

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND RISK MANAGEMENT
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

SECTION: ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

SUBJECT: Asbestos Containing Materials

I. PURPOSE

The safety of all members of the campus community is a primary concern of the University of Houston. The university demonstrates this concern through compliance and enforcement of federal, state, local, and University of Houston System rules and regulations to which the university is subject. The purpose of this procedure is to further promote safety through the proper management of asbestos containing material (ACM) throughout campus buildings.

II. SCOPE

The University of Houston has multiple buildings that contain ACM, which is typical based on the size and age of the campus. For example, ACM can be found in floor tiles, ceiling tiles and pipe insulation. Over time, ACM can become damaged or cracked and breaks down into a fine powder or dust, which can become airborne. Extensive research has shown that exposure to airborne ACM (commonly referred to as friable) poses a serious health problem. Inhalation of friable ACM has been linked to cancer and serious respiratory illnesses such as asbestosis of the lung in humans.

Therefore it is imperative that the possible presence of ACM be addressed *before* any modification, demolition or any other routine maintenance project begins on a campus building. Abatement (removal of potentially friable) ACM has to be completed first on pipes, tiles, etc. before performing maintenance, demolition and modification activities.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. Consult UH MAPP 06.03.01 ACM.
- B. Make a determination if ACM is involved in the specific project or activity.
- C. If there isn't clear and concise evidence that a suspected portion of a building doesn't contain ACM, *assume that it does*.

- D. There are two kinds of ACM abatement projects small jobs, which can be conducted under a restricted maintenance and operations license or “regular” abatement projects.
- E. All persons involved in *any level* of ACM abatement work must be licensed by the Texas Department of Health (TDH).
- F. Under no circumstances should occupants of any campus buildings be exposed to friable ACM. Occupants should be warned in advance of being removed from a specific building area.
- G. Disposal of ACM waste must be included in the project.

III. REFERENCES

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) section 295.31 – 295.73

UH MAPP 06.03.01