

# EPA Guidelines

## Wastes containing asbestos

—removal, transport and disposal

Updated June 2009\*

*EPA 414/09: This guideline sets out the EPA's minimum requirements for the management, safe handling and disposal of asbestos waste and asbestos-containing materials.*

### Introduction

Asbestos-containing materials were used extensively in Australian buildings and structures, plant and equipment, and in ships, trains and motor vehicles during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s; and some uses, including certain friction materials and gaskets, were only discontinued on 31 December 2003.

Asbestos dust or fibres are known to be highly hazardous when inhaled, and can be released into the air when products and wastes containing asbestos are incorrectly handled, removed or transported for disposal.

Exposure to asbestos fibres is known to cause mesothelioma, asbestosis and lung cancer. Information on the health aspects of exposure to asbestos products or fibres in domestic situations can be obtained from the Environmental Health Service of the Department of Health, tel: 8226 6000 or <[www.health.sa.gov.au](http://www.health.sa.gov.au)>.

### Forms of Asbestos-containing Materials

Non-friable asbestos-containing material is the most common form, usually found as cement sheeting (either flat or corrugated), vinyl floor tiles, water or flue pipes, and other asbestos-bonded products produced before 1980. Friable asbestos-containing material was used in pipe lagging, insulation and asbestos-backed vinyl floor tiles, and presents significant health risks if disturbed.

Examples of Asbestos-containing materials or ACM are given in Appendix A of the *Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition [NOHSC: 2002 (2005)]*. If ACM are discovered within or actively mixed with other wastes, the entire load is deemed as an asbestos waste and must be managed appropriately. For example, where a stockpile of waste soil is contaminated with ACM the entire stockpile is deemed to be asbestos waste and must be managed as per this guideline or conditions of EPA Licence.

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\* Last version April 2009.

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General information on asbestos and its removal can be obtained from the Mineral Fibres Unit, SafeWork SA, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (see details on Page 4).

## Definitions

- Asbestos
  - the fibrous form of mineral silicates belonging to the serpentine and amphibole groups of rock-forming minerals, including actinolite, amosite (brown asbestos), anthophyllite, chrysotile (white asbestos), crocidolite (blue asbestos), tremolite, or any mixture containing one or more of the mineral silicates belonging to the serpentine and amphibole groups.
- Asbestos-containing Material (ACM)
  - any material, object, product or debris that contains asbestos.
- Asbestos Waste
  - all removed Asbestos-containing Material and disposable items used during the asbestos work, such as plastic sheeting used to cover surfaces in the asbestos work area, disposable coveralls, disposable respirators, rags used for cleaning, etc.
- Friable Asbestos
  - (a) non-bonded asbestos fabric, or
  - (b) asbestos-containing material that:
    - (i) is in the form of powder, or
    - (ii) can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry.
- Non-Friable Asbestos
  - Asbestos-containing Material in which the asbestos fibres are bonded by cement, vinyl, resin or similar material, eg asbestos cement.

Additional definitions relating to asbestos can be found in the Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos.

## Commercial removal and transport of ACM and Asbestos Waste

### *Commercial removal*

Contractors removing more than 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> of friable asbestos require:

- an environmental authorisation (licence) as a 'Producer of Listed Waste' issued by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) under section 36 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (EP Act)

and

- a licence issued by SafeWork SA under the *Occupational Health, Safety And Welfare (Asbestos) Regulations 1995*.

Contractors removing more than 10 m<sup>2</sup> of non-friable asbestos require a relevant licence issued by SafeWork SA under the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare (Asbestos) Regulations 1995.

When a licence is not required, the removal must be carried out in accordance with the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations 1995, the Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos and section 25 (General Environmental Duty) of the EP Act.

### *Commercial transport*

Persons who transport asbestos waste for fee or reward require an environmental authorisation (licence) as a 'Transporter of Listed Waste', issued by the EPA under Section 36 of the EP Act.

## Domestic removal and transport of ACM and Asbestos Waste

### *Friable asbestos*

For health and safety reasons, removal of friable Asbestos-containing Material should only be undertaken by a licensed asbestos removalist (refer to Yellow Pages).

### *Non-friable asbestos*

Householders can choose to engage the services of an asbestos removalist (refer to Yellow Pages) or remove and transport non-friable Asbestos-containing Material from their property according to the following requirements:

- close all windows and doors to prevent the possible entry of asbestos dust during any external work
- wet the asbestos cement with water before removal (if safe to do so) and keep it wet until packaged for transport
- remove asbestos cement with minimal breakage
- do not drop asbestos sheets on the ground—lower them carefully
- wear disposable coveralls and either an approved respirator or a particle mask suitable for asbestos work
- dispose coveralls and particle masks with the asbestos cement
- do not use power tools to cut or remove asbestos, except when removing screws or fastenings
- wrap the asbestos in thick plastic (>200 micron thick) using duct tape to form sealed packages of a manageable size, or place the asbestos in plastic-lined bins supplied by an EPA licensed waste transporter. The plastic liners should then be taped down over the contents of the bin.
- all packages should be labelled to identify the contents
- transport the asbestos to a landfill or waste transfer station licensed by the EPA to receive asbestos (a list of EPA licensed landfills and waste transfer stations is attached).

Additional information is available within the SafeWork SA publication: *Asbestos and the Home Renovator—A basic guide on what you need to know about asbestos (2006)* which can be found at <[www.safework.sa.gov.au/uploaded\\_files/asbestos\\_home\\_renovator.pdf](http://www.safework.sa.gov.au/uploaded_files/asbestos_home_renovator.pdf)>..

## Disclaimer

This publication is a guide only and does not necessarily provide adequate information in relation to every situation. This publication seeks to explain your possible obligations in a helpful and accessible way. In doing so, however, some detail may not be captured. It is important, therefore, that you seek information from the EPA itself regarding your possible obligations and, where appropriate, that you seek your own legal advice.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### *Legislation*

Legislation may be viewed on the internet at: <[www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au)>

Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Service SA Government Legislation Outlet 101 Grenfell Street Adelaide SA 5000	Telephone: Facsimile: Internet: Email:	13 23 24 (08) 8204 1909 < <a href="mailto:shop.service.sa.gov.au">shop.service.sa.gov.au</a> > < <a href="mailto:servicesa@saugov.sa.gov.au">servicesa@saugov.sa.gov.au</a> >
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### *For general information please contact:*

Environment Protection Authority GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001	Telephone: Facsimile: Freecall (country): Internet: Email:	(08) 8204 2004 (08) 8124 4674 1800 623 445 < <a href="http://www.epa.sa.gov.au">www.epa.sa.gov.au</a> > < <a href="mailto:epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au">epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au</a> >
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### *Department of the Premier and Cabinet:*

Mineral Fibres Unit SafeWork SA GPO Box 465 Adelaide SA 5001	Telephone:  Internet: Email:	(08) 8303 0405 (Removal) (08) 8303 0420 (Dangerous Goods) < <a href="http://www.safework.sa.gov.au">www.safework.sa.gov.au</a> > < <a href="mailto:help@safework.sa.gov.au">help@safework.sa.gov.au</a> >
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**NON-FRIABLE ASBESTOS DISPOSAL SITES (AMENDED)***METROPOLITAN*

Licensee	Location	Contact number
City of Playford Transfer Station	Andrews Road, Penfield	(08) 8284 7507
D&V Services	Cheviot Road, Salisbury South	(08) 8283 2700
Southern Waste Depot (also accepts friable asbestos)	Main South Road, Maslins Beach	(08) 8386 2212
Metro Waste Services Transfer Station	Murray Street, Thebarton	(08) 8443 8827
City of Campbelltown Transfer Station	Virginia Road, Newton	1300 362 362
Adelaide Hills Council Transfer Station	Harrison Road, Woodside	(08) 8389 7561
Transfer Station	Scott Creek Road, Heathfield	(08) 8339 4323
Integrated Waste Services Transfer Station	Cnr Hines and Wingfield Road, Wingfield	(08) 8243 2644

*COUNTRY WASTE DEPOTS*

*Please contact these facilities for conditions of acceptance*

Licensee	Location	Contact number
Alexandrina Council	Goolwa	(08) 8555 7000
Ceduna, DC of	Ten Chain Road	(08) 8625 3407
Cooper Pedy, DC of	Oodnadatta Road, Cooper Pedy	(08) 86725298
Coorong District Council	Granites Road, Taillem Bend	(08) 8575 1008
Copper Coast, DC of	Kadina	(08) 8821 1600
Flinders Ranges Council	Quorn	(08) 8648 6031
Grant, DC of	Dump Road, Cape Northumberland	(08) 8721 0444
Kangaroo island Council	Kingscote	(08)8553 4534
Kingston, DC of	Kingston	(08) 8767 2033
Loxton-Waikerie, DC of	Maggea Road, Waikerie	(08) 8584 7221
Loxton-Waikerie, DC of	Mackie Road, Loxton	(08) 8584 7221
Mount Gambier, City of	Eucalypt Drive, Mount Gambier	(08) 8271 2555
Naracoorte and Lucindale, DC of	Blackwell Road, Naracoorte	(08) 8762 2133

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Licensee	Location	Contact number
Peterborough, DC of	Yatina Road, Peterborough	(08) 8651 3566
Port Augusta, DC of	Western Plains Road, Port Augusta	(08) 8641 9100
Port Lincoln, City of	Port Lincoln	(08) 8682 3033
Port Pirie Reg. Council	Port Pirie	(08) 8633 9777
Streaky Bay, DC of	Flinders Highway, Streaky Bay	(08) 8626 1001
Wattle Range Council	Canunda Causeway, Millicent	(08) 8733 0900
Whyalla, City of	Iron Knob Road, Whyalla	(08) 8640 3444
Yorke Peninsula, DC of	Maitland	(08) 8832 0000