

EPA Guidelines

Wastes containing asbestos —removal, transport and disposal

Issued October 2002

This guideline updates and replaces the EPA Technical Bulletin No. 1, 'Requirements for the safe handling, transport, storage and disposal of wastes containing asbestos', issued in March 2000. It offers advice for the safe handling and disposal of asbestos materials.

Introduction

Asbestos dust or fibres are known to be highly hazardous when inhaled, and can be released into the air when asbestos containing products are incorrectly handled, removed, or transported for disposal.

'Non-friable' asbestos is the most common form, usually found as cement sheeting (either flat or corrugated), vinyl floor tiles, water or flue pipes, or other asbestos bonded products produced prior to 1980. If left undisturbed, non-friable asbestos presents no known health risks.

'Friable' asbestos was used in pipe lagging, insulation and asbestos-backed vinyl floor tiles, and presents significant health risks if disturbed.

Information on the health aspects of exposure to asbestos products or fibres in domestic situations can be obtained from the Environmental Health Branch of the Department of Human Services (DHS), tel. 8226 7107.

General information on asbestos and its removal can be obtained from the Mineral Fibres Unit, Workplace Services, Department for Administrative and Information Services (DAIS) — please refer to contact details below.

Definitions

In the *Code of Practice for Asbestos Work* (an approved code of practice under the *Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986*), the following definitions are given.

Friable asbestos:

'friable asbestos containing material' means-

(a) non-bonded asbestos fabric

or

(b) material that contains more than 1% asbestos by weight, and:



(i) is in the form of powder

or

(ii) can be crumbled, pulverized or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry.

Non-friable asbestos:

‘non-friable asbestos containing material’ means material that contains more than 1% asbestos by weight and in which the asbestos fibres are bonded by cement, vinyl, resin or other similar material.

Licensing requirements

Commercial removal

Contractors removing more than 200 m² of **non-friable** asbestos or more than 0.5 m² of **friable** asbestos require:

- an environmental authorisation (licence) as a ‘Producer of Listed Waste’ issued by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) as required under section 36 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*

and

- a licence issued by DAIS pursuant to the *Occupational Health, Safety And Welfare (Asbestos) Regulations 1995*.

Where a licence is not required the removal must be carried out in accordance with the *Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations 1995*, the *Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos* and Section 25 (General Environmental Duty) of the Environment Protection Act.

Commercial transport

Persons who transport waste containing friable or non-friable asbestos for fee or reward require an environmental authorisation (licence) as a ‘Transporter of Listed Waste’ issued by the Environment Protection Authority as required under section 36 of the Environment Protection Act.

In addition, if the asbestos product is:

- (i) identified as a dangerous good in the Australian Dangerous Goods Code, then it must be transported according to the requirements of that code

or

- (ii) carried in bulk – that is, a container having a net mass exceeding 400 kg – then both the vehicle and driver will require a Dangerous Goods Licence to be issued by DAIS.

Contact details

Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 2607 (08) 8204 2004
Adelaide SA 5001

Department for Administrative and Information Services

Mineral Fibres Unit (08) 8303 0405 (Removal)
Workplace Services (08) 8303 0433 (Transport)
GPO Box 465
Adelaide SA 5001

Domestic removal and transport

Non-friable asbestos

Householders can choose to engage the services of an asbestos removalist (refer to Yellow Pages) or remove and transport non-friable asbestos from their property according to the following requirements:

- close all windows and doors to prevent the entry of possible asbestos dust during any external work
- wet the asbestos cement with water prior to removal (if safe to do so) and maintain in a wet condition until packaged for transport
- remove asbestos cement with minimal breakage
- do not drop asbestos sheets to ground – lower them carefully
- wear disposable coveralls and either an approved respirator or particle mask suitable for asbestos work
- dispose of coveralls and particle masks with the asbestos cement
- do not use power tools to cut or remove asbestos, with the exception of a powered tool to remove screws or fastenings
- if necessary, temporarily store removed asbestos on a plastic ground sheet out of trafficked areas
- wrap the asbestos in thick forticon plastic (200 micron) using duct tape to form sealed packages of a manageable size (forticon is available from building suppliers or large hardware stores), or place the asbestos in plastic lined bins supplied by an EPA licensed waste transporter. The plastic liners should then be taped down over the contents of the bin.
- all packages should be labelled to identify the contents
- transport the asbestos to a landfill or waste transfer station licensed by the EPA to receive asbestos (a list of EPA licensed landfills and waste transfer stations is attached).

Friable asbestos

For health and safety reasons, removal of friable asbestos should only be undertaken by a licensed asbestos removalist (refer to Yellow Pages).

Currency of these guidelines

These guidelines offer advice to assist with compliance with the general environmental duty and specific environmental policies. They are subject to amendment and persons relying on the information should check with the EPA to ensure that it is current at any given time.

NON-FRIABLE ASBESTOS DISPOSAL SITES

METROPOLITAN

Licensee		Location	Contact number
City of Adelaide	Waste Depot	Wingfield Road, Wingfield	(08) 8345 4318
Southern Region Waste Authority	Waste Depot	Wheaton Road, Seaford Rise	(08) 8386 0273
Southern Waste Depot (also accepts friable asbestos)	Waste Depot	Main South Road, Maslin Beach	(08) 8386 2212
Metro Waste Services	Transfer Station	Murray Street, Thebarton	(08) 8443 8827
City of Campbelltown	Transfer Station	Virginia Road, Newton	1300 362 362
Adelaide Hills Council	Transfer Station	Harrison Road, Woodside	(08) 8389 7561
	Transfer Station	Scott Creek Road, Heathfield	(08) 8339 4323
Integrated Waste Services	Transfer Station	Cnr Hines and Wingfield Road, Wingfield	(08) 8243 2644

COUNTRY WASTE DEPOTS

Licensee	Location	Contact number
Alexandrina Council	Goolwa	(08) 8555 7000
Coorong District Council	Granites Road, Tailern Bend	(08) 8575 1008
City of Port Augusta	Western Plains Road, Port Augusta	(08) 8641 9100
City of Whyalla	Iron Knob Road, Whyalla	(08) 8645 7422
City of Mt Gambier	Eucalypt Drive , Mt Gambier	(08) 8271 2555
DC of Coober Pedy	Oodnadatta Road, Coober Pedy	(08) 8672 5298
DC of Grant—DC of Mt Gambier	Dump Road, Cape Northumberland	(08) 8721 0444
DC of Kapunda and Light	Roseworthy	(08) 8566 2101
DC Loxton—Waikerie	Maggea Road, Waikerie	(08) 8584 7221
DC Loxton—Waikerie	Mackie Road, Loxton	(08) 8584 7221
DC of Naracoorte and Lucindale	Blackwell Road, Naracoorte	(08) 8762 2133
DC of Peterborough	Yatina Road, Peterborough	(08) 8651 3566
DC of Streaky Bay	Flinders Highway, Streaky Bay	(08) 8626 1001
DC of Yorke Peninsula	Maitland	(08) 8832 2701
DC of Kingston	Kingston	(08) 8767 2033
Mid Murray Council	Cambrai	(08) 8569 1600
Port Pirie Regional Council	Port Pirie	(08) 8632 1222
Flinders Ranges Council	Quorn	(08) 8648 6031
Wattle Range Council	Canunda Causeway, Millicent	(08) 8733 2177

FURTHER INFORMATION

Legislation

Legislation may be viewed on the Internet at: www.parliament.sa.gov.au/dbsearch/legsearch.htm

Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Information SA
Ground Floor
77 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: (08) 8204 1900
Facsimile: (08) 8204 1909
Freecall (country): 1800 182 234

For general information please contact:

Information Officer
Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607
Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
Facsimile: (08) 8204 9393
Freecall (country): 1800 623 445
Internet: www.epa.sa.gov.au
