

UWO Asbestos Control Policy

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) 9, 10, and 11 and the Ceiling Space Access Policy). These can be obtained from the Physical Plant and Capital Planning Services Division (PP&CPS).

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 the University of Western Ontario. 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 Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) at extension 88730, or PP&CPS at extension 83304. Completion of an incident report is also required from each affected person's supervisor. It is understood that PP&CPS and OHS will share any information regarding such incidents as soon as possible after being notified.

PP&CPS has prepared and is maintaining an inventory of structural asbestos for all affected UWO buildings. Also, PP&CPS is responsible for removal and/or clean up of asbestos as required. PP&CPS 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, videos and training sessions.

CONTACTS

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Physical Plant and Capital Planning Services Division at extension 83304, or Occupational Health and Safety at extension 88730.

REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

1. Ministry of Labour, Regulation 838, 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 PP&CPSD 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 PP&CPSD 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 Handling and Hazards" training, in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation 838, Section 15. 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. ie. Asbestos Project Information Procedure/Guidelines (Number 96-01) and the accompanying Asbestos Project Information Handout.

(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.