

UNEXPECTED ASBESTOS, ACM FINDS OR INCIDENTS

PROCEDURES FLOW CHART

Also refer to procedures for managing unexpected finds or incidents in the Asbestos Management Handbook for Commercial & Non-Residential Properties.

A source of suspected Asbestos or ACM has been uncovered.

Stop work immediately, notify the person in charge of the work area!

Do not put yourself at risk of possible exposure by rushing into the affected area. Calmly and carefully remove all persons from the immediate vicinity. Establish exclusion zone to prevent unauthorised access. Seal the area if possible by closing all doors and windows.

Report to the manager responsible for the work area ASAP.

Manager or WH&S personnel will assess whether the incident is to be reported to the Regulator.

Engage a qualified licensed asbestos assessor or occupational hygienist to inspect the suspected material and take samples for laboratory analysis.

Request guidance from a licensed asbestos assessor or occupational hygienist about decontamination procedures and controls to avoid further disturbance or exposure.

In the event of a suspected exposure, commence decontamination activities for affected workers as instructed by a licensed asbestos assessor or occupational hygienist. Decontamination activities for this site will be conducted at the site.

Company representative to 'Toolbox Talk' all workers on site about the asbestos or ACM discovery/exposure, no access areas, and any further instructions.

Licensed asbestos removalist to notify the regulator (if applicable) of the removal works, submit SWMS/Asbestos Removal Control Plan to site manager, and issue a Clearance Certificate.

Submit incident report ASAP.

Review and update the Asbestos Register (incorporating Clearance Certificate), Risk Register, WHSEMP and site specific induction document, subcontractor's SWMS and advise workers during pre-start meetings.

Only reopen the affected area following the implementation of the above procedures including the update of all documentation, and all workers and stakeholders have been consulted and advised of the incident outcomes.

EMPLOYERS NOTE:

If workers are exposed to airborne asbestos fibres, consider:

- Health Monitoring
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Incident Investigations

EMPLOYEES NOTE:

For employees exposed to airborne asbestos fibres, consider:

- Registering yourself on the National Asbestos Exposure Register.
- Consulting a medical practitioner for advice regarding health monitoring.