

# CFMEU SAFETY GUIDANCE

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL OR DEMOLITION INVOLVING SYNTHETIC MINERAL FIBRE (SMF) CEILING TILES



1. A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) is to be developed for the containment of all synthetic mineral fibre products and submitted to any health and safety representatives or health and safety committees prior to the use of such products on site.
2. A safety data sheet (SDS) must be provided for any hazardous substance. Where possible a colour-coded chem-alert should be obtained for those products and personnel must be trained in the use, handling and disposal according to the SDS.
3. When removing tiles, no persons other than those that are adequately trained and involved in the removal are to be in the area. Floors to be locked off, lined with plastic and signs posted warning that ceiling tiles are being removed.
4. Cutting, breaking or damaging tiles is to be avoided where ever possible. Tiles are to be bagged in appropriate bags (Asbestos bags or similar specification and labelled as containing SMF. All supporting frame work must be vacuumed using an appropriate filtered vacuum cleaner and disposed of in the same type bags. All bags must be placed in a special bin provided and disposed of at an approved facility. Delivery dockets must be provided to the builder and site Safety Representative (HSR). No waste is to be left uncontained in the work area after work has been completed for the day.
5. Whilst removing all tiles and supporting framework and during cleaning operations associated with removal the minimum protective equipment required shall be:
  - Class P1 or P2 particulate respirator
  - Cotton overalls or dustcoat laundered daily by employer or disposable overalls
  - Cotton or rubber gloves if requested by employee
6. All personnel protective equipment is to be removed and placed in specific storage bins when leaving the restricted area.
7. Floors can only be demobilised after all SMF, supporting framework and plastic lining have been removed and the floor has had a final clean and vacuum.
8. A final inspection must then be conducted by the builder the HSR and the contractor prior to a final clearance being approved signed off by the builder, the HSR and the contractor and then issued to the contractor. Floors can then be demobilised
9. Site personnel must be informed of the work prior to commencement, that it is an exclusion zone and when the area has been cleared.

REPORT UNSAFE WORK PRACTICES - CALL (08) 9228 6900 OR EMAIL [SAFETY@CFMEUWA.COM](mailto:SAFETY@CFMEUWA.COM)

**Stand up. Speak out. Come home.**