

Workplace Safety and Health Regulations for Asbestos

Risks to Health from Asbestos Containing Material (ACM)

Asbestos presents a potential lung disease hazard when released into the air. Persons exposed to asbestos at work have developed several types of life-threatening diseases, including asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

Where is ACM Found?

ACM has been used in thousands of building materials in structures, homes and buildings built or renovated **prior to 1990**, and is still used today in some applications. Figure 1 (over) contains examples of commonly found ACM.

Legal Requirements for ACM

Manitoba's Workplace Safety and Health Regulation (the Regulation) has requirements for asbestos management and abatement. Parts 37, 33, 36, 6 and 35 of the Regulation describe what is required prior to, during and after the demolition or alteration of ACM. Full regulatory requirements can be found at: www.manitoba.ca/labour/safety/wshl

As per the Regulation, if ACM is suspected of being present, prior to any work being done, the property owner, contractor or employer must ensure:

- The work area is inspected and an asbestos inventory prepared by a person competent in identifying ACM. The inventory identifies the locations, types and conditions of the ACM (Part 37.2).
- Either a competent person (a person possessing the knowledge, experience and training needed to perform a specific duty) collects representative bulk samples of suspected ACM for analysis by an accredited laboratory or, **all material suspected of containing asbestos is treated as ACM unless the material is found to be asbestos-free** (Part 37.1(2)).
- Workplace Safety and Health is notified at least 5 days before starting work that may release ACM into the air Part 37.8(2)). You can notify Workplace Safety and Health online at: forms.gov.mb.ca/notice_of_asbestos_work/index.html.
- Asbestos that will be disturbed in the work area is removed prior to demolition or alteration work beginning (Part 33.4).
- An asbestos control plan is in place for handling and disposing of ACM in a manner that will prevent the release of asbestos fibres into the atmosphere (Part 37.5).
 - Control measures should be developed in accordance with the level of risk (see over for information regarding levels of risk for work involving ACM).
- Workers are trained in the safe work procedures for ACM (Part 36.3).
 - Worker and supervisor training should be conducted by a competent person having demonstrated knowledge and experience of working with asbestos.
- Workers are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment as determined by the scope of work, and be properly fitted for respirators if, and when, they are required (Part 6.15(1)).

Failure to comply with the above regulatory requirements may result in work stoppages, fines or prosecution.

Workplace Safety and Health:

Winnipeg: (204) 957-SAFE (7233)
Toll-Free: 1-855-957-SAFE (7233)
www.manitoba.ca/labour/safety



Levels of Risk When Working with Asbestos

Type 1 Low risk: non-friable materials where the release of asbestos fibres is not expected to occur when work is carried out using recommended safe work procedures for non-friable materials.

Type 2 Moderate risk: friable materials where the release of asbestos fibres is expected and the work is to be carried out in less than 3 hours.

Type 3 High risk: friable materials where the release of asbestos fibres is expected.

Figure 1 – Examples of commonly found ACM



WORK SAFE BC

Additional resources on health risks associated with ACM can be found at www.safemanitoba.com. If you have further questions about legislative requirements or would like to report unsafe work call 1-855-957-SAFE and select "Option 1" to speak to a Safety and Health Officer.

Available in alternate formats upon request.