



INFORMATION SHEET

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY

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ASBESTOS REMOVAL REGULATIONS (NAT)

This information sheet provides an overview of regulatory requirements for the removal of asbestos in each State and Territory, including the type of licence required and the types of unlicensed asbestos removal work allowed.

Asbestos Removal Licensing Requirements

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

The type of licence required and whether or not unlicensed removal can be carried out are dependent on whether the asbestos is assessed as “friable” or “non-friable”. For more information regarding this assessment refer to HIA Information sheet *Asbestos Identification (Nat)*.

Some states or territories may recognise an asbestos removal licence issued by another jurisdiction provided the licence is used in accordance with the terms and conditions under which it was granted. To find out if your asbestos removal licence is valid contact the relevant State or Territory where you intend to carry out licensed asbestos removal work.

ACT WorkSafe ACT ((02) 6207 3000)

- Unlicensed removal of asbestos is prohibited in the ACT except on defined types of minor work and minor maintenance work.
- Class B Licence required to remove any amount of non-friable asbestos
- Class A Licence required to remove any amount of friable asbestos (covers B Class authorisation).

License holders must notify WorkSafe ACT at least 5 days before commencing asbestos removal work.

NSW SafeWork NSW (131 050)

- Licence not required to remove up to 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class B Licence required to remove more than 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class A Licence required to remove any amount of friable asbestos (covers B Class authorisation)

License holders must notify SafeWork NSW at least 5 days before commencing asbestos removal work requiring a licence.

NT NT WorkSafe (1800 019 115)

- Licence not required to remove up to 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class B Licence required to remove more than 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class A Licence required to remove any amount of friable asbestos (covers B Class authorisation)

License holders must notify NT WorkSafe at least 5 days before commencing asbestos removal work requiring a license.

DISCLAIMER - The above is intended to provide general information in summary form. The contents do not constitute specific advice and should not be relied upon as such. Formal specific advice should be sought by members with respect to particular matters before taking action.

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QLD Workplace Health & Safety QLD (1300 362 128)

- Licence not required to remove up to 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class B Licence required to remove more than 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class A Licence required to remove any amount of friable asbestos (covers B Class authorisation)

Licence holders must notify Workplace Health & Safety QLD at least 5 days before commencing asbestos removal work requiring a licence.

SA SafeWork SA (1300 365 255)

- Licence not required to remove up to 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class B Licence required to remove more than 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class A Licence required to remove any amount of friable asbestos (covers B Class authorisation)

Licence holders must notify safe work SA at least 5 days before commencing asbestos removal work requiring a licence.

TAS Worksafe Tasmania (1300 366 322)

- Licence not required to remove up to 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class B Licence required to remove more than 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class A Licence required to remove any amount of friable asbestos (covers B Class authorisation)

Licence holders must notify WorkSafe Tasmania at least 5 days before commencing asbestos removal work requiring a licence.

VIC WorkSafe Victoria (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 required to remove more than 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class A Licence required to remove any amount of friable asbestos (covers B Class authorisation)

For removal of up to 10m² in total of fixed or installed non-friable asbestos, licence holders must notify WorkSafe Victoria at least 24 hours before commencing asbestos removal work.

For all other asbestos removal, licence holders must notify WorkSafe Victoria at least 5 days before commencing asbestos removal work.

WA WorkSafe Western Australia (1300 307 877)

- Licence not required to remove up to 10m² non-friable asbestos.
- Class B Licence required to remove more than 10m² of non-friable asbestos
- Class A Licence required to remove any amount of friable asbestos (covers B Class authorisation)

For asbestos removal work involving friable asbestos licence holders must notify WorkSafe WA as soon as practically possible before commencing the asbestos removal work.

Asbestos Removal Procedures

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

All jurisdictions, except Victoria and WA, have adopted a code of practice that is based very closely on the national *Model Code of Practice: How to Safely Remove Asbestos*. This code can be downloaded from: <http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/publications/pages/safely-remove-asbestos-cop>

To determine if this model code of practice has been approved as a code of practice in a particular jurisdiction, or to find out what applies, you should check with the relevant state regulator.

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>

In WA the relevant code is *Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos 2nd Edition [NOHSC: 2002 (2005)]*, The code can be downloaded from:

http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/atoms/files/saferemoval_ofasbestos2ndeditionnoh.pdf

Unlicensed Removal of Asbestos

Prior to carrying out any unlicensed removal of asbestos, where this is permitted, you must ensure that the asbestos has been properly identified and assessed as either friable or non-friable. This information is usually found the Asbestos Register for the site. Where there is no Asbestos Register, the asbestos should be assessed by a competent person.

For further information regarding asbestos identification requirements please refer to HIA Information sheet *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 a licenced asbestos assessor to carry out atmospheric monitoring and/or issue a written clearance certificate prior to re-occupation of a site from which asbestos has been removed. Check local requirements prior to commencing asbestos removal work.

Disposal

Like the licensing requirements, the regulations governing transportation, notification and disposal of asbestos 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 hia_technical@hia.com.au or HIA Safety Services staff for solutions to your safety needs.