
APPENDIX F

Works Involving ACM

Asbestos removal or repairs must only be executed by persons with adequate training and experience for the type and extent of work to be undertaken. These projects must always include a risk assessment and risk management plan. Site-based maintenance personnel are unlikely to have the necessary equipment and established procedures to conduct these works. They can, however, be critical in stabilising situations to limit further damage/risk.

Site based maintenance staff should be trained to ensure a basic awareness of asbestos issues, handling practices and precautions (control measures) to prevent inadvertent disturbance of asbestos containing materials and to know when to alert facility/building management to potential asbestos related risks.

Many contractors can conduct works on Asbestos Cement (AC) or other bonded asbestos products. Presently, there are no licensing requirements for minor works on AC products however a licensed demolition contractor is required if works involve the removal of more than 200m² of roof sheeting. The class of license required is dependent on the extent, height, and location of the works. The ability of a contractor to conduct the works will be dependent on their skills, experience, and equipment suitable for the tasks. In the first instance, contact the Facility Manager or DHW for a list of approved contractors.

Few government agencies have suitably qualified project managers for asbestos related works. In the event you are uncertain whether your agency possesses this expertise, contact your building / facility manager or the Department of Housing and Works.

Alternatively, for larger projects, consultants can be engaged to project manage the works. Some consultants that conduct asbestos survey and inspections have lists of competent contractors.

Worksafe are presently reviewing the licensing requirements for larger works and the new rules are expected to apply from the second half of 2009. It is proposed that the changes will reduce the threshold for licensing to 10m² and the licensing will also apply to other than roofs e.g. fences and walls. Health Department are also considering changes to licensing requirements under the asbestos regulations.

Before proceeding with asbestos related projects either by agency staff or by engaging consultants/contractors, agencies should consider whether they have the requisite expertise, competencies and technical capacity to execute the works in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements. The Department of Housing and Works can assist if necessary.

Asbestos Survey and Risk Assessment

Below are some considerations for a scope of work for an asbestos survey risk assessment:

- Survey and assessment by *Competent Person(s)*
- Full description of the site/facility to be surveyed and assessed
- Details of areas to be inspected and assessed e.g. ceiling voids, service ducts
- Detail of extent access to be made available
- Timing of inspections – normal hours/after hours
- Dismantling (partial) of equipment and plant.

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- Material sampling and analysis – methods
 - Application of presumption rule – visual inspection
 - Method of assessing risk – allocation of risk rating
 - Photographic record
 - Notification of Staff
 - Report format and content
 - Asbestos Management Plan

Asbestos Project Management

- Below are some considerations for a brief for project management of a project involving asbestos related work:
- Prepare scope of work and technical specifications for the removal of asbestos materials.
- Prepare tender documentation for the removal of asbestos materials.
- Prepare evaluation criteria and assist in the selection of a suitable asbestos removal contractor.
- Determine requirement for air monitoring and provide results (analysed by NATA laboratory) to meet the requirements of relevant authorities, applicable WA Legislation and Australian Standards.
- Ensure client budget, works scope and time lines are met.
- Ensure that appropriate safety equipment and procedures are used in accordance with WA Occupational Safety and Health Legislation and client policies are abided by and maintained.
- Provide the appropriate certification that work has been completed in accordance with the specification and nominated standards.
- Provide Clearance Inspections as required to satisfy relevant Authorities.

Removal and Repairs on Asbestos Cement Products

- Unlike thermal or acoustic asbestos insulation, there is no requirement for licensed personnel to conduct work on asbestos cement products unless the work involves demolition or removal of roofing greater than 200m². Notwithstanding, all works involving asbestos containing materials, including removal and repair of AC products must be carried out in accordance with:
- *Occupational Safety & Health Regulations Act (1984) and Occupational Safety and Health Regulations (1996)*
- *Code of Practice For The Management and Control of Asbestos In Workplaces [NOHSC: 2018(2005)]*
- *Code Of Practice For The Safe Removal Of Asbestos [NOHSC: 2002(2005)]*
- *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004.*
- *Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992;*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986 and Guidelines;*
- Generally, removal and repair works for asbestos cement products can be undertaken by building services contractors. It is however, prudent to engage contractors who can demonstrate experience in similar projects. This can be achieved by including qualitative criteria in the procurement of services or establishing a panel of pre-qualified contractors.

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- Please note that in terms of “repairing” ACM, the material must not be cut, sawn, ground or otherwise refashioned so as to be re-installed from whence it came. Where ACM is no longer serviceable, it must be replaced with non-asbestos material.

Below are some considerations for a scope of work for a project involving asbestos cement related work:

- Work shall be conducted to minimise the generation of dust and actions taken to avoid the spread of contamination to neighbouring areas;
- The area shall be isolated by the use of barriers e.g. barricade mesh or flag tape to prevent unauthorised access to the work area;
- The work area shall be clearly signposted;
- Personnel who may be exposed to airborne asbestos shall be supplied with respirators complying with AS1716 (type P1 or P2);
- Personnel who may be exposed to asbestos shall be supplied with disposable overalls;
- Where practical, prior to removal, AC products should be lightly sprayed with PVA to bind loose surface fibres;
- Where practical, prior to or during removal, AC products should be wet to avoid release of airborne fibre;
- Power tools shall not be used to drill or cut AC products unless an approved extraction device is fitted. Power tools may be used to remove fastenings;
- Cleaning of AC products is only permitted by approved methods;
- AC products should be handled to minimise breakage, scuffing or scraping that can release airborne fibre;
- AC materials shall be promptly collected to prevent further crushing or breakage;
- Roof gutters shall be cleaned and sealed prior to removal;
- Asbestos residue in roof spaces or removal area shall be cleaned with a HEPA vacuum cleaner;
- Removed AC products shall be stacked and wrapped in polythene or placed into polythene lined disposal bins for disposal;
- Used disposable overalls and masks shall be placed in plastic bags and disposed of as asbestos waste;
- Waste shall be removed promptly from site;
- All waste shall be disposed in accordance with regulations at registered sites; and
- Dumping certificates/receipts shall be retained and submitted as proof of correct disposal.