

ASBESTOS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

INTRODUCTION:

This Asbestos Operations and Maintenance Plan is for licensed contractors and consultants of Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) involved in completion of tasks with Asbestos Containing Building Materials (ACBM). This document is a guide to key requirements. For further information, refer to EPA, OSHA, Texas Asbestos Health Protection Rules and the UH SAM 01.C.16 regarding asbestos.

The Operations and Maintenance Plan (O&M Plan) which involves removal or abatement work must be contracted out to DSHS licensed Contractors, and if needed, along with the DSHS licensed Consultants.

Asbestos is a mineral fiber that is mined from the ground. Asbestos has been used in over 3000 building materials. Asbestos has been manufactured into clothing, automotive brake and clutch linings; fume hoods, mastics, paint, window glazing, roofing products, flooring products, gaskets, counter tops, cement pipes, sidings and air ducts. The same material can also be found in boiler insulation, boiler jackets, sprayed or trowel led on materials found in beams, ceilings, walls and crawlspaces.

Key Points to Remember

In order to reduce the exposure to asbestos one must:

Recognize the hazards, especially if the ACBM can be crushed or pulverized or reduced to powder by hand pressure. This type of asbestos is known as Friable asbestos.

Know where the friable asbestos locations can be found for asbestos hazards.

Do not handle or disturb friable asbestos.

If suspected asbestos is encountered in renovation/demolition projects have it sampled by an Asbestos & Safety Coordinator (A&SC) or a licensed consultant to confirm whether it is ACBM.

Use proper PPE whenever handling asbestos.

DEFINITIONS

Class I Asbestos work is the removal/abatement of Thermal System Insulation (TSI) and on surfacing material. All Class I work is to be completed by the DSHS licensed asbestos abatement contractor and/or outside Asbestos consultant.

Class II Asbestos work is the removal/abatement of flooring material or ceiling tiles, siding, and roofing or transite panels. This service is contracted to outside consultants and contractors.

Class III Asbestos work is the repair of dilapidated ACM contracted out to contractors and consultants, of maintenance operations where employees may disturb ACM.

Class IV Asbestos work is the cleanup of ACM waste or Debris. This is performed by outside consultants and contractors.

Small Scale Short Duration (SSSD) projects involve Class III and Class IV ACM tasks. SSSD is 3 square feet or 3 linear feet, such as TSI or Surfacing or Miscellaneous ACM.

If there is a need to abate less than 160 square feet than Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI), method can be used in limited circumstances for floor tile and mastic or vinyl sheet flooring removal, provided that prior to start of the project, the floor covering materials and/or adhesives have not been sanded, ground, mechanically chipped, drilled, abraded or cut. Cutting does include sawing but does not include shearing, slicing or punching. RFCI methods are highly discouraged from using at the University of Houston and require advanced approval by the University's Asbestos & Safety Coordinator.

Initial Exposure Assessments are based on baseline air monitoring, observations and any information that was collected prior to beginning projects.

Negative Exposure Assessments (NEA's) are to be used with only personnel sampling data. The personnel should be the same workers that have worked at jobsites of the contractors that are similar and exhibited personnel exposure to asbestos fibers below the Permissible Exposure Levels.

Permissible Exposure Level (PEL) is the OSHA airborne exposure limit.

The PEL is 0.1 fibers/cc.

Before disturbing any ACM within UH buildings suspected of containing asbestos, contact the university's Asbestos and Safety Coordinator.

TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES OF CONTRACTORS & CONSULTANTS

There are various levels of training required for the amount of involvement of contractors & consultants with asbestos. Environmental Health & Safety can provide instructor led asbestos awareness presentations for UH staff.

MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE

Medical examinations and consultations with the physician are required of all employees of contractors & consultants whom are working with asbestos or maybe exposed to asbestos above the PEL; for a combined total of 50 or more days per year, annually. The medical examinations are also required for all employees who wear respirators.

Medical examinations include a work history review and physical examination with emphasis on the pulmonary, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal systems. Along with the pulmonary function test, any other tests or examinations deemed necessary by the medical doctor should be administered.

A Physician's Written Opinion on an approved DSHS form will be provided to the employer and the employee. This form will state if the employee has any detectable medical condition that would impair him/her in carrying out their duties. Any recommended limitations for the employee such as the usage of respirators will be noted on the DSHS form. If the employee smokes and works with asbestos, the physician will inform the employee of the increased risk of diseases associated with the lungs and lung cancer.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES OF CONTRACTED WORK

All asbestos work at the University of Houston is to be conducted with all EPA, OSHA, and Texas Asbestos Health Protection Rules (TAHPR).

EHLS will serve as the University of Houston's liaison with the interpretation of regulatory agencies' rules and regulations and serve as the disseminator of regulatory and University requirements and new information to groups involved in asbestos related activities. EHLS Asbestos & Safety Coordinator is responsible for maintaining records for all projects that are related to asbestos. The Asbestos & Safety Coordinator can be reached at 713-743-5858.

Manifest and Landfill Receipts

Waste from asbestos work will be taken to an approved landfill for disposal and the appropriate waste Manifest must be submitted to the A&SC for the record keeping. ACM waste will be taken to the hazardous materials landfill by the DSHS licensed Contractor.