ASBESTOS REGULATIONS 2001

Government Notice No 155  Gazette No 23108 dated 10 February 2002

(A)

INTRODUCTION

SUMMARY OF THE NEW PROVISIONS:

- More detailed and streamlined
- Method of assessment changed
- Exposure limit reduced to 0.2 regulated fibre/ml over 4 hours
- Notion of registering asbestos contractors for demolition
- Specific involvement of Health and Safety Representatives/Committees
- Environmental pollution control measures
- Identification of asbestos in structures, buildings, etc and keeping of inventory
- Specific measures for roof sheeting and related products
- Period of record-keeping reduced from 50 years to 40 years
- Demolition plans to be approved by AIA’s instead of inspectors

(B)
ASBESTOS – ASSOCIATED HEALTH EFFECTS

- Asbestosis
- Lung cancer
- Mesothelioma (cancer of the pleura or peritoneum)
- Cancer of the stomach, colon and rectum
- Cancer of the larynx
- Pleural plaques and effusion

(C)

ASBESTOS ENTRY INTO THE BODY

Inhalation is the most important route

- Diameter of the fibres
- Shape of the fibres
SCOPE OF APPLICATION

- Employers and self-employed at a workplace where there may be exposure

- Provincial Director to be notified in writing prior to commencement

- Exposure must be prevented or reduced and controlled

- Where OEL exceeds 0.2 regulated fibres/ml of air over 4 hours, provide PPE
INFORMATION AND TRAINING

- After consultation with Health and Safety Committee
- Comprehensive on both practical and theoretical aspects
- Prior to exposure
- Refresher training at least every year or more frequent as recommended by the Health and Safety Committee
- By somebody who is competent
- Employer to keep record of such training given
- Also include drivers of vehicles carrying asbestos material
DUTIES OF PERSON WHO MAY BE EXPOSED

- Obey lawful instructions given regarding
  - Prevention of dust release
  - Wearing of PPE
  - Wearing of monitoring equipment
  - Reporting for medical surveillance
  - Cleaning up and disposal of asbestos material
  - Housekeeping rules
  - Information and training
ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EXPOSURE

- After consultation with Health and Safety Committee
- Within six months of commencement of these Regulations
- Thereafter at least after every two years
- Keep record of results of such assessments and avail them to Health and Safety Representatives or Committee
- If there is exposure it must be controlled
- Review assessment whenever there are significant changes in type of work or equipment or work methods
AIR MONITORING

❖ Where exposure exceeds half of the OEL, introduce air monitoring

❖ Carried out after consultation and comment from Health and Safety Representatives or Committee

❖ Carried out by AIA or verifiable person

❖ Sample strategy in line with OESSM and MDHS 39/4 and OHS Act

❖ To be carried out at least every 12 months
MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE

- Where employees are exposed to dust exceeding OEL for asbestos, or

- Where certified by the occupational medicine practitioner

- Immediately of within 14 days after a person commences employment

- Thereafter at least two yearly intervals or shorter if specified by the occupational medicine practitioner

- No person is allowed to work in asbestos zone if certified unfit
RESPIRATOR ZONE

- Clearly demarcated by a notice

- Emphasize use of PPE
CONTROL OF EXPOSURE

- Prevent or control as far as is reasonably practicable
- Identify reason why OEL is exceeded
- Control exposure by inter alia:-
  - Substitution
  - Limiting number of persons exposed or period of exposure or the amount of dust
  - Process separation, automation or enclosure
  - Bonding of fibres
  - Local extraction ventilation systems
  - Wet methods
  - Separate workplaces
  - A fault indicator to enable early corrective action to be taken
  - Appropriate written work procedures
CLEANLINESS OF PREMISES AND PLANT

- Workplace, machinery and equipment kept free of asbestos dust
- Vacuum cleaning with filtration efficiency of at least 99% for 1/lm particles
- Regular servicing and cleaning of vacuum cleaner
- Where vacuum cleaning is impracticable, dampen surface and use PPE
CONTROL OF EXPOSURE OF NON-EMPLOYEES

- Release to environment or water to comply with relevant environmental legislation

- Usage of suitable filtration systems

- Contamination filters to be treated as asbestos waste

- No environmental pollution during transportation of asbestos
ASBESTOS THAT FORMS PART OF STRUCTURE, BUILDING OR PLANT

- Employers to identify the location thereof and potential release
- Make and maintain a written inventory thereof
- Consultation and comment from Health and Safety Representatives or Committee
- Health and Safety Representative or nominee may take part in identification and location process
- Whenever there is dispute about whether any substance is in fact asbestos, a sample has to be taken and analysed by AIA at the cost of the employer
- Regular examination of the condition of asbestos recorded in inventory for deterioration or damage
- Risk assessment to be done to establish precautionary measures
ASBESTOS CEMENT SHEETING AND RELATED PRODUCTS

- Written work procedures to be followed to prevent the release of dust
- Health and Safety Representatives or Committee to peruse work procedures
- Cutting and drilling to be performed under controlled conditions
- Asbestos waste to be collected and disposed under controlled conditions
- Paint or seal with protective coating to limit the release of dust
- Cleaning to be controlled ensuring that inter alia:
  - Dry-brushing, scraping, sanding or abrasion techniques are not used
  - High-pressure water jetting is controlled to limit dispersal of contaminated water
RECORDS

- Kept for a minimum of 40 years, on closure of business forward to Provincial Director

- Personal medical records only available to occupational health practitioner

- All other records available for inspection by an inspector

- Records available to any other person only by written consent of employee concerned

- Records of assessments, air monitoring, asbestos inventory available to Health and Safety Representative or Committee

- Records of investigations and repairs kept for at least 3 years
PPE

- Clothing and respirators to control exposure level
- Kept in clean and hygienic condition
- Decontaminate
- Caution cleaning or laundering contractor about dangers and precautions
- Separate lockers for PPE and personal clothing
- Separate change rooms labeled “clean” and “dirty” change rooms with barrier and bathing facilities in between
MAINTENANCE OF CONTROL MEASURES

- Examinations and tests of engineering control measures by AIA or verifiable person

- At intervals not exceeding 24 months
LABELLING, PACKAGING, TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

- Avoid spread of dust inter alia:
  - Proper identification, classification and handling in accordance with SABS 0228
  - Container or vehicle transporting asbestos to be clearly identified and packed in accordance with SABS 0228 and 0229
  - Article or substance containing asbestos to be clearly labeled in accordance with Annexure 1
DEMOLITION

- To be carried by a registered asbestos contractor

- A plan of work to be approved by AIA at least 30 days prior to commencement

- A copy of such an approved plan and approved standardised procedures to be submitted to the Provincial Director at least 14 days prior to commencement.
**PROHIBITIONS**

- No use of compressed air to remove dust from any surface or persons

- No eating, smoking or drinking except in specifically designated areas

- No application of asbestos by spraying or similar means

*The End **********Thank You*