



Holroyd City Council

ASBESTOS CEMENT POLICY

**Including Special Conditions of Development Consent
for the Demolition of Buildings and the Renovation or
Recladding or Brick Veneering of Buildings Erected Prior
to 1987 and Clad with Asbestos Cement**

Adopted by Council at its meeting of 6 September 2005

Date of Effect 28 September 2005



Holroyd City

Built Around People

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HOLROYD CITY COUNCIL

ASBESTOS CEMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Holroyd City Council is concerned for the safety of workers involved in the demolition and renovation or recladding or brick veneering of buildings that contain asbestos cement sheeting. This concern also extends to the neighbouring residents of these demolition and construction sites as well as other persons visiting or working in Holroyd that may, if developers do not follow certain procedures, be placed at risk from inhaling dangerous asbestos fibres.

For that reason the Council has developed special conditions of development consent for demolition and renovation or recladding or brick veneering works of buildings erected prior to 1987, these being buildings erected prior to the cessation of the use of asbestos sheeting and products.

Holroyd City Council has applied conditions requiring the safe removal and disposal of asbestos cement from demolition and building sites for many years and commencing in 1999 reviewed and added to these conditions. This action was mainly prompted by the increase in demolition works occurring as a result of the State Government's urban consolidation policies. During this period there was evidence that some demolition contractors were unlicensed to undertake asbestos cement removal and significant numbers were failing to comply with WorkCover's guidelines for the safe removal and disposal of asbestos cement.

Council became concerned that these practices were not only hazardous for workers in this industry but also put at risk the health of residents neighbouring demolition sites and sites where renovation or recladding or brick veneering works were being undertaken.

The special conditions adopted by Council to ensure the safe removal and disposal of asbestos cement can be found in Part A of this policy. These conditions are applied to development consents for demolition and renovation or recladding or brick veneering works of buildings erected prior to 1987. In summary, these conditions are designed to ensure that neighbouring residents are advised of the day demolition is to start, that demolishers are licensed, that WorkCover's guidelines are complied with, that proper fencing and signage is erected and that asbestos cement waste is disposed of correctly.

These conditions have been further amended by this policy with the inclusion of an additional condition requiring the lodgement of an Asbestos Clearance Certificate prepared by a NATA accredited occupational hygienist within 14 days of completion of the demolition and renovation or recladding or brick veneering works. That condition, where it applies to demolition works, also requires a signed statement verifying that demolition work and the recycling (except of asbestos cement waste) or

disposal of materials was undertaken in accordance with the Waste Management Plan approved for that project.

Part B of this policy contains a copy of WorkCover's *Your Guide to Working with Asbestos*. This publication is referred to in the special conditions of development consent set out in Part A of this policy and is included in the policy for ease of reference.

Part C of this policy contains information prepared by WorkCover which is available on the NSW State Government's website www.nsw.gov.au by following the links to 'Property and Housing', 'Building and Renovating' and 'Fibro and Asbestos - Renovators and Homeowner's Guide'. This publication is included in the policy for the benefit of home renovators intending to undertake minor work that is made exempt by DCP No. 32 *Guidelines for Exempt and Complying Development* from the need to obtain any approval from Council. The information contained in this publication gives practical advice on how to identify fibro that contains asbestos (asbestos cement), the risks of asbestos, how to work with asbestos cement and how to dispose of asbestos cement waste.

PART A

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF DEVELOPMENT CONSENT

The following special conditions of development consent are to be applied to demolition and renovation or recladding or brick veneering works of buildings erected prior to 1987. Evidence acceptable to Council may be required to establish the construction date of a building or part of a building:

(A) DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS:

(As a procedural matter, upon receipt of a Development Application to demolish a building erected prior to 1987, Council is to notify in writing the residents adjoining a demolition site of the following:

- *The conditions that will be imposed should a Development Consent be granted;*
- *Council's telephone number, (02) 9840 9840;*
- *The Ordinance Inspector's multipage phone number (02) 9962 9338 for after hours contact; and*
- *The telephone number of WorkCover's Demolition Unit (02) 9370 5099.*

An abbreviated copy of WorkCover's "Your Guide to Working with Asbestos Cement" is to be sent with the notification to adjoining residents).

Conditions of Development Consent:

- a) Demolition is to be carried out in accordance with the applicable provisions of Australian Standard AS2601 1991 - The Demolition of Structures. **Note:** Developers are reminded that WorkCover requires that all plant and equipment used in demolition work must comply with the relevant Australian Standards and manufacturer specifications.
- b) The developer is to notify owners and occupiers of premises on either side, opposite and at the rear of the development site five (5) working days prior to demolition. Such notification is to be clearly written on A4 size paper stating the date demolition will commence and is to be placed in the letterbox of every premises (including every residential flat or unit, if any) either side, immediately at the rear of, and directly opposite the demolition site. The demolition must not commence prior to the date stated in the notification.
- c) Five (5) working days (i.e., Monday to Friday with the exclusion of Public Holidays) notice in writing is to be given to Holroyd City Council for inspection of the site prior to the commencement of works. Such written notice is to include the date when demolition will commence and details of the name, address, business hours contact telephone number and licence number of the demolisher. Works are not to commence prior to Council's inspection and works must not

commence prior to the commencement date nominated in the written notice.

- d) On the first day of demolition, work is not to commence until the Principal Certifying Authority (PCA) has inspected the site. Should the building to be demolished be found to be wholly or partly clad with asbestos cement, approval to commence demolition will not be given until the PCA is satisfied that all measures are in place so as to comply with WorkCover's document *Your Guide to Working with Asbestos*. A copy of the document accompanies this Development Consent and demolition works must at all times comply with its requirements.
- e) On demolition sites where buildings to be demolished contain asbestos cement, a standard commercially manufactured sign containing the words "DANGER ASBESTOS REMOVAL IN PROGRESS" measuring not less than 400mm x 300mm is to be erected in a prominent visible position on the site to the satisfaction of Council's officers. Advice on the availability of these signs can be obtained by telephoning Council's Customer Service Centre during business hours on 9840 9840. The sign is to be erected prior to demolition work commencing and is to remain in place until such time as all asbestos cement has been removed from the site to an approved waste facility. This condition is imposed for the purpose of worker and public safety and to ensure compliance with Clause 259(2)(c) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001.
- h) Demolition works involving the removal and disposal of asbestos cement must only be undertaken by contractors who hold a current WorkCover "Demolition Licence" **and** a current WorkCover "Class 2 (Restricted) Asbestos Licence".
- i) Demolition is to be completed within five (5) days of commencement at which time the applicant shall notify the Certifying Authority.
- j) Demolition works are restricted to Monday to Friday between the hours of 7.00am to 6.00pm. No demolition works are to be undertaken on Saturdays, Sundays or Public Holidays.
- k) Protective fencing is to be installed to prevent public access to the site.
- m) All asbestos laden waste, including asbestos cement flat and corrugated sheets must be disposed of at a tipping facility licensed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

NOTE: The person responsible for disposing of the above asbestos waste is to telephone the DEC on (02) 9995 5000 or Council's Waste Officer on (02) 9840 9715 to determine the location of a tip licensed to receive asbestos. Within fourteen (14) days of the

completion of demolition works, the applicant must lodge with Council, all original weighbridge receipts issued by the receiving tip as evidence of proper disposal.

- o) After completion, the applicant shall notify the Principal Certifying Authority within seven (7) days to assess the site and ensure compliance with Australian Standard AS2601 1991 - The Demolition of Structures.
- p) Within fourteen (14) days of completion of demolition, the applicant shall submit to Council:
 - (i) an asbestos clearance certificate prepared by a NATA accredited occupational hygienist; and
 - (ii) a signed statement verifying that demolition work and the recycling of materials was undertaken in accordance with the Waste Management Plan approved with this consent under DCP No. 35 *Guidelines for Planning for Less Waste*. **In reviewing such documentation Council will require the provision of actual weighbridge receipts for the recycling/disposal of all materials.**

NOTE: To find a list of NATA accredited facilities visit the NATA website at www.nata.asn.au and click on 'Find a Facility', select 'Directory', type 'asbestos' into the search box and click on 'Search'.

(B) RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS:

(The following conditions of Development Consent are to be imposed on buildings erected prior to 1987 that are to be renovated or reclad or brick veneered. Evidence acceptable to Council may be required to establish the construction date of a building or part of a building).

Conditions of Development Consent:

- a) All asbestos cement sheeting must be removed by contractors with an appropriate licence issued by WorkCover and who are familiar with asbestos removal prior to the commencement of:
 - (i) Recladding or brick veneering works where the existing walls to be covered are currently clad with asbestos cement; OR
 - (ii) Construction work where new work abuts existing asbestos cement sheeting and/or where parts of the existing building clad with asbestos cement sheeting are to be altered or demolished.

Removal must be carried out strictly in accordance with WorkCover's *Your Guide to Working with Asbestos* (copy attached).

- b) All asbestos laden waste, including asbestos cement flat and corrugated sheets must be disposed of at a tipping facility licensed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

NOTE: The person responsible for disposing of the above asbestos waste is to telephone the DEC on (02) 9995 5000 or Council's Waste Officer on (02) 9840 9715 to determine the location of a tip licensed to receive asbestos. **Upon completion of tipping operations the applicant must lodge with Council, all original weighbridge receipts issued by the receiving tip as evidence of proper disposal.**

- c) Within fourteen (14) days of completion of renovation or recladding or brick veneering works where asbestos cement sheeting was removed, the applicant shall submit to Council an asbestos clearance certificate prepared by a NATA accredited occupational hygienist.

NOTE: To find a list of NATA accredited facilities visit the NATA website at www.nata.asn.au and click on 'Find a Facility', select 'Directory', type 'asbestos' into the search box and click on 'Search'.

PART B

WORKCOVER'S *YOUR GUIDE TO WORKING WITH ASBESTOS*



YOUR GUIDE TO WORKING WITH ASBESTOS

Safety guidelines and requirements for work involving asbestos

March 2003

- **Information regarding health hazards associated with asbestos**
- **Standards required to adequately and safely perform any asbestos work**
- **Guidelines and requirements - work involving asbestos in buildings and structures**
- **Legal obligations for asbestos removal work**

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SECTION 1

TYPES OF

ASBESTOS

Asbestos is the generic term for a number of fibrous silicate minerals. There are two major groups of asbestos.

The **serpentine** group contains chrysotile, commonly known as white asbestos.

The **amphibole** group contains amosite (brown asbestos), crocidolite (blue asbestos) as well as some other less common types, which are tremolite, actinolite, and anthophyllite.

SECTION 2

USES

a) Serpentine group

Chrysotile is the only form of asbestos that has been used commercially from the serpentine group.

In the past, chrysotile has been used in the manufacture of:

- asbestos cloth, tapes, ropes and gaskets for packing and in thermal and chemical insulation
- asbestos cement sheets and pipes for construction, casing for water and electrical/telecommunication services
- rubber, plastics, thermosetting resins, adhesives, paints, coatings, caulking compounds and sealants for thermal, electrical and insulation applications
- fire-rated doors, equipment and structural beams of buildings
- fillers and filters.

Up until recently, chrysotile had been used almost exclusively in the manufacture of packing and friction material such as gaskets, brake and clutch linings.

b) Amphibole group

Amosite (brown asbestos) and crocidolite (blue asbestos) were used in many products until the early 1980s. The use of all types of asbestos in the amphibole group was banned in the mid 1980s. These products were mainly:

- asbestos cement sheets and pipes for construction, casing for water and electrical/telecommunication services
- thermal and chemical insulation ie, fire rated doors, limpet spray, lagging and gaskets.

SECTION 3

HEALTH

HAZARDS

a) Causes

Asbestos fibres are made up of many very fine fibrils, so that as asbestos is further processed or disturbed, the airborne fibres become progressively finer and more hazardous. The most dangerous fibres are the smallest ones which are invisible to the naked eye, but which penetrate the deepest part of the lungs.

Chrysotile fibres are curly and are less likely to become airborne to the same extent as the straight amphibole fibres such as amosite and crocidolite.

b) Effects

Breathing in the fibres brings a risk of asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma. There is evidence that asbestos causes gastrointestinal and laryngeal cancers in humans, but to a far lesser extent than lung cancer.

Asbestos-related diseases have a delay or lag period usually of the order of 20 to 40 years between first exposure and onset of symptoms and detection of the disease. Asbestos disease can appear or progress even after a person is no longer exposed.

Asbestosis is the scarring of lung tissue that can result from the inhalation over a period of years of substantial amounts of asbestos. This results in breathlessness, which may lead to disability, and in some cases early death. Minor changes in X-ray pictures may exist for many years without symptoms or progression.

Lung cancer risk is related to the amount of fibre inhaled and is also greatly increased in persons who also smoke cigarettes. No safe level of asbestos exposure for lung cancer has been identified.

Mesothelioma is a cancer of the pleura (outer lung lining) or of the peritoneum (the lining of the abdominal cavity). The risk of mesothelioma is less with chrysotile than with other types of asbestos. Both pleural and peritoneal mesothelioma can result from exposure to amosite and crocidolite. Exposure of humans to chrysotile alone has caused few pleural mesotheliomas, and has never produced peritoneal mesothelioma without exposure to either amosite or crocidolite. Mesothelioma rarely occurs in less than 15 years from first exposure, and most cases occur over 30 years after first exposure.

SECTION 4

HEALTH RISKS AND EXPOSURE STANDARDS

The amount of asbestos fibre in the air people breathe is the important factor in determining the level of health risk. The highest risks involve breathing air which contains a high concentration of asbestos fibre.

The amount of fibre in the air can be measured by an occupational hygienist, who uses special equipment to capture a sample of the air. The number of asbestos fibres in a set volume of air can then be counted under a microscope, in a laboratory.

Exposure standards set out the airborne concentrations of asbestos, which should not damage the health of workers. The exposure standards for asbestos are:

Amosite (brown asbestos):	0.1 fibres per millilitre of air
Crocidolite (blue asbestos):	0.1 fibres per millilitre of air
Chrysotile (white asbestos):	0.5 fibres per millilitre of air

Note: The National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) publish the exposure standards in the document *Exposure Standards for Atmospheric Contaminants in the Occupational Environment*. The exposure standard for chrysotile is 1 fibre per millilitre in this document but in New South Wales it is 0.5 fibres per millilitre of air as set out in the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001*. The NOHSC exposure standard is currently under review.

SECTION 5

ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL

Under NSW legislation, material that contains asbestos is referred to as either friable or bonded. Below are definitions of these two forms and some examples.

a) Bonded asbestos material

Bonded asbestos material is any material that contains asbestos in a bonded matrix. It may consist of Portland cement or various resin/binders and cannot be crushed by hand when dry. Asbestos cement (AC) products and electrical metering boards in good condition are examples of bonded asbestos material.

A large number of products made from asbestos cement are still found in Australian buildings. These products include:

- flat (fibro), corrugated or compressed asbestos cement sheeting
- asbestos cement pipes such as electrical, water, drainage and flue pipes.

b) Friable asbestos material

Friable asbestos material is any material that contains asbestos and is in the form of a powder or can be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry. Sprayed limpet, millboard, pipe and boiler lagging are examples of friable asbestos.

Asbestos inappropriately buried (i.e. not in accordance to any environmental legislative requirements) is considered friable asbestos material.

Any asbestos cement product, which has been subjected to weathering, severely damaged by hail, damaged by heat/fire or other mechanical action, or illegal water blasting is a friable asbestos product and an Asbestos Removal Contractor with an AS1 Licence for friable asbestos is required for its removal.

SECTION 6

SAFE

WORKING GUIDE

The *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001* calls up the NOHSC *Asbestos Code of Practice and Guidance Notes* for any asbestos work. Below are specific precautions and procedures, which are based on the NOHSC publication, for commonly encountered asbestos work.

a) Working with bonded asbestos material including asbestos cement

If these products are maintained in good order they present no significant health risk. However, safety precautions must be taken when working on any product containing asbestos in a way that is likely to generate dust.

All work procedures should be devised to minimise the release of dust and fibres. When working with bonded asbestos products you should:

- use personal protective equipment including coveralls and a suitable respirator. If coveralls are not disposable, then the employer is responsible for laundering contaminated clothing. Coveralls with velcro type seals are not suitable for asbestos work
- use non-powered hand tools as these generate much less dust. Do not use power tools ie, abrasive cutters and sanders, on asbestos cement products
- use wet methods to dampen down material, or use suitable vacuum attachments fitted with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters to reduce the release of dust. Work in well-ventilated areas where possible
- use drop sheets to collect debris. Precautions should be taken to prevent slip and trip hazards
- use wet methods, or only use vacuums fitted with HEPA filters for cleaning. Caution - do not use household vacuum cleaners which are not fitted with HEPA filters
- dispose of waste and collected dust in plastic bags which are clearly labelled **asbestos waste**
- do not abrade or scrub surface. Pre-seal with polyvinyl acetate (PVA) sealant or use paint stripper to remove paint.

It is illegal to reuse or water-blast asbestos cement. You can be fined under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 if you do.

b) Removal of asbestos cement products

Special work procedures should be followed when removing asbestos cement products (including sheeting, guttering and downpipes) from buildings and other structures:

- for external work, close all windows and doors on the building
- rope off the work areas below where the work is to be carried out if there is no ceiling to the building
- when working on roofs, appropriate precautions should be taken to prevent workers from falling off the roof, such as suitable fall restraint devices
- where practical, seal the asbestos cement with a PVA sealant or wet with water. This should be done well before removal, to ensure that workers do not slip on a wet roof
- wetting down may not be necessary on previously painted or sealed AC products
- coveralls and suitable respiratory protection is to be worn during the removal and clean up process

- gutters are to be wet cleaned and all contaminated waste material collected must be disposed of in an approved manner
- asbestos cement sheeting should have the bolts or screws removed and then the sheets removed with minimal breakage. Asbestos cement products are not to be thrown into bins or onto the ground, they are to be lowered in as whole sheets where possible
- the asbestos cement products are to be placed on 200µm (micro-metre) plastic sheeting, wrapped and transported to the waste facility as soon as possible to prevent further damage from being left on site
- if using a building skip or loading directly into trucks, the internal surfaces should be lined with 200µm plastic sheeting and the load securely covered before transporting to a waste facility
- clean any asbestos cement residues in the roof space and around the removal area with a vacuum cleaner fitted with a HEPA filter. Any residues of asbestos cement unable to be removed, such as those on timber beams, should be sealed with PVA.

c) Removal of friable asbestos

The procedures as described in the Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos [NOHSC: 2002 (1988)] must be followed when removing friable asbestos from buildings and other structures. Only licensed asbestos removal contractors can remove friable asbestos. A permit must also be obtained from WorkCover before commencing any work.

SECTION 7

RESPIRATORY PROTECTIVE DEVICES FOR WORKING WITH ASBESTOS

a) High risk (friable asbestos removal work)

For asbestos stripping work, use:

- a positive pressure demand full face-piece airline respirator, **OR**
- a continuous flow airline respirator with a full face-piece or head covering.

For work in areas with poor accessibility where airline respirators cannot be used and/or supervisory work in general, use:

- a powered type particulate respirator fitted with a P3 filter which has a rated protection factor equal to or greater than 100.

b) Medium risk (friable asbestos removal work)

When removing pipe lagging, small jobs which take less than 4 hours, inspecting work in progress or supervisory work in areas where there is only minimal exposure, use:

- a powered type particulate respirator fitted with a P2 or P3 filter which has a rated protection factor equal to or greater than 50, **OR**
- a full face-piece respirator with high efficiency particulate filter (non- powered).

c) Low risk

When inspecting areas where work is not in progress, removal of asbestos cement (fibro), use:

- a half face-piece disposable or filter type particulate respirator Class P1 or P2.

SECTION 8

WASTE HANDLING & DISPOSAL

a) Collection and Storage

All waste containing asbestos must be:

- kept damp (you must prevent excess runoff water)
- collected, labelled and sealed using recommended plastic or leak proof containers
- stored in labelled lined bins or a leak-proof container, and covered
- stored in a secure area
- removed from the site as soon as practicable and/or
- collected and stored in a manner approved by the EPA or an appropriate disposal authority.

Note: EPA legislation requires friable asbestos waste to be collected into plastic bags.

b) Transportation

All asbestos waste must be transported:

- in a covered leak-proof vehicle and/or
- in a manner approved by the EPA.

Note: Only vehicles licensed by the EPA can transport friable asbestos waste.

c) Disposal

- Asbestos waste in any form must be disposed of in a manner – and at a site – approved by the EPA or an appropriate disposal authority.
- Vehicles and their containers must be cleaned before leaving the landfill site.
- Contact the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and local council for transport requirements of asbestos waste and approved waste facilities. Most local councils and WorkCover NSW require tipping receipts for proof of proper disposal.

SECTION 9

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Breaches to any part of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001* may result in penalty notices and possible prosecutions.

a) *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*

http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/html/reg_31aug2001.asp

The Act states that everyone is entitled to safe working conditions.

b) *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001*

http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/pdf/occ_health&safety.pdf

This Regulation outlines requirements for:

- controller of premises in relation to asbestos containing product and exposure standards for asbestos (Chapter 4)
- employers in relation to hazardous substances (Chapter 6). All forms of asbestos are hazardous substances
- asbestos work on construction sites (Chapter 8)
- licensing of asbestos removalists (Chapter 10). Work with bonded asbestos material does not require a license if the total surface area is less than 200 square metres. However, operators are still required to comply with all relevant legislation
- permit for friable asbestos removal work (Chapter 11)
- notification for bonded asbestos removal work (Chapter 12).

The Regulation also prohibits:

- water-blasting of asbestos containing material (Chapter 8)
- reuse of asbestos containing products on construction sites (Chapter 8)
- use of asbestos in the form of crocidolite, amosite, fibrous anthophyllite, tremolite or actinolite except for the purpose of sampling or analysis, maintenance, removal, disposal, encapsulation or enclosure (Chapter 6).

SECTION 10

OTHER ASBESTOS INFORMATION ON THE WORKCOVER WEBSITE

a) The guidelines and procedures for asbestos and electrical work.

http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/html/asb_elect.asp

- guidelines to working on electrical meter panels identified as containing asbestos
- industry model procedure No.1 - Assessment of commercial and residential metering/electrical panel installations for potential asbestos containing materials
- industry model procedure No.2 - Minor works on asbestos-based electrical mounting boards for domestic and commercial metering/electrical installations.

These documents have been prepared by the NSW Electrical Industry Asbestos Awareness Committee (EIAAC). The Committee included representatives from employers, employees and WorkCover. These guidelines and procedures or similar should be adopted for any electrical upgrade work involving electrical equipment or installation containing asbestos.

Note: The EIAAC has been disbanded. The Industries Safety Steering Committee (ISSC) – Asbestos Working Group under the auspices of the Ministry of Energy and Utilities has been set up to provide information for the electrical industry.

b) The phase-out and prohibition of chrysotile

NSW, in conjunction with other Australian states, will ban all uses of chrysotile asbestos (except for bona fide research or analysis, when handled for storage awaiting disposal, for removal or disposal, or when encountered during non-asbestos mining) from 31 December 2003. For further information:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/pdf/wca45.pdf>

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/Publications/view.asp?ID=221>

c) Guidelines for licensed asbestos removal contractors

The guidelines in this document set out WorkCover's requirements for the licensing of asbestos removalists. They are intended to ensure compliance with legal obligations for asbestos removal work in NSW and are based on the NOHSC Asbestos publication.

http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/Publications/pdf/asbestos_removal_guidelines.pdf

SECTION 11

FURTHER INFORMATION

a) ***Asbestos: Code of practice and guidance notes (NOHSC)***

<http://www.nohsc.gov.au/>

Outlines the methods, procedures and work practices recommended for the identification, evaluation and control of hazards for in-situ asbestos in the working environment.

b) ***Australian Standard AS1715 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective devices***

<http://www.standards.com.au/>

Sets out the principles of respiratory protection and provides information on the correct selection, use and maintenance of respirators. Available from the Standards Association of Australia (fee involved). Phone: **1300 654 646**.

c) ***Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 1996 (EPA)***

http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/publications/waste_guide.pdf

This Regulation (in PDF format – Acrobat Reader required) outlines the storage, transport and disposal requirements relating to asbestos waste (Part 7 – Clause 29).

SECTION 12

USEFUL CONTACTS

a) Asbestos removal licences and list of asbestos removalists (only when available)

WorkCover NSW (02) 8260 5885

b) Legislative requirements/health and safety

Local WorkCover Office <http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/about/contacts.asp>

WorkCover Information Centre 13 10 50

c) Types of respirators required for particular jobs

WorkCover Personal Protective Equipment Unit at Londonderry (02) 4724 4970

d) Asbestos removal training courses

Miller College of TAFE (02) 9607 1404 or

(02) 9607 1440

TAFE Wollongong Campus (02) 4229 0553

TAFE Newcastle Campus (02) 4923 7301

Comet Training Pty Ltd (02) 9649 5000

Peter Becker, MBA (02) 9281-3511

e) Asbestos disposal approved tip

Environment Protection Authority (02) 9795 5000

Waste Service NSW (02) 9934 7000 or

1300 651 116

PART C

THE NSW STATE GOVERNMENT'S

FIBRO & ASBESTOS - A RENOVATOR AND HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE*

Does your fibro contain asbestos?

The most accurate way to find out if your fibro contains asbestos is to have a licensed asbestos removal contractor inspect and test it. You can't tell by looking at it.

Only fibro products made before 1987 contain asbestos. In NSW, for example, the use of asbestos was discontinued in fibro sheets by 1982, in corrugated sheets by 1984 and in all other products by 1986.

The manufacture and use of asbestos product was banned nationally from 31 December 2003.

What else is made of asbestos cement?

Products made from asbestos cement not only include fibro sheeting (flat and corrugated), but items such as water, drainage and flue pipes, roofing shingles and guttering.

What are the risks?

Breathing in asbestos fibres can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma. This does not automatically mean that your health is at risk if you find that your home or workplace is made from fibro products. Studies have shown that these products, if in sound condition and left undisturbed, are not a significant health risk. If the asbestos fibres remain firmly bound in a solid cement sheet or structure, generally you do not need to remove the fibro or even coat it.

Health problems usually occur when people are unaware of the hazards of working with fibro. The important point is to always work so there's minimal release of dust or small particles from asbestos material. If you use commonsense and follow safety guidelines, working with fibro products should not be a problem.

Safety checklist:

- **Do not use power tools.** Asbestos fibres can be released if power tools are used for anything other than the removal of screws.
- **Do not waterblast or scrub with a stiff broom or brush.** It is illegal to waterblast asbestos-cement sheets. If the material has been accidentally waterblasted or has suddenly deteriorated in some way, you should call a licensed asbestos removal contractor.
- **Wet gently with water.** When removing fibro sheets, wet gently with water, whenever possible, to minimise any release of fibres. Remember do not waterblast. Be careful when on roofs, as asbestos sheets are brittle and slippery when wet.
- **Avoid drilling and cutting into asbestos products.** Do not drill holes through eaves, flues or vents, as these may also be asbestos products. Never

* Taken from - New South Wales Government (2005). Fibro & Asbestos a Renovator and Homeowner's Guide. Retrieved by IE www.nsw.gov.au/fibro/brochure.asp June 2005.

cut into a fibro sheet. Instead remove the entire sheet and replace it with a non-asbestos product.

- **Let people know.** Talk it over with those who may be affected by the removal and disposal of your fibro, such as neighbours.
- **Cover up.** You should wear disposable overalls and an appropriate dust mask if you are working with asbestos products. Make sure your mask has two straps to hold it firmly in place. Don't use masks that only have one.
- **Don't drop fibro sheets.** Remove asbestos sheets carefully. Lower, don't drop them to the ground with minimum breakage.

Cleaning up

- **Stack and wrap.** Stack fibro sheets carefully on ground sheets, wrap into bundles for disposal or place directly into bins that have been prelined with plastic sheeting. Cover the load before disposal.
- **No skidding.** When stacking sheets, do not skid one sheet over another, as this will cause release of fibres.
- **Remove immediately.** Do not leave sheets lying about where they may be further broken or crushed by people or vehicular traffic. Remove all asbestos waste as soon as you can.
- **Clean up everything.** Put used disposable overalls and masks in bags for removal with other asbestos wastes.

Safe disposal

Dispose of all asbestos waste promptly. For safety reasons always:

- **Dampen all asbestos waste** and wrap in plastic, or put in lined bins or vehicles. Do not put asbestos waste in domestic garbage bins or compactors because it is illegal to do so. Remove all asbestos waste from a site as soon as possible.
- **Dispose of asbestos waste** in a manner and at a site approved by your local council or the appropriate disposal authority. (See Help and advice section below). It is illegal to re-use asbestos products.

Other things to keep your eye on

Hail damage to your roof or any asbestos cement product can be as bad as waterblasting. Call a licensed asbestos removal contractor immediately if the hail was heavy. See *Help and advice* section below for contact numbers.

Watch for weathering. Surface weathering can lead to the release of asbestos fibres from roofs. Weathered asbestos products can release fibres when disturbed, such as in the removal of an asbestos roof or gutters.

Fire damage. Fire damaged property containing asbestos product could result in loose asbestos fibres due to intense heat. A licensed asbestos contractor must be used for cleaning up.

Keep guttering (and downpipes) in good repair. As asbestos fibres collect in gutters after heavy rain, guttering and downpipes should be in good repair on buildings with asbestos roofing. Downpipes should not run into garden beds. Wet clean and seal roof gutters before removing them.

What about insulation? Insulation materials in house roof spaces are usually fibreglass, rockwool, paper or foam. Very few houses in NSW have loose asbestos insulation in the roof space.

When to coat asbestos products

Coating fibro products is not recommended. You should only coat fibro products if they're in sound condition and then only to waterproof them. **Do not waterblast fibro.**

Remember:

Risks associated with installed, undisturbed asbestos products are small. Even weathered asbestos roofing does not release many airborne fibres unless the material is either disturbed or handled in a way that promotes the release of fibres.

Coating is not considered necessary on health grounds. Surface coatings, however, can extend the life of asbestos products and may improve their appearance. Special sealants only should be used on asbestos material, as ordinary paints do not bond well to the surface of weathered asbestos cement products. Seek professional advice and use a professional painter, where possible.

Check if your asbestos roofing needs to be replaced. Roofing that has weathered to the point where it is structurally unsound and no longer waterproof should be replaced.

If you decide to coat your roof, put planks down so that people do not have to walk directly on the roof. Use a fall protection system to prevent persons falling from the roof edge or through the roof.

Wear dust masks and overalls when working.

HELP AND ADVICE

For more information visit the NSW Government website at www.nsw.gov.au.

For a listing of licensed asbestos removal contractors in your area, refer to your local telephone directory or the Yellow Pages.

For advice on the transport and disposal of asbestos products in NSW, contact the Department of Environment and Conservation Pollution Line on 13 15 55 or your local council.

For advice on working with asbestos or fibro or who can be contracted to remove it contact the WorkCover Assistance Service on 13 10 50 or visit the WorkCover website at www.workcover.nsw.gov.au.