

Office of Hon Amy Adams

Member of Parliament for Selwyn
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Communications and Information Technology
Associate Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery

ENV 9906

Deidre vanGerven deidre.vangerven@xtra.co.nz

Dear Deidre vanGerven

Thank you for your email of 31 December 2012 regarding products containing asbestos.

I appreciate your concerns regarding the importation of products containing asbestos in New Zealand. As has been noted in earlier correspondence between you and the previous Minister for the Environment, raw asbestos cannot be imported into New Zealand, although asbestos products can still be imported. While New Zealand does not monitor the importation of asbestos products due to the difficulties in identifying these products at the border, I note that the use and trade of asbestos products is decreasing internationally and that many are now unavailable.

Asbestos already present in New Zealand is managed through the Health and Safety in Employment (Asbestos) Regulations 1998 and the Guidelines for the Management and Removal of Asbestos. The use of asbestos products in buildings is controlled under the Building Act 2004 and the New Zealand Building Code. These are the responsibility of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Importers of asbestos products must ensure that the requirements of the Building Act and the Building Code are met and products must be labeled so that adequate precautions may be taken.

I believe that the strict controls placed on asbestos and asbestos products already in New Zealand, and the declining level of international trade in these products will both assist in managing the risks posed by asbestos. However, if future evidence warrants further restrictions, your suggestion of stopping the importation of asbestos products remains a possibility.

Yo<mark>urs sincerely</mark>

Hon Amy Adams

Minister for the Environment