

Asbestos Removal Regulations (Nat)



Introduction

This information sheet provides an overview of regulatory requirements for the safe removal of asbestos-containing material (ACM) in each State and Territory, including the type of licence required and the types of unlicensed removal work allowed

Asbestos Removal Work

Every Australian State and Territory has different requirements for the safe removal of ACM. All require a licence for asbestos removal work other than for limited amounts of ACM as defined below.

You may need to apply for a licence in every State or Territory where you wish to carry out licensed asbestos removal work. The type of licence required and whether or not unlicensed removal can be carried out are dependant on whether the ACM is assessed as “friable” or “non-friable” (or “bonded” in NSW, ACT and Queensland). For more information regarding this assessment refer to HIA Information sheet *Asbestos Identification (Nat)*.

ACT

Asbestos licensing is regulated through the ACT Planning and Land Authority (ph 13 22 81)

- To remove up to 10m² of bonded ACM you must be in a relevant trade and have undertaken appropriate training.
 - Class B Licence – To remove more than 10m² of bonded ACM
 - Class A Licence – To remove any amount of friable ACM (covers B Class authorisation)
- No notification of the removal of ACM to State or Local Government is required.

For more information on the removal and disposal of asbestos visit www.asbestos.act.gov.au

NSW

Asbestos licensing is regulated through WorkCover NSW (ph (02) 4321 5000)

- Licence not required to remove up to 10m² of bonded ACM
- Class B Licence – To remove more than 10m² of bonded ACM
- Class A Licence – To remove any amount of friable ACM (covers B Class authorisation)

For asbestos removal work requiring a licence, licence holders must notify WorkCover NSW at least 7 days before commencing bonded asbestos removal work.

To remove friable asbestos, licence holders must obtain a permit from WorkCover NSW.

NT

Asbestos licensing is regulated through NT WorkSafe (ph1800 019 115)

- Licence not required to remove:
 - less than 10m² of cement product or other non-friable ACM
 - asbestos insulation material for the purpose of carrying out maintenance or repair work. The ACM removed must not extend more than 1m in any direction from the place of maintenance or repair.

- Asbestos Removalist Licence - To do all other work involving the removal of ACM

For asbestos removal work requiring a licence; licence holders must notify NT WorkSafe of any impending removal work 7 days prior to start of work.

QLD

Asbestos licensing is regulated through QLD Workplace Health & Safety (ph 1300 369 915)

- Licence not required to remove less than 10m² of bonded ACM
- Class B Licence – To remove 10m² or more bonded ACM

Ref No. NAT LEG 10-10

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information sheet



- Class A Licence – To remove any amount of friable ACM (covers B Class authorisation)
No notification of the removal of ACM to State or Local Government's is required.

SA

Asbestos licensing is regulated through SafeWork SA (ph 1300 365 255)

- Licence not required to remove:
 - less than 10m² of asbestos-cement (fibro) products or other non-friable material
 - insulation material for the purpose of carrying out maintenance work if the material does not exceed more than one metre in any direction and the total does not cover any more than 0.5m²
- Limited Licence – To remove only asbestos cement (Fibro) and non-friable (floor tile) products
- Unlimited Licence – To do all other work involving the removal of ACM

For asbestos removal work requiring a licence; licence holders must notify SafeWork SA before any ACM removal work is commenced.

TAS

Asbestos licensing is regulated through Workplace Standards Tasmania (ph 1300 366 322)

- Licence not required to remove:
 - less than 100m² of asbestos-cement or other similar non-friable products from a Class 1a or Class 10 building
 - less than 20m² of asbestos-cement or other similar non-friable products from a building or structure other than Class 1a or Class 10 buildings
 - 1 full glove bag of friable ACM
- Class B Licence – To remove asbestos-cement and similar non-friable products in excess of amount considered to be non licensed work
- Class A Licence – To remove all forms of ACM in excess of amount considered to be non licensed work

For asbestos removal work requiring a licence; licence holders must notify Workplace Standards Tasmania at least 5 working days prior to removal work commencing.

VIC

Asbestos licensing is regulated through WorkSafe Victoria (ph 1800 136 089)

- Licence not required to remove up to a total amount of 10m² of fixed non-friable asbestos provided it will take no more than 1 person-hour in any 7 day period to remove. Note if the amount of asbestos to be removed exceeds 10m² total for one job, removal cannot be split to accommodate the 10m² rule.
- Class B Licence – To remove more than 10m² of non-friable ACM
- Class A Licence – To remove any amount of friable ACM (covers B Class authorisation)

For removal of 10m² or more of fixed or installed non-friable ACM, licence holders must notify WorkSafe Victoria at least 24 hours prior to removal work commencing.

For all other asbestos removal; licence holders must notify WorkSafe Victoria at least 5 days prior to removal work commencing.

WA

Asbestos licensing is regulated through WorkSafe Western Australia (ph 1300 30 78 77)

- Licence not required to remove up to 10m² non-friable ACM. Up to 200m² of asbestos cement roofing material may be removed without a licence until 31 May 2010.
- Restricted Licence – To remove more than 10m² of non-friable ACM

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information sheet



- Unrestricted Licence – To remove any amount of friable ACM (covers Restricted authorisation)

For asbestos removal work requiring an unrestricted licence; licence holders must notify WorkSafe Western Australia as soon as practically possible of the asbestos removal work.

Asbestos removal procedures

All asbestos removal practices must comply with the relevant State/Territory legislation and the following;

All States except Victoria have adopted the *Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos 2nd Edition [NOHSC: 2002 (2005)]*, for asbestos removal procedures.

The code can be downloaded from the following website

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/swa/AboutUs/Publications/NationalStandards/IndexofNationalStandardsCodesofPracticeandrelatedGuidanceNotes.htm>

In Victoria the WorkSafe Victoria publication *Compliance Code: Removing Asbestos in Workplaces (1st Edition September 2008)* outlines the correct procedure for the removal of asbestos. This code can be downloaded from the following website

<http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/WorkSafe/Home/Forms+and+Publications/Compliance+Code/Removal+of+asbestos+in+workplaces+CC>

Unlicensed removal of ACM

Prior to carrying out any unlicensed removal of ACM you must ensure that the ACM has been properly identified and assessed as either friable or non-friable (or “bonded” in NSW, ACT and Queensland). This information is usually found the Asbestos Register for the site. Where there is no Asbestos Register, the ACM should be assessed by a competent person. For further information regarding asbestos identification requirements please refer to HIA Infosheet *Asbestos Identification (Nat)*

Prior to undertaking unlicensed asbestos removal work you must check the safety conditions and requirement which apply to this type of work in the relevant State or Territory. These may include:

- training and competence requirements
- prohibitions on the use of certain tools, instruments or practices
- requirements to notify certain parties
- requirements to isolate and signpost the removal area
- waste handling and disposal requirements
- keeping records

For further information regarding safety requirements for unlicensed asbestos removal work please refer to HIA Infosheet *Safe Removal of Asbestos (Nat)*.

Air Monitoring and Clearance Inspections

Some States require atmospheric monitoring and/or a written clearance certificate to be obtained prior to re-occupation of a site from which ACM has been removed. Check local requirements prior to commencing asbestos removal work.

Ref No. NAT LEG 10-10

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information sheet



BUILDING SERVICES

Disposal

Like the licensing requirements, the regulations governing transportation, notification and disposal of ACM varies from State to State. Your local council may also have policies regarding the handling or disposal of asbestos. However, in all Australian States asbestos waste should never be disposed of in domestic bins or normal skips. It is also advisable to contact the approved asbestos waste tip to notify them of your disposal.

Always keep tip receipts secure in your job records for proof of proper disposal.

For further information HIA members can contact HIA's Building Services staff on 1300 650 620 or hia_technical@hia.com.au.

If you would like to become a HIA member, contact 1300 650 620 or enquiry@hia.com.au

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