Asbestos sales thrive in developing countries

By Jim Morrisson

WASHINGTON - A global monitoring body has spent nearly $100 million to preserve asbestosis as a deadly cancer for nearly 100 countries in the developing world. The report by the World Health Organization (WHO) said that asbestos use was growing rapidly in developing countries such as China and India, which has been linked to a number of workplace and environmental health hazards.

Asbestos, a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that is heat-resistant, fireproof and non-combustible, is used in a variety of products such as building materials, brake shoes, and pipes. It is widely used in the construction industry, particularly in developing countries, where it is cheap and readily available.

The report by the WHO said that asbestos use was growing rapidly in developing countries such as China and India, which has been linked to a number of workplace and environmental health hazards. The report said that asbestos use was growing at an annual rate of 5-6% in these countries, and that the number of workers exposed to asbestos was increasing.

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