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BOOK REVIEW

IARC MONOGRAPHS ON THE EVALUATION OF THE CARCINOGENIC RISKS TO HUMANS. VOLUME 43. MAN-MADE MINERAL FIBRES AND RADON. — International Agency for Research on Cancer, 1988. 300 pp. Sw. Fr. 65.—.

One of the main objectives of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is to elaborate and publish in the form of Monographs critical reviews of data on the carcinogenicity and mutagenicity for agents to which humans are exposed. Volume 43 of the IARC publications presents two such monographs. The first one deals with man-made fibres. These fibres can be divided into three general groups: glass fibres (glasswool and glass filaments), rockwool and slagwool, and ceramic fibres. The second Monograph deals with radon, a noble gas that occurs in several isotopic forms. Only two of these are found in significant concentrations in the human environment: radon-222, which is a member of the radioactive decay chain of uranium-238, and radon-220. Both Monographs contain chemical and physical data, data on the production, use, occurrence, and on toxicity, carcinogenicity, and genetic and related effects. Most of the reviewed man-made fibres are classified as possibly carcinogenic to human, whereas radon and its decay products are classified as carcinogenic to human. This volume is supplemented by a cumulative index to the IARC Monographs Series Volumes 1 to 42.

Essential for any library that deals with carcinogenic and mutagenic effects of environmental pollutants.

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