



# Frequently Asked Questions Regarding EPA's Final Asbestos Rule

## **Will this new regulation give EPA the opportunity to restrict uses of asbestos?**

Yes. EPA's April 2019 final rule strengthens EPA's regulations on asbestos products. Prior to this rule, asbestos products that are no longer on the market could come back without any roadblocks. Now, we're ending this by ensuring that EPA has the opportunity to restrict these uses, further protecting public health.

## **When was the last time EPA took action on products containing asbestos under TSCA?**

The April 2019 final rule is the first time in 30 years EPA is taking action under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) on products that contain asbestos.

## **Is asbestos banned today?**

No, not all uses of asbestos are banned. However, EPA is using the tools Congress gave us under TSCA to protect the public from asbestos. The five uses banned in 1989 and the 19 uses covered under the April 2019 final rule are listed below. A handful of limited ongoing uses of asbestos are currently being evaluated by EPA. If EPA finds that these ongoing uses present unreasonable risks, the Agency will take prompt action to address those risks.

## **Does EPA allow the import of asbestos from other countries?**

EPA cannot simply ban imports, regardless of their source. The products in the final rule can't be imported from any country without EPA reviewing them first. Additionally, EPA is in the process of evaluating a handful of limited ongoing uses of asbestos. Under this required step under TSCA, if EPA finds that those ongoing uses present unreasonable risks, EPA can take a variety of steps to address the risks – including restricting or banning those ongoing uses of asbestos.

## **How is the April 2019 final rule different from the rule proposed in June 2018?**

In response to public comments, EPA expanded the scope of the final rule to include an additional four categories of products and a "catch all" category. This ensures that ALL asbestos products that are no longer on the market are covered by this rule.

## **Asbestos Uses That Are Outright Banned**

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- Corrugated paper
- Rollboard
- Commercial paper
- Specialty paper
- Flooring felt
- New commercial uses that begin after August 25, 1989

## **Asbestos Uses Covered by the April 2019 Final Rule<sup>1</sup>**

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- Adhesives, sealants, roof and non-roof coatings
- Arc chutes
- Beater-add gaskets
- Cement products
- Extruded sealant tape and other tape
- Filler for acetylene cylinders
- Friction materials
- High grade electrical paper
- Millboard
- Missile liner
- Packings
- Pipeline wrap
- Reinforced plastics
- Roofing felt
- Separators in fuel cells and batteries
- Vinyl-asbestos floor tile
- Woven products
- Other building products

<sup>1</sup>These uses existed in 1989 and were not banned. The April 2019 final rule prevents these discontinued uses from re-entering the market before EPA has the opportunity to restrict them.