



Managing Asbestos

- A hazardous materials audit (Part 6) must be on site & available for all demolition, refurbishment and asbestos removal works.
- A Part 5 audit, sometimes called an Asbestos Register, is a register kept by a building owner of the known asbestos and its condition within the building; it is not a substitute for a full and comprehensive Part 6 Hazardous Material Audit.
- Typically the author of the Part 6 audit will also be the supervising hygienist of the asbestos removal
- The asbestos removalist and the hygienist should be registered with the VTHC. If they are not on the register – it may suggest that do not or cannot comply to the requirements of the VTHC Asbestos Committee.
- The asbestos supervisor must be on site at all times while all asbestos removal work is in progress.
- All asbestos removal workers shall be directly employed by the asbestos removal company.
- Labour hire is not allowed.
- Only Class A licence holders can removal friable asbestos. This requires full enclosure, certificate of a smoke test & decontamination unit connected to the bubble.

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- WorkSafe do not normally inspect inside the bubble for electrical, fall protection or PPE issues. These issues must be addressed and legally complied to.
- Class B Licence is for non friable, or the more stable forms of asbestos eg sheeting, linoleum tiles, super 6 etc
- Class A & B and supervisors must have done the refresher course every 2yrs – accreditation is proof.
- An asbestos control plan must be provided and accessible on site for the duration of the asbestos removal work.
- WorkSafe Victoria must be notified five days prior to any asbestos removal.
- VTHC should also be notified in writing; VTHC will then pass that information onto the CFMEU OHS Unit.
- Certificates of disposal should be kept on site.
- Certificates of air quality and sign-off for clearance must be available on site.
- Wet swabs taken from flat surfaces, used in conjunction with air pumps, is a more effective method for detection of asbestos fibres than air pumps alone.
- If there is uncertainty as to whether asbestos is present, it is assumed that asbestos is present; unless scientifically disproven.

It is important to note that all of the items listed above, are just a small example of some of the issues required to be addressed to ensure a health and safe work place. For more information, we recommend close scrutiny and adherence to all relevant documentation found under the umbrella of the OHS Act 2004 (Vic); including but not limited to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007 (Vic) and various WorkSafe Victorian approved Industry Standards and Australian Standards; standards acknowledged and recognized under the Victorian OHS legislative framework. Failure to address and comply with any of these issues may result in a breach of OHS legislation.

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