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01 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2026	SHEQ Warehouse (Pty) Ltd	Neville
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Summary of Asbestos Abatement Regulations, 2020

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1. Definitions

Defines key terms used in the regulations including "asbestos," "asbestos client," "asbestos-containing material," "registered asbestos contractor," "type 1/2/3 asbestos work," and other relevant terminology.

2. Scope of application

2(1) Applies to employers and self-employed persons who may expose anyone to asbestos dust at the workplace. 2(2) Specifies exemptions for self-employed persons from certain regulations.

3. Identification of asbestos in place

Requires employers and self-employed persons to:

- Ensure all asbestos-containing materials are identified by a competent person
- Assume materials contain asbestos if uncertain until confirmed otherwise
- Assume inaccessible areas contain asbestos if likely
- Document asbestos-free status in writing by a competent person if no asbestos is identified

4. Inventory of asbestos in place

4(1) Employers must obtain services of a competent person to create an inventory of all asbestos-containing materials. 4(2) Allows for dispute resolution regarding whether a substance is asbestos. 4(3) Specifies information required in the inventory including dates,



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descriptions, location, labeling, risk categorization, and exposure scenarios. 4(4-5) Requires review of inventory at least every 24 months or more frequently if conditions change. 4(6) Requires detailed information for planned removal or repair. 4(7) Specifies who must receive copies of the inventory. 4(8) Outlines mandatory requirements for contractors working with asbestos. 4(9) Details handling of work with potential exposure to airborne asbestos. 4(10) Requires labeling of all asbestos-containing materials.

5. Asbestos risk assessment

5(1) Requires asbestos risk assessment by a competent person immediately after identification and every 24 months thereafter. 5(2) Mandates consultation with health and safety representatives. 5(3) Specifies risk categorization based on health impacts, potential exposure, damage potential, and material condition. 5(4) Uses risk categorization to determine management approach. 5(5) Details requirements for risk assessment for asbestos repair work. 5(6) Outlines requirements for risk assessment for asbestos removal work. 5(7) Requires review and endorsement by an approved inspection authority every six years.

6. Asbestos management plan

6(1) Requires a written asbestos management plan when asbestos-containing materials are identified. 6(2) Plan must include procedures for implementation of regulations, repair and removal management, and phasing out existing asbestos-containing materials. 6(3) Requires review of the plan at least every eight years or when information changes.

7. Information, instruction and training

7(1) Employers must provide information and training to persons with potential incidental exposure. 7(2) Details training requirements for non-asbestos-related work with potential exposure. 7(3) Outlines comprehensive training requirements for asbestos removal or repair work. 7(4) Specifies training must be provided by a competent person with minimum 8 hours duration. 7(5) Requires annual refresher training of at least 2 hours. 7(6-7) Mandates record-keeping of training and provision of certificates upon employment termination.

8. Duties of persons who may be exposed

8(1) Lists duties of employees who may be exposed to asbestos in place. 8(2) Outlines duties of persons involved in non-asbestos-related maintenance. 8(3) Details duties for persons involved in type 1 asbestos work. 8(4) Specifies duties for persons involved in type 2 or type 3 asbestos work.

9. Control of exposure to asbestos

9(1) Requires prevention or adequate control of exposure to asbestos. 9(2) Outlines specific control measures including limiting number of persons exposed, duration of exposure, and implementing engineering controls. 9(3) Specifies requirements for water contaminated with



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asbestos. 9(4) Requires written work procedures for safe handling and equipment use. 9(5) Mandates reporting of spills or uncontrolled release of asbestos.

10. Notification of asbestos work

10(1) Requires notification to Chief Director: Provincial Operations at least seven days before type 1 asbestos work. 10(2-5) Details notification requirements for type 2 and 3 asbestos work, allowances for emergencies, and acknowledgment of receipt.

11. Duties of asbestos client for asbestos work

11(1) Lists duties for clients during type 1 asbestos work including providing inventory, risk assessment, and safe work procedures. 11(2) Details duties for clients during type 2 or type 3 asbestos work. 11(3) Requires obtaining asbestos clearance certificate after completion.

12. Duties of registered asbestos contractor for asbestos work

12(1) Outlines duties of registered contractors for type 2 and 3 asbestos work. 12(2) Specifies risk assessment requirements before and during work. 12(3) Lists contractor duties including submission of work plan, appointment of supervisor, and record-keeping.

13. Duties of approved inspection authorities for asbestos work

Details duties of inspection authorities including ensuring proper contractor registration, obtaining inventory copies, compiling work plans, approving and submitting plans, confirming employee qualifications, providing guidance, conducting inspections, stopping unsafe work, performing air monitoring, issuing reports, and ensuring clearance.

14. Disputes

14(1-2) Outlines process for resolving disputes regarding classification of asbestos work, requiring services of an approved inspection authority or referral to the chief inspector.

15. Plan of work

15(1) Details requirements for written approved plan of work including contact details, supervisor information, asbestos details, employee information, dates, monitoring methods, removal methods, decontamination procedures, demarcation requirements, emergency procedures, and disposal methods. 15(2) Requires signatures from asbestos client, registered asbestos contractor, and approved inspection authority.



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16. Air monitoring

16(1) Requires air monitoring for type 2 and 3 asbestos work by an approved inspection authority. 16(2) Requires comparison with OEL limits to ensure compliance. 16(3) Mandates environmental air monitoring during type 2 and 3 asbestos work. 16(4) Requires consultation with health and safety representatives.

17. Medical surveillance

17(1) Requires medical surveillance system for registered asbestos contractors or when recommended by an occupational medicine practitioner. 17(2) Details documentation requirements for the surveillance system. 17(3) Outlines notification requirements for health evaluation outcomes. 17(4) Prohibits employers from allowing medically unfit employees to work in regulated asbestos areas. 17(5) Specifies requirements for certificate of medical surveillance. 17(6) Requires reporting of occupational diseases. 17(7) Mandates written informed consent for inclusion in surveillance.

18. Regulated asbestos area

Requires clear demarcation of regulated asbestos areas and appropriate protective equipment for anyone entering these areas.

19. Personal protective equipment and facilities

19(1) Requires appropriate respiratory protective equipment and clothing. 19(2) Details requirements for respiratory protective equipment. 19(3-5) Outlines cleaning, storage, and handling of personal protective equipment. 19(6) Specifies washing and decontamination facility requirements.

20. Labelling and signage

20(1) Requires clear identification of all asbestos in place using specified pictograms. 20(2) Details labeling requirements for asbestos waste. 20(3) Requires demarcation of contaminated soil or land. 20(4) Specifies signage for regulated asbestos areas.

21. Disposal of asbestos

Outlines requirements for safe disposal including proper containment, thorough checking of premises, decontamination of vehicles and containers, documentation, use of designated disposal sites, provision of protective equipment, written instructions for drivers, and contractor compliance.

22. Asbestos clearance certificate



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Requires approved inspection authorities to conduct visual inspection, air sampling, verification of waste removal, and issuance of written declaration after completion of type 2 or 3 asbestos work.

23. Records

23(a-g) Details record-keeping requirements including retention of inventories, risk assessments, air monitoring results, medical reports, and training records for at least 50 years.

24. Prohibition

Lists prohibited activities including selling or reusing asbestos materials, cleaning surfaces of asbestos cement materials, improper storage, using compressed air to remove dust, using electrical power tools on asbestos materials, eating or drinking in regulated areas, using improper vacuum equipment, and demolition before proper asbestos removal.

25. Offences and penalties

Specifies penalties for contravention including fines or imprisonment up to 12 months, with additional penalties for continuing offenses.

26. Repeal of regulations

Repeals the Asbestos Regulations, 2001.

27. Short title

27(1) Names the regulations as "Asbestos Abatement Regulations, 2020." 27(2) Specifies implementation timeline with certain regulations taking effect 18 months after promulgation.