



Asbestos Containing Materials Handling- *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*

Dear LVMP Contractor

A recent asbestos exposure incident has highlighted the need to remind all contractors of their obligation to ensure that their workers are trained in the identification and safe handling of asbestos containing materials.

The ***Work Health and Safety Act 2020*** places a primary duty of care on the person conducting a business or undertaking' (PCBU) to, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure the health and safety of workers and others who may be affected by the carrying out of work (**s 19**).

Specifically in relation to the requirement to provide training, the ***Work Health and Safety Regulations (General) 2022*** requires that PCBU's must ensure that workers... involved in asbestos removal work or in the carrying out of asbestos-related work, are trained in the identification and safe handling of, and suitable control measures for, asbestos and ACM (**r 445**).

As a significant number of government owned and leased premises were constructed prior to the 1990's, it is reasonable to presume that your workers may encounter asbestos containing materials and be carrying out asbestos-related work.

Every effort has been made to identify and record asbestos materials so far as was reasonably practical to do so in preparation of the ACM Register. The assessment details all areas accessed from floor level only, however it is possible that the ACM Register does not contain a record of all ACM in the property or area covered by the assessment.

It is important that workers conduct their own check for ACM at the work site and that they have sufficient knowledge and training to be able to identify and manage ACM.

Please also ensure that your workers are familiar with the Department of Finance requirements detailed below and those outlined in the LVMP Contractor Service Delivery Procedures, in regards to asbestos management when attending sites.

Asbestos management when attending sites

Contractors are responsible for carrying out asbestos-related work in accordance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 and the Work Health and Safety Regulations (General) 2022. Contractors undertaking works at government agency sites must strictly observe the following:

1. Prior to or on arrival, read the site ACM Register (Hardcopy OR ACM Portal) and fill in the Building Maintenance Logbook before commencing work.
2. Remember the ACM Register is prepared after visual inspection only and is a guide, so it is important to conduct your own check for ACM at the work site.
3. Inform the Site Representative if the work is likely to disturb ACM.
4. If the work involves removal of friable asbestos, a removalist with an Unrestricted Asbestos Removal Licence must be used.
5. If previously unidentified ACM is discovered during works:
 1. Stop work immediately
 2. Use appropriate personal protective equipment
 3. Section off and secure the area
 4. Notify your Finance contact immediately
 5. Advise the Site Representative.
6. Work on ACM may only be undertaken at times that do not expose building occupants and the general public to asbestos and following agreement with the Site Representative. At schools, no staff or students can be on site during any asbestos-related work.
7. Inform the Site Representative of progress and completion date.
8. Decontaminate the work area and leave it in a clean, tidy and presentable state in agreement with the Site Representative.

9. Where required, obtain a clearance certificate from a competent person (independent from the contractor) prior to permitting access to the work area.
10. Provide adequate information and documentation about the ACM work. This will allow the Site Representative to properly revise the ACM Register.