

Korea Environmental Policy Bulletin

Asbestos Damage Relief System

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Summary

Use of asbestos and products containing asbestos is banned in Korea because it was scientifically proven to cause malignant diseases such as cancer. But asbestos-related diseases have been found to occur among ordinary citizens as well as workers, and damage from the exposure to asbestos has become pretty tangible considering the growing number of patients. Ordinary citizens, who haven't worked any asbestos-related job, faced many challenges that hamper their attempts to receive compensation because the diseases do not surface for many years and asbestos exist in various forms throughout the living environment; hence the difficulty in pinpointing the cause. In this situation, government and industries that earned profits from the use of asbestos jointly assumed responsibility based on the principle of shared responsibility and took a step to ensure compensation to ordinary citizens. Against this background, the Ministry of Environment enacted the Act on Asbestos Damage Relief in March 2010 to provide the basis for compensation to those with illness caused by asbestos. The purpose of the Act is to provide fair, prompt relief to victims of asbestos-

related diseases and the bereaved, and address the health damage caused by asbestos. With the Act coming into force in January 1, 2011, 189 ordinary citizens have already been offered benefits. The Act will play a practically important role in protecting the health of the public and ensuring social justice. In particular, the Act imposes on all business places beyond a certain

size the obligation to make contributions to the Asbestos Damage Relief Fund and consequently fulfill their social responsibility in exchange for the permit to use asbestos, which is a feature that makes the Act unique. This is expected to set a good example for coping with environmental problems of similar nature.

I. Background and Purpose

Asbestos comes from the combination of Greek words a (which means “not”) and sbestos (which means “quench”), meaning “non-combustible”. So, asbestos is a non-combustible mineral fiber. With its excellent physical properties such as high flexibility, heat resistance, insulation qualities, etc., in addition to its low price, asbestos found extensive application in interior and exterior construction products, automotive disc pads, household goods, and many more. In Korea, asbestos began to be produced in the mid - 1930s. A total of 145,500 tons of asbestos were produced nationwide until 1990 when the production of asbestos stopped, and approximately 1,229,000 tons were imported until 2007.

However, the manufacture, import, and use of blue asbestos and brown asbestos started to be prohibited in 1997 after asbestos was scientifically proven to cause malignant diseases such as cancer¹⁾. Use of asbestos and products containing asbestos was banned beginning January 2009, and asbestos and products containing asbestos have been strictly controlled thereafter. As a result, the import of asbestos and products containing asbestos plummeted. The import of asbestos, which peaked in 1992 with 95,500 tons, fell sharply to 45,000 tons in 1997, 21,500 tons in 2002, and 1,100 tons in 2007. No asbestos has been imported since 2008.

1) Asbestos has been found to cause malignant mesothelioma, epithelial, sarcomatoid, pseudotumor, asbestosis, and asbestos-related lung cancer, etc.

Table 1 : History of regulation on asbestos and products containing asbestos in Korea

Year	Description
May 1997	Ban on the manufacture, import, and use of blue asbestos and brown asbestos
Jun. 2003	Ban on the manufacture, import, and use of actinolite, anthophyllite, and tremolite
Sep. 2006	Ban on the manufacture, import, transfer, supply, or use of products containing asbestos (cement products containing asbestos for roof, ceiling, wall or floor materials, and asbestos friction materials used in cars; products whose asbestos content is or exceeds 1% of the total weight)
Feb. 2009	Ban on the manufacture, import, transfer, supply, and use of all asbestos
Jan. 2011	Enforcement of the Act on Asbestos Damage Relief

However, there is a huge time gap between the initial exposure to asbestos and the time the disease becomes evident²⁾. Therefore, despite the ban on the production, import, and use, there is continuing concern for the damages as to the consequences of exposure to the asbestos already used. There have been several reports that the disease did not surface for many years after the exposure.

Kim Dong-il, et al. (2007) reported that diffuse pleural thickening was found in approximately 11.7% of the subway workers surveyed. Jung Soon-hee, et al. (2006) - based on the analysis of malignant mesothelioma cases diagnosed in hospitals - reported that there were 57 cases of malignant mesothelioma between 1996 and 2000, 11 cases in 2001, 18 cases in 2002, 11

cases in 2003, 29 cases in 2004, and 16 cases in 2005, a total of 142 cases. In addition, compensation was provided to a total of 65 workers with industrial illnesses caused by exposure to asbestos in accordance with the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance in the period 2000~2007; thus suggesting a growing number of patients diagnosed with asbestos - related diseases. Furthermore, the Ministry of Environment (2009) confirmed the occurrence of asbestosis symptoms in 55 residents and pleural plaques symptom in 87 residents living in the vicinity of asbestos mines, and it has expanded the investigation into the impact of asbestos on the health of workers in asbestos factories or residents.

2) Pleural plaques are believed to have an incubation period of 20 years, asbestosis approximately 15~30 years, and asbestos - related lung cancer 15~40 years.

Table 2 : Occupational diseases deemed attributable to exposure to asbestos by year in Korea

Year	Total	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. of patients (persons)	17	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	12
No. of fatalities (persons)	48	4	2	3	13	3	10	9	4
Total (persons)	65	4	2	3	15	4	11	10	16

Asbestos-related diseases have been found to occur among ordinary citizens as well as workers, and damage from the exposure to asbestos has become pretty tangible considering the growing number of patients with diseases caused by occupational or other environmental exposure to asbestos.

With the health damage caused by asbestos expected to increase in the period ahead, it has become necessary to take countermeasures across society³⁾. However, ordinary citizens, who haven't worked any asbestos - related job, faced many challenges that hamper their attempts to receive compensation because asbestos-related diseases do not surface for many years and asbestos exist in various forms throughout the living environment; hence the difficulty in

pinpointing the cause. In this situation, government and industries that earned profits from the use of asbestos jointly assumed responsibility based on the principle of shared responsibility and took a step to ensure compensation to ordinary citizens afflicted with diseases caused by exposure to asbestos.

Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Environment enacted the Act on Asbestos Damage Relief in March 2010 to provide the basis for compensation to those with illness caused by asbestos. This law went into effect in January 2011. The purpose of the Act is to provide fair, prompt relief to victims of asbestos-related diseases and the bereaved, and address the health damage caused by asbestos.

3) The number of asbestos victims is estimated at approximately 11,764 persons (about 400 persons/year for 3 decades) considering the quantity of asbestos used nationwide (around 2 million tons) and the incident rates of malignant mesothelioma (1 person/170 tons).

II. Major Details of the Act on Asbestos Damage Relief and the Procedure for Relief

1. Related Asbestos and Diseases

Act on Asbestos Damage Relief specifies 6 types of related asbestos: actinolite, anthophyllite, tremolite, blue asbestos, brown asbestos, and white asbestos. Asbestos-related diseases include primary malignant mesothelioma, primary lung cancer, and asbestosis.

2. Types of Asbestos Damage Relief Payment

The benefits paid for the relief of health damage caused by asbestos are called "relief payment." As much as 90% of the relief payment is doled out from the Asbestos Damage Relief Fund, with the remaining 10% coming from the coffers of local governments. The types and characteristics of the relief payment are explained below.

2.1. Medical Expense

Medical expense is paid whenever necessary depending on the degree of damage and within the range of costs borne by the patient for the treatment of asbestos - related diseases. It is retroactively applicable until the date of application if the health damage caused by asbestos is acknowledged. However, the application for the payment of medical expense must be submitted not later than 3 years after the

day when the application is made available for him/her. The medical expense covers all of the patient's out - of - pocket expenses in the overall costs of treatment at medical institutes.

2.2. Medical Treatment allowance

A certain sum of medical treatment allowance is paid monthly for the treatment expenses or other costs aside from the medical expense. The sum of medical treatment allowance is determined by the type of disease and degree of health damage, and its provision is discontinued when the reason for payment ceases to exist. The application for payment of medical treatment allowance must be submitted not later than 3 years after the day when the application is made available for him/her. The amount is determined by the type of disease and degree of damage as follows:

- Primary malignant mesothelioma & lung cancer: 100% of the minimum cost of living⁴⁾
The minimum cost of living is determined in accordance with the National Basic Livelihood Security Act. based on a two - person household
- Asbestosis (first degree): 72% of the minimum cost of living based on a two - person household
- Asbestosis (second degree): 48% of the minimum cost of living based on a two - person household

4) The minimum cost of living is determined in accordance with the National Basic Livelihood Security Act.

- Asbestosis (third degree): 24% of the minimum cost of living based on a two - person household

2.3. Funeral Service Expense

Funeral service expense is subsidized for the bereaved when the victim dies, with 22.7% of the minimum cost of living based on a two - person household provided.

2.4. Special Condolatory Money for the Bereaved & Special Funeral Service Expense

Special condolatory money for the bereaved & special funeral service expense are provided to the bereaved family of the victim who dies before the enforcement of the Act on Asbestos Damage Relief or the victim who dies after the enforcement but before receiving the benefit. The sum of the special condolatory money for the bereaved is determined by the type of disease and degree of health damage as follows:

- Primary malignant mesothelioma & primary lung cancer: amount equivalent to 15 times the funeral cost
- Asbestosis (first degree): amount equivalent to 7.5 times the funeral cost

- Asbestosis (second degree): amount equivalent to 5 times the funeral cost
- Asbestosis (third degree): amount equivalent to 2.5 times the funeral cost

The total special funeral service expense is equal to 22.7% of the minimum cost of living based on a two - person household as the funeral service expense. The special condolatory money for the bereaved & special funeral service expense are spread over the next 3 years with annual one - time installments and can be received only when the application is submitted within 5 years of the death of the victim.

2.5. Relief Benefit Adjustment Money

In case of the victim's death, relief benefit adjustment money is paid to the bereaved if the sum of the medical expense & medical treatment allowance granted to the victim when he/she was still alive is smaller than that of the special condolatory money for the bereaved. The sum of the relief benefit adjustment money is equal to the difference between the sum of the aforesaid medical expense & medical treatment allowance and that of the special condolatory money for the bereaved. The application for payment must be submitted within 3 years of the death of the victim.

Table 3 : Summary of the types and characteristics of relief payment

Relief Payment	Time of Payment	Amount	Eligible Person
Medical expense	When the health damage is acknowledged (whenever necessary)	· Expenses to be shouldered by the victims out of the total costs of treating the asbestos-related disease as stipulated in the National Health Insurance Act, etc.	Acknowledged victim of asbestos disease
Medical treatment allowance	When the health damage is acknowledged (monthly)	· Certain amount specified by the Presidential Decree taking into account the costs necessary for treatment, recuperation, etc., except the medical expense	Acknowledged victim of asbestos disease
Funeral service expense	When the acknowledged victim of asbestos disease dies	· Amount paid out to the bereaved family who held a funeral as prescribed by the Presidential Decree	The bereave family of the acknowledged victim of asbestos disease
Special condolatory money for the bereaved & special funeral service expense	When the status of special bereaved family is acknowledged	· Amount determined in accordance with the Presidential Decree, taking into account the medical expense and medical treatment allowance	Special bereaved family
Relief benefit adjustment money	When the acknowledged victim of asbestos disease dies	· Difference between the sum of the medical expense & medical treatment allowance and that of the special condolatory money for the bereaved	The bereave family of the acknowledged victim of asbestos disease

3. Procedure for Asbestos Damage Relief and Related Committee

3.1. Procedure for the Application for Relief Payment

To be eligible for relief payment, the victim must primarily obtain a certificate proving that the

disease was caused by exposure to asbestos in Korea. The bereaved family must obtain from the physician a written statement that must then be submitted to the local government (municipal authority, county, district office) in case the victim dies. Afterward, the local government requests Korea Environment Corporation (KECO) to determine whether the disease was induced by asbestos⁵⁾. Korea Environment Corporation

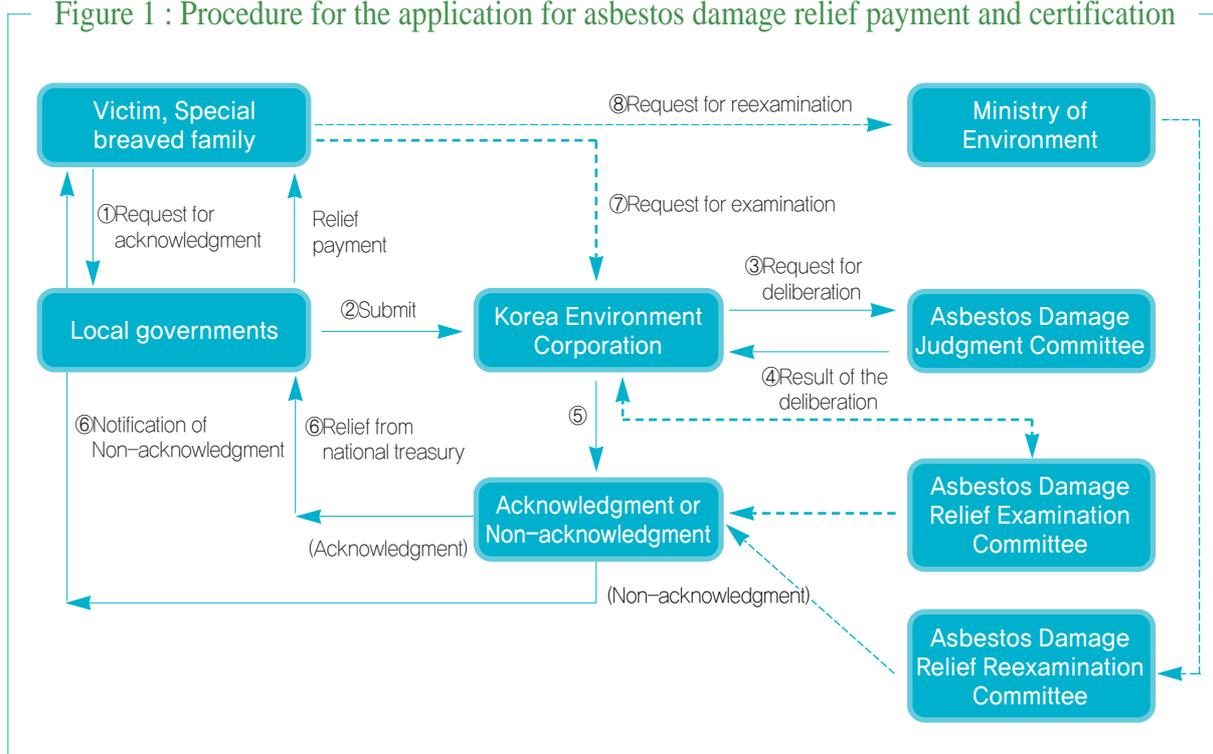
5) Korea Environment Corporation (KECO) is the agency of the Ministry of Environment (ME) undertaking tasks related to the application for asbestos-related damage compensation and acknowledgment, relief payment, etc. (<http://www.env-relief.or.kr/>).

(KECO) is the agency of the Ministry of Environment (ME) undertaking tasks related to the application for asbestos-related damage compensation and acknowledgment, relief payment, etc. (<http://www.env-relief.or.kr/>). KECO determines whether the asbestos-induced damage is to be acknowledged along with the degree of damage, etc. through the deliberation and vote of the Asbestos Damage Relief Judgement Committee and serves a written notice to the local governments and the applicant informing them of the results within 60 days. It takes 60 days from the request for deliberation until the notification of results, and the period can be extended by 30 days if unavoidable.

In case the applicant wants to challenge the results of deliberation, he/she may file a petition for examination to KECO. At this time, said petition

for examination must be submitted within 90 days of the date the results were conveyed in writing. The petition for examination is handled by the Asbestos Damage Relief Examination Committee. The decision on the submitted petition for examination is made within 30 days (extendable by another 30 days), and the local governments and the applicant are informed of the results. The applicant may file a petition for reexamination if he/she wants to appeal the results. The petition for reexamination must be submitted to the Ministry of Environment within 90 days of the date the decision on the petition for examination is communicated in writing. In this case, the Ministry of Environment requests the Asbestos Damage Relief Reexamination Committee, a separate organization, to deliberate and make decision on the petition for reexamination. The Asbestos

Figure 1 : Procedure for the application for asbestos damage relief payment and certification



Damage Relief Reexamination Committee must then serve a written notice to the local government and applicant with regard to the results of deliberation within 30 days (extendable by another 30 days). Fig. 1 below illustrates the deliberation procedure for acknowledging the damage caused by asbestos.

3.2. Role and Structure of Each Deliberation-Related Committee

3.2.1. Asbestos Damage Judgment Committee

The Asbestos Damage Judgment Committee under KECO deliberates and votes on the acknowledgment, renewal, and cancellation regarding the damage caused by asbestos along with the recognition of special bereaved family status. The Committee consists of 10 members including the chairperson. At least 5 members must have working experience of at least 5 years, and the Committee must include medical specialists in asbestos - related diseases such as those specializing in radiology, industrial medicine, pulmonology, preventive medicine, nuclear medicine, pathology, etc. A member's term of office is 2 years, and issues are decided by a unanimous vote when half of the members or more are present.

3.2.2 Asbestos Damage Relief Examination Committee

The Asbestos Damage Relief Examination Committee under KECO deliberates on matters involving the petition submitted by the applicant appealing the voting results of the Asbestos

Damage Judgment Committee for examination and the collection of relief payments paid out unfairly. The Committee consists of 9~15 members including the chairperson. Majority of the Committee members must be medical specialists with working experience of at least 7 years in the diagnosis and treatment of asbestos - related diseases, such as those specialized in radiology, industrial medicine, pulmonology, preventive medicine, nuclear medicine, pathology, etc. Specifically, the qualification for the members of this Committee is stricter compared to the Asbestos Damage Judgment Committee. A member's term of office is 2 years.

3.2.3. Asbestos Damage Relief Reexamination Committee

The Asbestos Damage Relief Reexamination Committee under the Ministry of Environment (ME) deliberates on matters involving the petition submitted by the applicant appealing the voting results of the Asbestos Damage Relief Examination Committee for reexamination. The Committee consists of 9~15 members, and majority of the Committee members must be medical specialists with working experience of at least 10 years in the diagnosis and treatment of asbestos - related diseases such as those specialized in radiology, industrial medicine, pulmonology, preventive medicine, nuclear medicine, pathology, etc. A member's term of office is 2 years.

3.3. Asbestos Damage Relief Fund

The financial resources to cover relief payment are called "Asbestos Damage Relief Fund." This

fund was set up based on the recognition that the government and the industries that earned profit from the use of asbestos should be jointly held responsible. The required funding for the Asbestos Damage Relief Fund will be around KRW 15 billion yearly. At the outset, the contribution ratios of the government and the industries will be set at 50% each considering the strain on the finances of industries. However, the contribution ratio of the industries will eventually rise to 70%⁶⁾. In addition, business places that manufacture or use massive quantities of asbestos will be required to infuse more money into the Fund based on the principle that the causers should bear the cost⁷⁾. The amount that comes from the government coffers will be determined through the negotiation between the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Strategy and Finance every year, with business places whose number of employees is 20 or more required to make a contribution to the Asbestos Damage Relief Fund.

The fund raised will be used to cover disbursements of relief, costs of projects that aim at preventing damage caused by asbestos, studies on the effect of asbestos on health, and operation of KECO. The money to be disbursed from the Fund can also be offered in the form of loan to finance welfare projects for the victims or special bereaved families.

3.3.1. Financial Resources and Management of Fund

The Fund consists of contributions of local

governments, mandatory contributions of business places, collected money from excessive profits, earnings of fund operation, contributions of other funds, etc.

The operator of the Fund is the Minister of Environment and can be involved in activities to create the revenue necessary to expand the Fund. In addition, the operator of the Fund can be engaged in activities to create revenue, such as purchasing beneficiary certificates issued by the securities investment trust enterprise, etc., and bonds of government organizations or financial institutes, etc. Furthermore, the operator of the Fund can extend loans to finance welfare projects benefitting the victims and special bereaved families, purchase securities, acquire real estate properties, etc.

The Minister of Environment must establish and implement the fund operation plan every year. The fund operation plan must include details related to the revenue and disbursement of funds, business plan for the current year, encumbrance (obligation) plan, funding plan, and details pursuant to the treatment of amount carried over from the previous year. Taking out loans is allowed to fill the temporary funding gap, but any loan must be repaid within the current financial year. Any surplus of funds will be used as reserve for the following financial year.

3.3.2. Purpose of the Fund

The main purpose of the Fund is to provide relief. In addition, the Fund covers labor costs and operating expenses for KECO and local

6) The contribution ratio of the industries and government is 5:5 in 2011 but will be adjusted to 6:4 in 2012 and 7:3 in 2013.

7) The contributions made by industries are called "Asbestos Damage Relief Contribution," which consists of ordinary contribution and special contribution. Special contribution refers to the contribution made by business places that have used or manufactured massive quantities of asbestos.

governments as the practical entities running the asbestos damage relief system and managing the costs incurred in the prevention of damage attributable to asbestos, costs of health examination for applicants seeking compensation for damage caused by asbestos, costs of investigating the asbestos-related health effect, etc.

3.3.3. Contributions to the Asbestos Damage Relief Fund

The Minister of Environment collects, from businesses, contributions that are injected into the Asbestos Damage Relief Fund. These financial infusions from businesses are called "contributions for the Asbestos Damage Relief Fund." Business places whose number of employees is 20 or more and that have obligation to join the Industrial Accident Compensation Insurance system are required to make mandatory contributions.⁸⁾ The aforesaid number of employees is the average number based on the year immediately preceding previous year; specifically, it means the number derived by dividing the sum of the number of employees at the end of each month in the "year immediately preceding previous year" by the number of months operated.

The contribution consists of ordinary contribution and special contribution. Ordinary contribution refers to the contribution that should be infused by the aforesaid business places into the Fund as computed by multiplying the total wage of employees of related business places by the contribution ratio. At this time, the contribution

ratio is determined and published by the Minister of Environment every year by taking into account the government injection, expected amount of relief, and other costs.⁹⁾ Meanwhile, special contribution refers to the contribution that should be made by business places whose cumulative quantity of asbestos - either manufactured or used - exceeds 10,000 tons; it was designed to make up 5.5% of all contributions. The amount of special contribution is determined by the cumulative quantity of asbestos that has been manufactured or used by business places.

3.4. Valid Period of Acknowledgment of Asbestos Damage

The valid period of acknowledgment of asbestos damage is 5 years for primary malignant mesothelioma and primary lung cancer. For asbestosis, the acknowledgment is valid until its revocation. The valid period of acknowledgment can be extended upon request 1 month prior to the expiration if the disease is not treated within the valid period. The decision on the renewal of the valid period is made and announced by the Asbestos Damage Judgment Committee within 30 days of the application for renewal. The amount of relief paid to the victim during the post-renewal period is the same as the one paid in the pre-renewal period.

8) About 270,000 business places are required to make mandatory contributions as of December 2009.

9) The contribution ratio for 2011 is 0.005%.

4. Prevention of Asbestos Diseases and Prospective Management

For the effective prevention and early detection of asbestos - related disease, the Asbestos - Related Health Effect Investigation has been carried out for those expected to suffer damage besides the disbursement of relief to victims with asbestos-related diseases. Funded by the Ministry of Environment, the Asbestos-Related Health Effect

Investigation focuses on the regions where asbestos mines were operated, the regions where manufacturers that handled massive quantities of asbestos were placed, and those whose current or former residents were exposed to naturally occurring asbestos (NOS). The Health Management Pocketbook for Asbestos is presented to persons suspected of having asbestos-related disease. A person with Health Management Pocketbook for Asbestos can receive regular medical checkup.

III. Current Acknowledgment of Asbestos Damage

The nation has seen a growing number of applications for the acknowledgment of asbestos damage and notifications of acknowledgment since the Asbestos Damage Relief system came into effect on January 1, 2011. A total of 327 applications have been accepted until April 28, 2011. There have been 265 applications for the acknowledgment of asbestos damage and 62 applications for special bereaved family status. By

type of disease, applications for the acknowledgment of asbestosis (195 cases) were highest, followed by primary malignant mesothelioma (102 cases) and primary lung cancer (30 cases). Out of a total of 327 applications, 189 were acknowledged whereas 107 were rejected. Deliberation on 4 cases has been deferred, and 27 cases were found inapplicable.

Table 4 : Results of Judgment on Asbestos Damage
(based on applications accepted between Jan. 1, 2011 and Apr. 28, 2011)

Type of Disease	Type of Acknowledgment	Total	Results of Judgment			Inapplicable
			Acknowledged	Rejected	Deferred	
Total	Total	327	189	107	4	27
	Asbestos damage	265	145	97	4	19
	Special bereaved family status	62	44	10	0	8
Primary Malignant mesothelioma	Subtotal	102	83	3	2	14
	Asbestos damage	57	45	2	2	8
	Special bereaved family status	45	38	1	0	6
Primary Lung cancer	Subtotal	30	7	19	1	3
	Asbestos damage	21	4	13	1	3
	Special bereaved family status	9	3	6	0	0
Asbestosis	Subtotal	195	99	85	1	10
	Asbestos damage	187	96	82	1	8
	Special bereaved family status	8	3	3	0	2

With regard to the ratio of acknowledgment of damage¹⁰⁾, primary malignant mesothelioma (96.5%) was the highest, followed by asbestosis (53.8%) and primary lung cancer (26.9%). Overall, 63.9% are acknowledged to be asbestos damage.

10) Damage acknowledgment rate (%) = Number of cases acknowledged ÷ (Number of cases acknowledged + Number of cases NOT acknowledged) × 100

Table 5 : Acknowledgment rate for asbestos damage
(based on applications accepted between Jan. 1, 2011 and Apr. 28, 2011)

Type	Acknowledgment rate ¹⁾		Mean
	Acknowledgment of asbestos damage	Acknowledgment of special bereaved family status	
Primary Malignant mesothelioma	95.7% (45/47)	97.4% (38/39)	96.5% (83/86)
Primary Lung cancer	23.5% (4/17)	33.3% (3/9)	26.9% (7/26)
Asbestosis (1st degree to 3rd degree)	53.9% (96/178)	50.0% (3/6)	53.8% (99/184)

Note: 1) Damage acknowledgment rate (%) = Number of cases acknowledged ÷ (Number of cases acknowledged + Number of cases NOT acknowledged) × 100

IV. Implication of the System

With the Act on Asbestos Damage Relief coming into force in January 1, 2011, the nation has embarked on full - fledged efforts to provide relief to those whose health was damaged by exposure to asbestos, and 189 persons have already been offered benefits. Before this Act went into effect, only workers in business places that directly handle asbestos were eligible for compensation. On the other hand, ordinary citizens afflicted with asbestos - related diseases attributable to environmental exposure to asbestos were denied compensation for the simple reason that the cause of asbestos-related disease was unclear. The Act on Asbestos Damage Relief will play a practically important role in protecting the health of the public and ensuring social justice, considering the fact that an epidemic of asbestos - related diseases among ordinary citizens is

predicted because massive quantities of asbestos were used during the period of the nation's fast economic growth.

Korea's asbestos relief system is characterized by the fact that it covers those who are expected to experience the symptoms of diseases as well as those suffering from acknowledged asbestos health damage. In other words, the government has offered regular health checkups for residents living in the vicinity of business places that handled huge quantities of asbestos or those living near asbestos mines, presented the Health Management Pocketbook for Asbestos to persons suspected to have asbestos-related disease, and provided financial assistance for regular medical exams to ensure the early detection and treatment of disease. In particular, the Act on Asbestos Damage Relief imposes on all business

places beyond a certain size the obligation to make contributions to the Asbestos Damage Relief Fund and consequently fulfill their social responsibility in exchange for the permit to use

asbestos, which is another feature that makes the Act unique. This is expected to set a good example for coping with environmental problems of similar nature.

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