

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 or 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 1/1m 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***