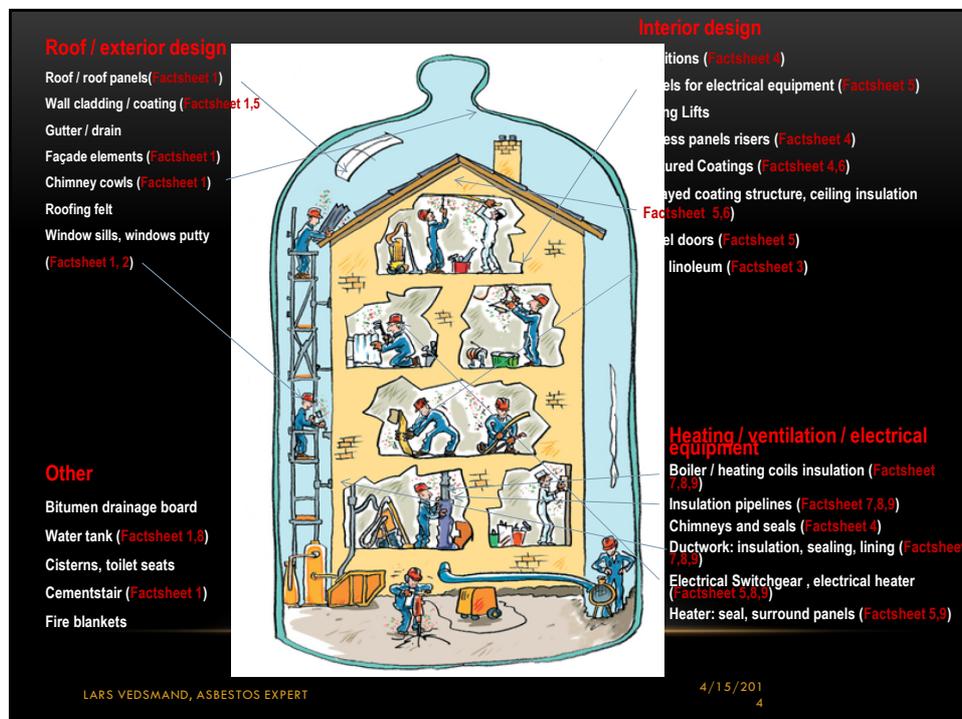
- The known project: Decision of removing asbestos
 - Specific Training
 - Certification or pre-qualification
 - Proving employees have been trained
- Asbestos in vocational training
- Great national differences
- Leaving solely for professional asbestos-removal companies ?
- Using reference projects from approved companies
- Linked in Asbestos Professionals

- The grey zone: Where you may meet asbestos unintended
 - Refurbishment and repair
 - Modernisation
 - Building service work
 - Demolition
 - Waste treatment

- Indoor climate
- (social exposure – families)
- Environmental (manufacturing sites, landfill, heavy traffic)

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SAFER WORK PROCEDURES

- Look at building history is it in critical periods
- Making initial tests of building parts
- Analyzing at laboratory
- Describe in health and safety plan
- Mark on drawings (dangerous area)
- Separation, underpressure, HEPA filters
- PPE
- Treat of waste



PRINCIPLE OF INDOOR AND CRUSHED ASBESTOS

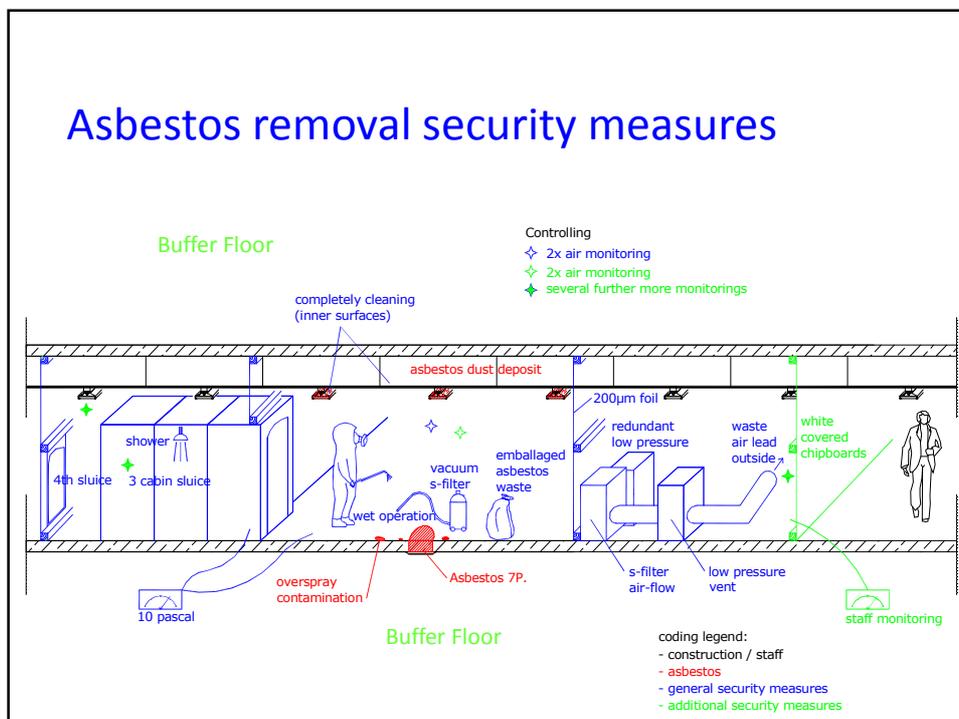
- Separation of dangerous area

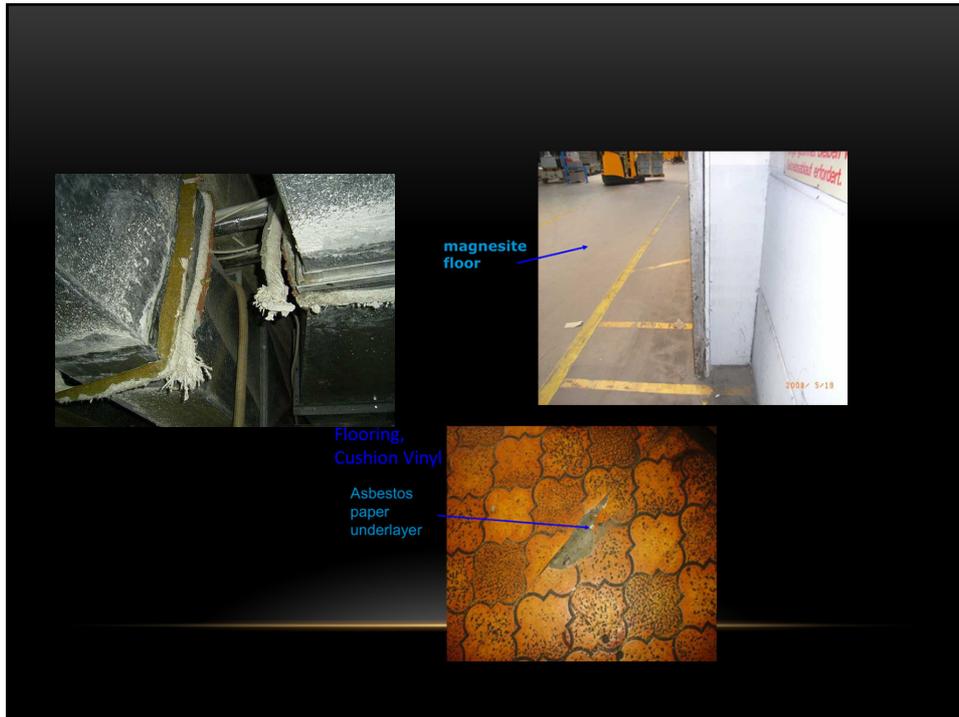


USE OF THE BAG-METHOD



Asbestos removal security measures





TRAINING AIMED AT DIFFERENT TARGET GROUPS

- Asbestos removal companies and workers
 - Great differences even within EU
- Workers and others possibly exposed to asbestos
- Project designers and authorities
- Medical care
- People collecting samples of ACM



POSSIBLE OTHER TRAINING COURSES

- Ordinary vocational training
 - Plumbers
 - Carpenters
 - Electricians
 - Demolition workers
 - Maintenance workers?
- Important issue – knowledge is disappearing
- **Asbestos detectives...**



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POSSIBLE OTHER TRAINING COURSES

- Building professionals and inspectors, housing companies:
 - Where may ACM be found?
 - What does it look like?
 - Importance of history of the building
- Safety coordinators



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POSSIBLE OTHER TRAINING COURSES

- Labour Inspectors:
 - Regulation
 - Where can it be found?
 - Is it handled safely?



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POSSIBLE OTHER TRAINING COURSES

- Physicians and local doctors:
 - Symptoms of asbestos-related diseases
 - Likeability of asbestos-exposure
- Onchological departments (cancer treatment in hospitals), doctors and nurses
 - Working or exposure history
- Local housing authorities
- Info modules



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CONCLUSIONS

- Strong need for coordinated action also on training and information
- Safe removal
- Regulation
- Information
- Training
- Recognition and compensation
- Enforcement

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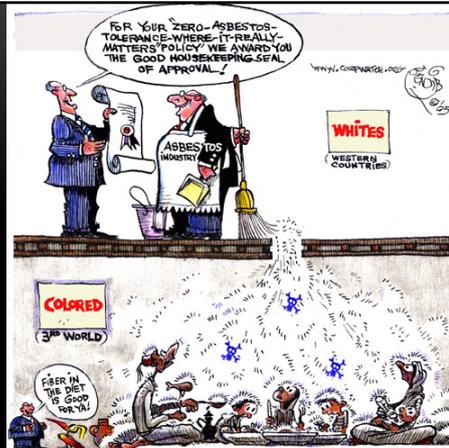
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ACTION

- It is unsafe to leave this for our grandchildren, so we need to act now to outphase asbestos



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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