

Abstract

The development of policy improvements on the mandatory requirements regarding asbestos inspection and abatement companies

1. Objectives

Since the amendments on asbestos related articles in the Occupational Safety and Health Act in Korea in 2009, the number of asbestos inspection companies and abatement companies have been increased continuously. But the poor work performance of some companies have raised several problems and triggered the discussion on the improvement of current regulations in the National Assembly in Korea. This study discussed and suggested policy improvements on the mandatory requirements on asbestos inspection and abatement companies in Korea.

2. Methods

The manpower, facilities and equipments of asbestos inspection and abatement companies in foreign countries were surveyed. The manpower, facilities, equipments and work results of asbestos inspection and abatement companies in Korea were surveyed. Needs to improve the manpower, facility and equipment of asbestos inspection and abatement companies were evaluated. The improvement suggestions of the manpower, facilities, equipments and work results of asbestos inspection and abatement companies were suggested.

3. Results

For asbestos inspection companies, we suggested followings: Limiting less than 400 contracts per a year for two inspectors and 200 contracts per a year for 1 additive inspector for the number of the maximum practicable contracts; graduates having the diploma on chemistry, industrial and environmental health, chemical engineering, mineralogy, etc. for the level of education of inspectors.

For asbestos abatement contractors, we suggested followings: mandating staying onsite of the designated supervisors and prohibition of designating one supervisors for more than one abatement sites at the same time; evaluation of airborne asbestos level in friable asbestos removal sites by industrial hygienists; storage of asbestos removal equipments in a segregated sites from office area; possessing and maintaining two or more than two asbestos abatement equipments including negative pressure equipments having performance more than 1000 m³/h.

4. Conclusions

This study suggested asbestos related regulations on the manpower, facilities, equipments of asbestos inspection and abatement companies. These suggested improvements on the Occupational Safety and Health Act would raise the quality of asbestos inspections and abatement works and contribute to provide the building owners more reliable asbestos inspections and safer asbestos abatement works to protect related workers from asbestos exposure.

Key words: asbestos, survey, inspectors, abatement, contractors, policy