

Asbestos – Changes in terminology

WHS Regulations Chapter 8, COP How to manage & control asbestos in the workplace

ACM

- Asbestos Containing Material (previously called Bonded Asbestos Material); means any material or thing that, as part of its design, contains asbestos.

ACD

- Asbestos Contaminated Dust or debris (ACD) means a dust or debris that has settled within a workplace and is assumed to be contaminated with asbestos;

Asbestos Register

- is now required to include ACM; and
- must state where there is no asbestos or ACM at the workplace

Asbestos Management Plan

A plan identifying the presence of asbestos or ACM, describes decisions on its management, and includes procedures for incidents and emergencies and workers roles.

Duties of PCBU's

WHS Regulations Chapter 8

- Eliminate exposure to airborne asbestos or, if unable to, minimise as far as reasonably practicable, but not exceed the exposure standard;
- **Meet the requirements for** licensing and associated administration; implement risk and emergency management for asbestos work related to demolition, refurbishment or removal work;
- **Provide health monitoring** to a worker they have duties to, and notify WorkCover in certain circumstances of the results;
- **Limit use of equipment** that may expose workers; and
- **Provide training and information** to workers carrying out asbestos related work or who may be exposed to naturally occurring asbestos.

Asbestos-Key requirements

WHS Regulations Chapter 8 Part 8.3

An Asbestos Register and Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) are to be established and maintained by the relevant PCBU for a workplace. (except buildings constructed after 31 December 2003 and with no asbestos or ACM for management plan identified or likely to be present).

The Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) is to be reviewed if:

- the register is revised;
- the asbestos is disturbed in some way;
- the AMP is no longer adequate;
- **if requested by the HSR for any of the above reasons;** or
- at least every 5 years.

The **Asbestos Register** and **AMP** are to be:

- **made accessible** to workers or their HSR and relevant others; and
- **reviewed** as required in the WHS Regulations.

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Demolition and refurbishment

WHS Regulations Chapter 8 Part 8.6 cl 448-450

This applies to the demolition or refurbishment of a structure or plant constructed or installed **before 31 December 2003**. In this clause demolition or refurbishment does not include minor or routine maintenance work, or other minor work.

The person with management or control of a workplace must ensure that, before demolition or refurbishment is carried out at the workplace, the asbestos register for the workplace is:

- **reviewed**, and
- **if the register is inadequate** having regard to the proposed demolition or refurbishment—revised.

Example. The register identifies an inaccessible area that is likely to contain asbestos and the area is likely to be accessible because of demolition.

The person with management or control of a workplace must ensure that the person conducting a business or undertaking who carries out the demolition or refurbishment is given a copy of the asbestos register before the demolition or refurbishment is commenced.

A person conducting a business or undertaking who carries out demolition or refurbishment at a workplace must obtain a copy of the asbestos register from the person with management or control of the workplace, before the person commences the demolition or refurbishment.

Asbestos removal work

WHS Regulations Chapter 8 Part 8.7

A person conducting a business or undertaking that commissions the removal of asbestos must ensure that the asbestos removal work is carried out by a licensed asbestos removalist who is licensed to carry out the work.

However if the asbestos to be removed is:

- **10 square metres or less** of non-friable asbestos or ACD associated with the removal of that amount of non-friable asbestos, or
- **ACD that is not associated** with the removal of friable or non-friable asbestos and is only a minor contamination.

Then the person conducting the business or undertaking that commissions the asbestos removal work must ensure that the work is carried out by a **competent person who has been trained in accordance with clause 445, Chapter 8**.