



Asbestos Controls

When working with asbestos, asbestos-containing material (ACM), or presumed asbestos-containing materials (PACM), your employer is required to ensure exposure is reduced by using administrative controls and provide for the wearing of personal protective equipment. Medical monitoring/air sampling is also required when legal limits and exposure times are exceeded. When sampling is conducted, employees must be aware of the results within five (5) days, in writing.

Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL)

Per OSHA, no employee can be exposed to an airborne concentration of asbestos in excess of 0.1 fibers per cubic centimeter of air as an eight (8) hour time-weighted average (TWA) or exposed to an airborne concentration of asbestos in excess of 1.0 fiber per cubic centimeter of air (1 f/cc) as averaged over a sampling period of thirty (30) minutes.

Some Exposure Controls include.

- Vacuum cleaners equipped with HEPA filters to collect all debris and dust containing ACM and PACM, except as provided in this section in the case of roofing material.
- Wet methods, or wetting agents, to control employee exposures during asbestos handling, mixing, removal, cutting, application, and cleanup, except where it can be demonstrated that the use of wet methods is infeasible due to for example, the creation of electrical hazards, equipment malfunction, and, in roofing, except as provided in this section.
- Prompt clean-up and disposal of wastes and debris contaminated with asbestos in leak-tight containers except in roofing operations, where the procedures specified in this section apply.

Prohibitions

- High-speed abrasive disc saws that are not equipped with point of cut ventilator or enclosures with HEPA filtered exhaust air.
- Compressed air used to remove asbestos, or materials containing asbestos, unless the compressed air is used with an enclosed ventilation system designed to capture the dust cloud created by the compressed air.
- Dry sweeping, shoveling or other dry clean-up of dust and debris containing ACM and PACM.
- Employee rotation as a means of reducing employee exposure to asbestos. Where feasible engineering controls and work practices do not ensure worker protection at the exposure limits, employers must reduce the exposures to the lowest level achievable and then supplement with proper respiratory protection to



meet the PEL.

SAFETY REMINDER

Some materials are presumed to contain asbestos if installed before 1981 – including (but not limited to) roofing/siding shingles, plaster, cement, caulk, ceiling tiles, and industrial pipe wrapping.