

CHIEF DIRECTORATE Occupational Health and Safety

Webinar on Asbestos Abatement Regulations 2020

2 August 2022



employment & labour

Department:
Employment and Labour
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Contents:

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Frequently asked questions Questions from Inspectors



Q: Am I allowed to fix my solar panels onto my asbestos roof?

A: Drilling into asbestos roof sheets are prohibited.

The aim of the Regulations is to abate asbestos and reduce / eliminate health risk over time.



Q: Am I allowed to fix my solar panels onto my asbestos roof?

- *A: drilling into asbestos containing cement sheet or screwing in a screw, increases the surface area of the asbestos material.*
- *the asbestos material will remain in place – but now with a greater surface area for fibre release, and great possibility for abrasion due to movement around the screws.*
- *Under the solar panels the asbestos sheets can not be inspected for damage or easily maintained.*
- *Will it every be removed if hidden under the solar panel?*

Q: How do I identify asbestos?

A: It can be very difficult to identify asbestos, as it is often mixed with other materials. If you are unsure whether asbestos is present, don't start maintenance or repair work.

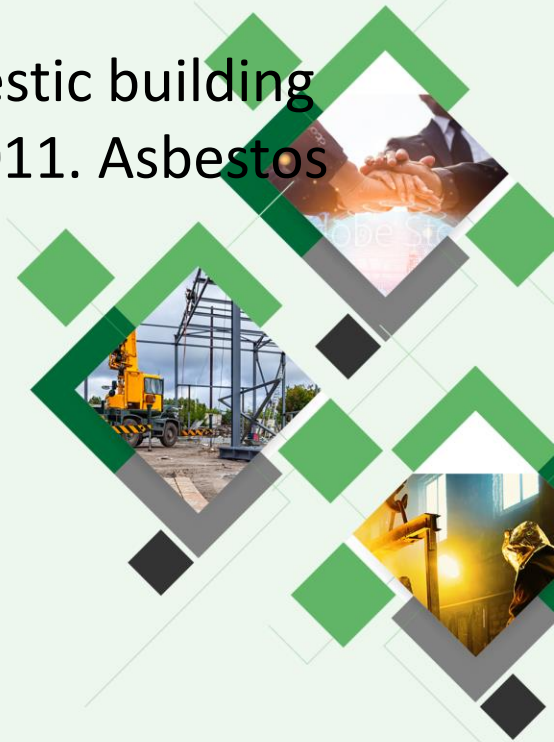
A bulk-sample may be taken for confirmatory laboratory analyses.



Q: How do I know if a property / building contain asbestos?

Asbestos may be part of any commercial or domestic building which was built or refurbished before the year 2011. Asbestos can typically still be found in any of the following:

- asbestos cement products (pipes, gutters, roofs etc)
- lagging (on pipes and boilers etc)
- water tanks and toilet cisterns
- asbestos insulating board
- ceiling boards
- loose asbestos in ceiling
- sprayed coatings on ceilings, walls and beams / columns
- textured decorative coatings
- floor tiles
- textiles and composites



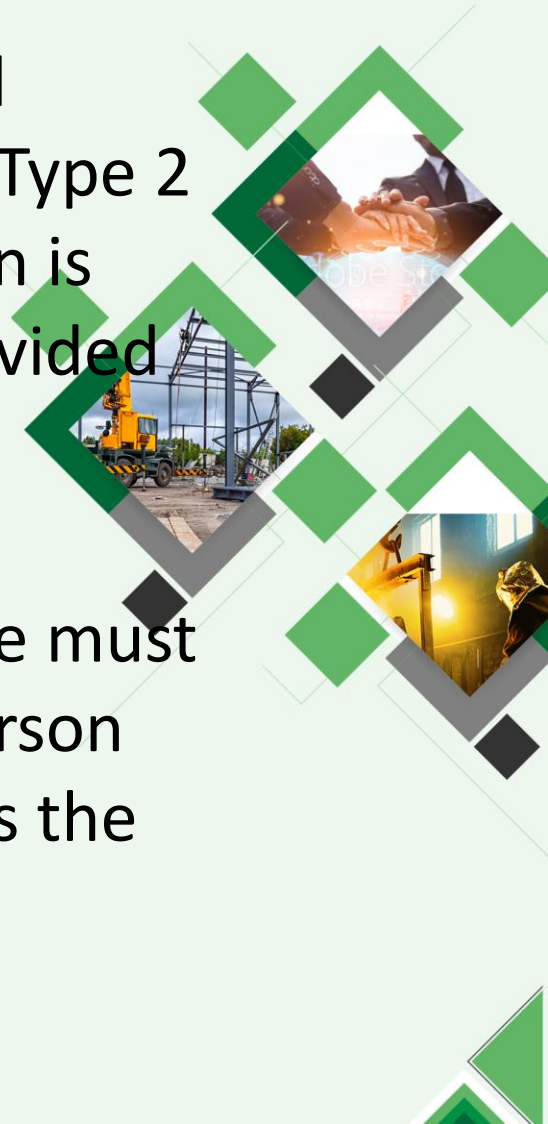
Q: How should notice of asbestos work be provided to DoEL?

A: Written notification of asbestos work must be provided in the format indicated in Annexure 2 of the Asbestos Abatement Regulations. The document may be electronically mailed, delivered or faxed to the Chief Director: Provincial Operations of the relevant Province where work will take place.

Q: Who should provide notice of asbestos work to DoEL?

A: It is the responsibility of the Registered Asbestos Contractor (RAC) in the case of Type 2 and 3 asbestos work to ensure notification is provided, however the notice may be provided by either the Client, RAC or Approved Inspection Authority.

In the case of type 1 asbestos work, notice must be provided to the Department by the person responsible for the asbestos work, such as the building owner



Q: Who may preform asbestos demolition work?

A: The demolition of asbestos containing materials is prohibited. Therefore NO asbestos demolition may be conducted by anyone in South Africa. All asbestos containing materials must be safely removed for disposal before any demolition may start on a building.



Q: If the employer does not own the building he/she is operating or working from – who should develop the inventory of asbestos in place?

A: It is the legal responsibility of an Employer to safeguard employees against all health and safety risks at the workplace, this includes asbestos. If the employer does not own the building the company is operating from, the employer is responsible to reach an agreement with the building owner, as to how the in “inventory of asbestos in place” will be developed. The Employer is however responsible for developing the asbestos management plan.

Q: Who should appoint the AIA during type 2 or type 3 Asbestos work?

The Asbestos Client has the legal responsibility to appoint the Approved Inspection Authority (AIA) in writing. A list of Approved Inspection Authority for Occupational Hygiene is available Department's website under Resources. Both the Client and the Asbestos Contractor must note that the AIA has the legal authority and responsibility to stop any asbestos work which poses a health or safety risk to any persons until such time that the risk has controlled.

Q: What should be included in a medical surveillance program?

- the risk of developing occupational asbestos-related diseases; and
- medical fitness to work requirements, including fitness to wearing a respirator;
- an initial health evaluation, which comprises—
- an evaluation of the employee's medical, occupational, exposure and social history;
- an appropriate physical examination;
- a chest radiograph; and
- any other additional medical examination, such as pulmonary function testing,

The program should indicate- What tests, when for who and how the results will be used.

Q: Who should provide PPE and RPE?

It is the legal responsibility of the employer to provide PPE & RPE and replace it if required.



Q: What type of PPE should be provided?

Dependant on the risk assessment
Advised by the AIA

Type 2 Asbestos Work	Type 3 Asbestos Work
Disposable overall	Disposable overall (seal)
FFP2 Mask	FFP3 Mask
	Lase-less safety shoes

Q: How to know if RPE fits properly?

- Remember employees come in different shapes and sizes, so one kind of Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) is unlikely to fit all. If the RPE does not fit, it will **not** protect the wearer.
- RPE fit testing is a method of checking that a tight-fitting mask matches the wearer's facial features and seals adequately to their face. RPE will only provide effective protection if it is tight-fitting and the wearer is clean shaven. Quantitative fit test is available to scientifically evaluate proper fit of RPE. Leak checking can be performed by the employee several times a day by ensuring no gaps occur between the face and mask rim.



Q: Who is considered “competent” to provide asbestos training?

- A person competent to provide asbestos training has, the required knowledge, training and experience and, where applicable, qualifications specific to asbestos work or related tasks and is familiar with the OHS Act, 1993 and the applicable regulations. The person must have an in-depth understanding of the health risks associated with asbestos and be able to convey the message.



Q: Who must undergo the 8-hour training?

Both the supervisor responsible for the asbestos work AND all the asbestos workers



Q: May asbestos containing materials be “encapsulated”?

Yes, the encapsulation of asbestos containing materials with a coating such as a rubber or other synthetic are allowed. However, the same precautions as for painting apply – NO SURFACE PREPARATION or CLEANING. Surface preparation will cause fibres to be released increasing the health risk.



Q: If a contractor registered to do type 2 or 3 asbestos work has fewer than 20 employees, should an occupational health and safety representative be appointed?

- Yes
- As the health risk to employees is high, the Chief Inspector deemed it necessary to require the appointment of an OHS Representative to inspect the health and safety standards at all times.

Q: Where asbestos removal forms part of construction work, what kind of notification should be provided to the Department of Employment and Labour?

A: Both a notification of construction work and asbestos work should be provided in the prescribed formats



Q: How long is a Registered Asbestos Contractor's registration valid?

A registered Asbestos Contractor's registration with the Department of Employment and Labour is valid for 3 years. However, a registration may be withdrawn by the Department if all requirements are not adhered to by the contractor.

Q: My workplace contains asbestos, am I at risk?

A: The presence of asbestos alone should not be a cause for concern. Asbestos only becomes a risk to human health when it is released into the air and breathed in. Where asbestos containing materials are assessed as being in good condition it should be left in place managed and monitored.

- Employers are required to actively manage any asbestos in buildings. They must also inform the employees of the location of asbestos.

Thank you



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