



ASBESTOS CONTROL POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

Many construction and insulation materials contain asbestos. These materials, if removed, or disturbed in an uncontrolled manner, can release asbestos fibres into the air, possibly causing a health hazard. The disturbance and mishandling of the Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACM) can result from activities performed in close proximity to, and not necessarily on asbestos-containing insulation materials. All personnel working with, or in proximity to where there is a likelihood of disturbance to the friable asbestos products must be informed by their supervisors of the known and/or potential hazards associated with this exposure.

All asbestos-related work must be performed in accordance with the Ministry of Labour's (MOL) Asbestos Regulations as a minimum. The work procedures must be safe for the personnel involved, and for the environment, but also must be perceived as safe by the public.

The University has established specific procedures and work practices which meet or exceed this requirement (Work Procedure (WP) 10, 58 and 59 and the Ceiling Space Access Policy). These can be obtained from Facilities Management.

PURPOSE

The Asbestos Control Policy is designed to provide information and guidelines for the safe handling of Asbestos-Containing Materials (ACM) to promote awareness of its presence and location in facilities at Western University. The goal is to ultimately prevent incidents of uncontrolled disturbance.

RESPONSIBILITY

Compliance with this policy is the responsibility of the supervisors of personnel at all levels within administrative, faculty, and ancillary operations, or supervisors of contracted activities where workers may come in contact with ACM.

All uncontrolled asbestos-disturbance incidents must be reported immediately upon discovery to the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), or Facilities Management. Completion of an incident report is also required from each affected person's supervisor. It is understood that

Facilities Management and OHS will share any information regarding such incidents as soon as possible after being notified.

Facilities Management has prepared and is maintaining an inventory of structural asbestos for all affected Western buildings. Also, Facilities Management is responsible for removal and/or clean up of asbestos as required. Facilities Management will also be responsible for notifying OHS of all Type 3 Asbestos operations prior to the commencement of any project.

It is the responsibility of OHS to assess any uncontrolled disturbance of ACM in any University facility and to determine if further monitoring is necessary. OHS is also responsible for compiling annual reports of asbestos exposure to the Ministry of Labour and for providing information to the University community in the form of site visits, consultation, documents, and training sessions.

CONTACTS

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Facilities Management at extension 83304, or Occupational Health and Safety at extension 88730.

REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

1. Ministry of Labour, Regulation 278, Designated Substances-Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Buildings and Repair Operations.
2. Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Regulation 347, Section 14, under the Environmental Protection Act.
3. Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations, Schedule II, List II.
4. The City of London, Asbestos Waste Packaging Guidelines

DEFINITIONS

Asbestos:

Any fibrous silicates such as chrysotile, amosite, and crocidolite.

Friable Material:

Material that when dry can be crumbled, pulverized or powdered by hand pressure and includes such material that is crumbled, pulverized, or powdered.

Type 3 Asbestos Project:

Major removal of friable asbestos-containing materials.

REQUIREMENTS

- (a) All handling, renovations, maintenance activities, construction, demolition, and other projects in areas containing ACM, must be performed in accordance with relevant Facilities Management Work Procedures. In situations where these written procedures do not address specific circumstances, appropriate measures must be taken to control the release of asbestos fibres to protect all building occupants. Both Facilities Management and OHS are to be consulted when such matters arise.
- (b) University staff and contractors shall not attempt to handle or work in close proximity to ACM without first obtaining the Asbestos Awareness training, in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation 278, Section 19. Without proof of training, individuals will not be permitted to work on or in close proximity to ACM. Training may be provided by OHS or other recognized agencies.
- (c) Access to all ceiling spaces must be performed in compliance with the requirements outlined in the Ceiling Space Access Policy.
- (d) Accompanying this policy are two related documents which further detail the health hazard information that must be distributed to employees. i.e. Asbestos Project Information Handout; and Asbestos Project Information Guideline/Procedure.
- (e) All University-generated ACM waste must be double-packaged in approved asbestos bags, and transported to the designated waste-holding facilities on the University's premises at the completion of work. When required, this asbestos waste must be transported to an approved landfill site and must be transported to such site in compliance with Ontario Regulation 347 and the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations.