

Australian Ramp & Access Solutions Pty Limited

Asbestos Management

Australian Ramp & Access Solutions Pty Ltd recommends asbestos air monitoring is conducted for all asbestos removal projects. Air monitoring involves sampling airborne asbestos fibres to assist in assessing exposure to asbestos and the effectiveness of implemented control measures. It must be conducted in accordance with the Guidance Note on the Membrane Filter Method for Estimating Airborne Asbestos Dust, 2nd Edition [NOHSC:3003 (2005)]

Procedures need to be designed and implemented to appropriately control any asbestos hazard, to ensure that personnel are not exposed to asbestos to an extent likely to cause danger to health. These procedures can be aligned to the AR&AS Work Health & Safety hierarchy as described below under Control of Asbestos Hazards.

1. Control of Asbestos Hazards

The control of asbestos hazards should utilise the most appropriate method applicable bases on the particular circumstances. Based upon the assessment of the condition of the asbestos, its potential to suffer damage or mechanically degrade, and the likelihood of exposing people to airborne asbestos, the following hierarchy strategies are relevant:

1.1. Removal

Removal and disposal of ACMs undertaken where there is an immediate or likely risk of fibre release, eg asbestos insulation.

1.2. Substitution

Replacement of ACMs with non-hazardous materials (eg replacement of asbestos cement with compressed fibre cement sheeting)

1.3. Mitigation (re: removal)

Clean up or denomination of areas such as surface pick up.

1.4. Isolation

Encapsulation or sealing of in-situ ACM (eg painting exposed surfaces of asbestos cement products, sealing fill materials in the ground with a bitumen surface)

1.5. Engineering Controls

It is AR&AS policy that these are not considered AR&AS facilities

1.6. Administrative Procedures

Inclusive training, Asbestos Management Plans & Safe Work Procedures.

1.7. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

To be used by persons working on or near asbestos containing materials, eg repertory protection. Use of specific PPE is to be in accordance with relevant guidelines and standards following appropriate risk assessment.

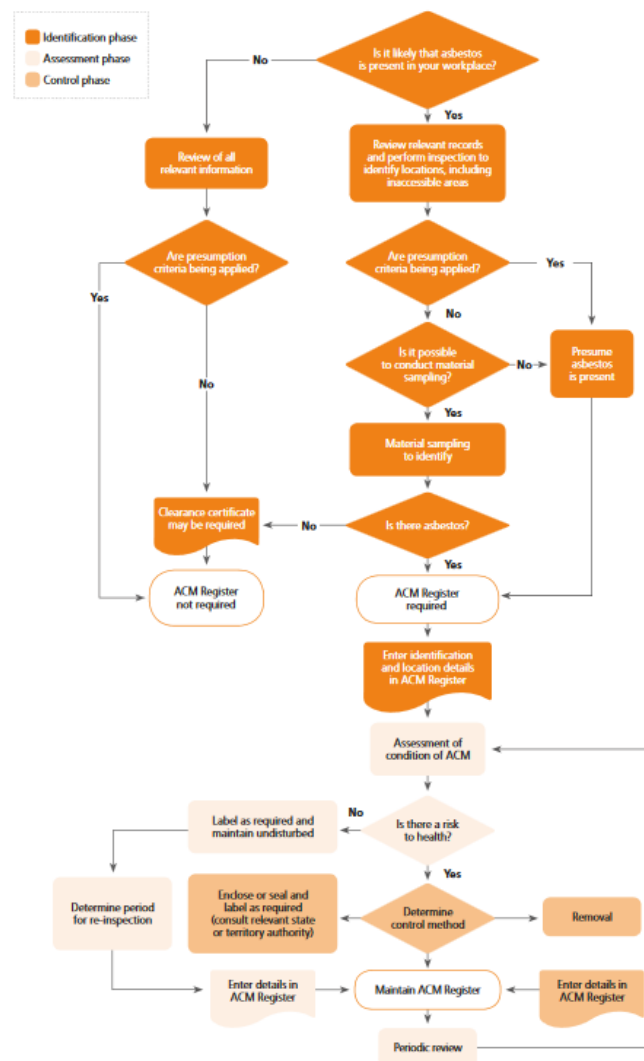
1.8. Atmospheric Motoring

On Occasions, and where required by regulations, Para-occupational airborne asbestos fibre monitoring may be required as a way of verifying the efficacy of any control measures implemented.

1.9. Health Monitoring

Under the NSW Work Health & Safety Regulation 2011, health monitoring may also be required. It is not anticipated that AR&AS will be required to provide/undertake health surveillance of its employees in relation to asbestos, but if needed this would be in accordance with health monitoring (Clause 435)

It is AR&AS policy that all risks should be suitably managed to ensure that health surveillance is not required for staff, visitors and contractors (eg by using an asbestos management plan). This is achieved by ensuring that works disturbing asbestos are carried out in accordance with applicable statutory requirements and relevant guidance documents. For example, by using site specific asbestos management plan, the onsite asbestos registers and appropriate procedures of monitoring as per Clause 435



2. General

The management of in-situ asbestos is important to ensure asbestos containing materials and other non-friable asbestos products are not damaged or deteriorate to such an extent that AR&AS staff, visitors and contractors are unnecessarily exposed to airborne asbestos fibres.

3. Principles of Asbestos Management

3.1. General principles

AR&AS principles of asbestos management have been fully adopted from general principles published by SafeWork Australia: How to Manage & Control Asbestos in the Workplace: Code of Practice 2011. The key principles are summarized below:

- 3.1.1. Asbestos removal may not be immediately necessary, but must be completed before a structure, or part of a structure, is demolished
- 3.1.2. Removal of asbestos should be subject to priority setting, determined by the condition of the asbestos as well as scheduled refurbishment works.
- 3.1.3. Asbestos presents a risk only when it is airborne. The risk to health increases as the number of fibres inhaled increases.
- 3.1.4. Wherever practical, substitutes shall be found for asbestos products. Such substitutes shall be thoroughly evaluated before use, to ensure that they do not constitute a health hazard. Ultimately, all asbestos products should be eliminated. Note: no asbestos containing materials (ACMs) may be reinstalled or reused. Where any ACMs is disconnected, it must be replaced with a non-asbestos containing product.
- 3.1.5. Asbestos that has been incorporated into a stable matrix can be found in many working environments. Provided the matrix remains stable and no airborne dust is produced, it presents a negligible health risk.
- 3.1.6. The presence of asbestos should be identified after reference to the on-site asbestos register for information. Further investigation may be warranted where disturbance works are to be undertaken.
- 3.1.7. No person shall be exposed to the risk of inhalation of asbestos in the course of employment without being provided with full information of the work and health and safety consequences of exposure and appropriate control strategies.
- 3.1.8. At present it is not possible to assess whether there is a level of exposure to asbestos in humans below which an increased risk of cancer would not occur. Accordingly, exposure to asbestos should be kept to a minimum.
- 3.1.9. Asbestos removalists and maintenance workers in an asbestos environment must be suitably protected.
- 3.1.10. The recognised occupational exposure standard for asbestos is that adopted by SafeWork Australia. The method used to measure exposure to asbestos is the Membrane Filter method for Estimation Airborne Asbestos Fibres 21nd Edition [NOHSC: 3003 (2005)]
- 3.1.11. Products Containing Asbestos in-situ shall be labelled accordingly where required.
- 3.1.12. The spraying of asbestos shall be prohibited. All future use of asbestos for insulation purposes is prohibited.

The general principles of asbestos management (and an AMP) are broadly covered by four separate phases. These are:

- The Identification
- The Evaluation
- The Control Phase
- The ongoing monitoring/re-assessment phase.

These phases are best illustrated by the flow chart at the start of this section

