
 HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL MANUAL	4.2 Safe Work Program – Asbestos in the Workplace				
	Initial HIRA Score:	15	Residual HIRA Score:	5	Critical Task: No
	Procedure(s): 5.4.2				
	Revision Number: R0		Number of Pages: 2		
	Revision Date:	Approval Date: 10/01/2024	Effective Date: 10/01/2024	SIGNATURE: 	

SAFE WORK PROGRAM

Asbestos in the Workplace

Asbestos is a designated substance in the province of Ontario. Asbestos fibres don't break in half across their diameter (width), but rather split into thinner and thinner needle-like fibres along their length.

An asbestos fibre can remain airborne for a long time and can easily become airborne again after it has settled if there is any air movement. The average diameter of an airborne asbestos fibre ranges from 0.11 to 0.24 µm, depending on the type of asbestos and is invisible to the eye.

J-AAR does not perform asbestos abatement/containment in-house. If a worker comes across suspected asbestos during work; work must be stopped immediately, and J-AAR supervision needs to be notified.



Typically for all repair, demolition or alteration projects, the owner must complete a report indicating whether any material that is likely to be handled, dealt with, disturbed, or removed is asbestos-containing material (ACM), or to be treated as ACM. The report (including drawings and plans) must show the location of the ACM and be provided to all contractors bidding for the job.

If during work, suspicious material is discovered and not found in the report, then the constructor must report it to the Ministry of Labour. No work is allowed until the material is tested for the presence of asbestos unless the material is treated as ACM.

Asbestos Containing Products

Common asbestos containing products include:

- Asbestos cement products
 - This is the most typical asbestos product encountered by J-AAR worksites in the form of asbestos concrete pipes.
- Sprayed-on fireproofing.
- Pipe and boiler insulation.
- Loose fill insulation.
- Acoustical plaster and tiles.
- Vinyl asbestos products.
- Roofing felts/shingles.
- Asphalt/asbestos limpet spray.
- Drywall joint-filling compound.
- Coatings and mastics.

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Legislation

Ontario Regulation 278/05 (Designated Substance—Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Buildings and Repair Operations) outlines safe work procedures and respiratory protection for workers who may encounter asbestos-containing material (ACM). The Ministry of Labour uses factors to categorize the asbestos-related activity into one of three types:

- Type 1
- Type 2
- Type 3

Any person who works in a Type 1, Type 2, or Type 3 asbestos operation must be trained by a competent person on the following:

- the hazards of asbestos exposure
- the purpose, inspection, maintenance, use, fitting, cleaning, disinfecting, and limitations of respirators
- personal hygiene and correct procedures for work with asbestos
- how to use, clean, and dispose of protective clothing

Health Effects

Inhalation of the airborne asbestos fibers is what causes asbestos-related diseases:

- Mesothelioma
- Lung cancer
- Asbestosis
- Other illnesses