

Analysis of Mineral Fibers from Stone-kettle

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- Abstract -

To analyze mineral fibers found in serpentine which is used for stone kettle manufacturing and to protect workers in this factory, samples obtained from the factory were analyzed for their metal contents using an electron microscope equipped with energy dispersive X-ray analyzer. In addition, the metal contents were compared with other known asbestos. Although many kinds of fibers similar to asbestos were observed, any known asbestos fibers were not found. These fibers may have similar toxicities to known asbestos even if their toxicities are not known at this time. It is suggested that pulmonary function test and other chest X-ray are needed for the protection of stone-kettle manufacturing workers. Further epidemiological study is also required.