Management of Asbestos Containing Materials

Background

Asbestos-containing building materials (ACM) were used extensively throughout Queensland between the 1940's and the 1980's. These materials were used in floors, walls, roofs and many other building applications for houses, schools and other types of buildings both government and non-government.

ACM is a health risk because the inhalation of respirable-sized particles and the possibility of developing asbestos-related disease.

It is important to note that ACM is not a health risk when it is stable and contained in a bonded form that is maintained in good condition (for example, when it is painted or intact).

Procedure for removal/repair

The Department has clear and concise procedures in place to manage asbestos in state schools and other departmental workplaces such as TAFE Institutes and regional offices:

1. If asbestos-containing material (such as fibro wall sheeting is damaged or disturbed) students and staff are to be immediately removed from the area and prevented from re-entering until it is repaired.

2. Independent asbestos-removal contractors are to be engaged to repair or remove asbestos-containing materials, undertake a professional clean and provision of a clearance for reuse of the area.

3. It is the Principal's responsibility to notify parents and carers of asbestos related matters.

These procedures are in line with the Queensland Workplace Health and Safety legislation and the Queensland Government's Asbestos Management and Control Policy for Government Buildings.

Role of the Schools Officer and other maintenance staff

- Adhere to Departmental policies and procedures for the management of ACM;
- Schools officers will not allow access to service providers to carry out work unless specifically authorised to do so by the Principal.
- Ensure that under no circumstances that DETE equipment is provided to service providers to their use in works involving ACM.
- Not undertake ANY work on presumed or confirmed ACM including to make safe repairs.
- Obtain a WAAP through BEMIR before commencing any maintenance activities.

Further information


For further advice regarding asbestos management, contact your regional Facilities management adviser.