



Safety Bulletin – Issue 3 – August 2025

This Bulletin provides information to remind PCBU contractors and their Workers:

- **Safety is Everyone's Responsibility;**
- **Right to Cease Work;**
- **WorkSafe's Right to Enter; and**
- **Demolition and Refurbishment Asbestos Risks**

Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

The Department of Housing and Works (DHW) (formerly the Department of Finance), reminds contractors that we expect work to be conducted safely, and in accordance with all statutory requirements relating to work health and safety, including

- the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (WA) (the "*WHS Act*");
- the *Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022* (WA) (the "*WHS Regulations*") (as amended from time to time); and
- mandatory Codes of practice or guidelines.

We encourage contractors and their workers to familiarise themselves with the relevant codes of practice published by WorkSafe (WA) [Work health and safety and transitional codes of practice - WorkSafe – LGIRS](#).

Contractors that do not comply with safety obligations may be subject to both enforcement actions by WorkSafe and DHW performance management, including suspension of opportunities for further work.

Stop Work – Right to Cease or Direct Cessation of Unsafe Work

Workers have a right to a safe workplace. This includes a right to stop, or not start work, if the worker reasonably thinks the work may expose them or another person to a serious risk to health and safety, arising from an immediate or imminent exposure to a hazard.

A Health and Safety Representative, or a local site representative may also direct work to be stopped due to safety concerns.

If work is stopped, the Worker must inform their employer. DHW expects the Contractor or their Worker to also inform a person on the site where they are working and to contact their DHW contractual point of contact for guidance.

Work must not resume until PCBUs are notified that controls have been implemented to mitigate the identified risk.

WorkSafe's Right to Enter

DHW expects Contractors and their workers to fully cooperate with WorkSafe inspectors. This includes providing inspectors unrestricted access to workplaces where a Contractor is carrying out work for DHW.

A Contractor's refusal to cooperate with WorkSafe inspectors may adversely affect future work opportunities with DHW.

Demolition and Refurbishment Asbestos Risks

Is it time for your business to refresh the understanding about the risks associated with asbestos? [Asbestos - WorkSafe – Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety](#)

DHW expects Contractors and their Workers to undertake demolition and refurbishment scopes of work consistent with WorkSafe WA guidance set out in relevant Codes of Practice, including:

- WorkSafe WA - [How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace: Code of Practice, Part 5.3, Demolition and refurbishment work](#)
- [How to Safely Remove Asbestos: Code of practice](#)

A variety of DHW demolition and refurbishment jobs will require Contractors and their Workers to attend sites that may contain asbestos hazards. In accordance with Part 5.3 of the Code of Practice: How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace (DEMIRS, 2022) so far as it is reasonably practicable, intrusive inspection and sampling (demolition /refurbishment survey) should be undertaken to identify all hidden asbestos containing materials prior to the demolition/refurbishment work commencing.

Identifying all of the asbestos containing materials likely to be disturbed by the proposed scope of work enables a thorough risk assessment to be conducted and removal process to be completed to eliminate or minimise the risk of asbestos exposure to workers undertaking the demolition/refurbishment work.

DHW asks Contractors and Workers to remain alert to identify Asbestos Containing Materials "ACM", even where asbestos registers do not list verified or suspected ACM.

On a demolition or refurbishment job where you identify and/or suspect ACM is present and have not been provided results of an intrusive survey then STOP WORK. Contact your DHW contractual point of contact to agree next steps about an intrusive survey.