

Abstract

The development of policy improvements on the safer asbestos abatement works to protect the related workers from asbestos exposure.

1. Objectives

Since the amendments on asbestos related articles in the Occupational Safety and Health Act in 2009, the number of asbestos abatement have been increased to 15000, continuously. But the asbestos abatement which is relevant with the low risk work is even notified to the government and get the permission of asbestos work after reviewing by the government inspector. Therefore, both of the inspector and the abatement companies are suffering from time consuming and repetitive notification works even the small size asbestos removal work less than 800 m². For the high risk work which has the removal area more than 2000 m², the stronger supervision is demanded these days to secure the safe asbestos work. This study discussed and suggested policy improvements on the mandatory requirements on the asbestos abatement work in Korea.

2. Methods

The notification, a review for plan of work, and completion report in the asbestos abatement in foreign countries were surveyed. The improvement plan is provided to relax regulations about the notification of asbestos work and to reinforce the review process of the plan of work, and to legislate the keeping and submission of the report after the completion of the work.

3. Results

For the notification of asbestos work, we suggested that a work with the removal area less than 800 m² should be notified to the government only through internet attached with contract, plan of work, and asbestos inspection report. For the asbestos removal area more than 2000 m², the plan of work should be reviewed by the government inspector or an asbestos expert in Korean Occupational Safety and Health Agency. After completion of the asbestos work, a work report which is including the whole process should be kept in the company and the complete report including a worker list and work duration should provide to the government.

4. Conclusions

This study suggested asbestos related regulations on the notification, a review for plan of work, and submission of the work report in the asbestos removal work. These suggested the improvements on the Occupational Safety and Health Act would raise the quality of asbestos abatement works and contribute to safer

asbestos abatement works to protect related workers from asbestos exposure.

Key words: asbestos, notification, abatement, contractors, policy