
NYCO[®] German MAK Commission Summary

"WOLLASTONITE IS CONSIDERED A MINERAL WITHOUT CARCINOGENIC EFFECTS BY MAK"

In September, the MAK Commission of Germany (equivalent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the United States) removed wollastonite from Section III B, a section used to group materials with suspected carcinogenic potential where no, or undocumented, information on carcinogenic potential or biodegradability (durability) is available.

The Commission had, in 1992, included wollastonite in their list of potential cancer causing materials when drafting the list of hazardous substances. In their final decision, however, wollastonite has been removed from their list of dangerous or cancer causing products. Wollastonite is now considered a mineral without carcinogenic effects by MAK. Although the MAK based their decision on a considerable amount of scientific data available on wollastonite, two major studies were instrumental in their final decision: the intraperitoneal injection tests conducted by Dr. F. Pott which showed no evidence of tumours in rats, and the recent durability studies on NYCO wollastonite in rats by Bellman and Muhle at the Fraunhofer Institute of Toxicology and Aerosol Research, Hanover, Germany. This latter study showed that wollastonite has a low durability in lung tissue and did not cause any fibrosis or chronic disease compared to materials such as asbestos. Asbestos has a high durability in tissue and is associated with various lung diseases including cancer.

The MAK Commission is composed of government officials and leading scientists throughout Germany.