

CFMEU SAFETY GUIDANCE

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Asbestos Removal Guidance

This Guidance should be read in conjunction with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations and the National code of practice for the - Safe Removal of Asbestos 2nd edition [NOHSC: 2002 2005]

1. Planning.

The planning for the removal of asbestos material is essential to ensure removal is done in a safe manner.

Demolition or remedial works should not be undertaken until a Project Risk Assessment of the area has been carried out in conjunction with a suitably trained and competent person.

2. Identification

Prior to workers beginning work in an existing building, investigation and identification of asbestos material should be carried out. Identification and investigation of asbestos material should be carried out by trained persons.

During this process the areas being investigated shall be treated as having asbestos material present and the appropriate controls implemented, i.e. exclusion zones and PPE. Roof sheets shall be removed on a planned patterned basis to assist with the investigation of asbestos fibrous materials in roof spaces.

Where asbestos materials have been identified, within the planned site works area, it is agreed to remove all of that asbestos material and affected area surrounding that asbestos material. It is not the intention of this policy to seek to identify asbestos materials in areas outside the scope of construction works areas.

3. Reporting

If asbestos materials are identified the person in control of the work place and occupational health and safety representatives must be informed immediately. Depending on the type of quantity of asbestos Work safe Western Australia may require notification. Where practical the asbestos material should be analysed, to ensure the correct controls measures are adopted during removal. Records of asbestos locations, referenced on site plans should be taken for future reference. These records shall include reference to areas where asbestos removal works has been carried out by the building contractor, to be retained for future works.

4. Selection of asbestos removalist

The selection of an appropriate asbestos removalist is integral to the process of the asbestos removal. A licensed asbestos removalist should be selected for removal of all asbestos material. A job safety analysis, records of training and any other relevant information should be submitted by asbestos contractors before works commences, to assist with decisions of suitability for the works.

5. Removal

The correct asbestos removal technique should be adopted in accordance with the code of practice for asbestos removal and appropriate to the type and quantity of asbestos. The wet, spray or saturation method should be used to reduce the amounts of dust generated during removal or demolition, however consideration of other hazards such as electrical may restrict these methods. The vacuuming of fibrous materials must be filtered through a HEPA filtered system.

The removal of asbestos material shall be done outside of normal working hours, to avoid risk to other workers or members of the public.

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The correct personnel protective equipment PPE must be adopted for the removal of asbestos. Personnel shall be trained in the correct selection use maintenance and storage of PPE. PPE shall be disposed of in properly sealed bags with the asbestos material, special attention to good hygiene practices shall be adopted when using removing asbestos material and using PPE.



6. Disposal

Disposal of asbestos material and PPE will be to an appropriate land fill facility, in sealed containers or plastic lined bins. Where possible bin and bin areas should be wetted down to ensure fibres are not released upon removal of bins

7. Approval for work

Prior the work area being open for general construction works an inspection by the person in control of the workplace the health and safety representatives shall be carried out with PPE controls. The asbestos removalist shall identify areas of asbestos works and appropriate records kept.

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