

Asbestos Advisory For Construction Contractors



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Air Quality
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Do you perform remodeling, renovation, repair or demolition activities? If so, you need to be aware of several rules that may affect your ability to perform these activities. Depending on the type, amount, and condition of the asbestos-containing materials (ACM), you may be subject to some or all of the asbestos rules.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA) have specific rules regarding the handling and disposal of ACM. DEQ/LRAPA regulates the removal and disposal of ACM from any public or private building to prevent asbestos fiber release and exposure.

Asbestos fibers in the air pose a significant health threat to employees, the public, and the environment. If you encounter ACM in the process of performing construction activities, you must follow all DEQ/LRAPA asbestos program rules.

The DEQ requires that an asbestos survey be performed by an accredited inspector to determine the presence of ACM in or on all public or private commercial buildings, or in or on any residential structure that has more than four dwelling units before any renovation or demolition activities. Asbestos hazard consultants and many of the licensed asbestos abatement contractors can provide this service.

There is a Fact Sheet specific to the building survey requirement available that is outlined in a question/answer format. A list of consultants, abatement contractors and the building survey Fact Sheet can be obtained by contacting a regional office listed below.

In general, there are two types of ACMs:

- **Friable** ACM will easily release fibers when crushed. Only DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors and certified asbestos workers can remove and dispose of friable ACM. DEQ has specific training courses available that meet these certification needs. A list of DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractors and training information can be

obtained by contacting a regional office listed below. Examples of friable ACM can include, but are not limited to the following: sheet vinyl flooring, insulation on piping, duct and boilers, fireproofing, ceiling texture and panel products, and soundproofing.

- **Nonfriable** ACM have a binder that holds the asbestos fibers within a solid matrix and will not allow asbestos fibers to release easily, unless mishandled, damaged, or in badly worn or weathered condition. You do not need to be a DEQ licensed asbestos abatement contractor or a certified asbestos worker to perform nonfriable asbestos abatement. **However, the nonfriable materials must remain in nonfriable condition (predominantly whole pieces) during the removal and disposal process.** Examples of nonfriable ACM can include, but are not limited to the following: vinyl floor tile, AC water pipe, and cement (transite) siding or roofing. If you remove nonfriable ACM, follow the DEQ guidance documents. In addition, a non-friable project notification and fee are required to be submitted to the Department five (5) days prior to the start date of the project.

Nonfriable asbestos-containing waste material (ACWM) must be kept adequately wet and the DEQ recommends that the ACWM be packaged in leak tight containers. The ACWM must be disposed of at a landfill authorized to handle asbestos waste and should be accompanied by a waste shipment report (ASN 4) at the time of disposal. Make sure and contact the landfill before delivering the ACWM. Landfills can be more stringent than DEQ and may only accept ACWM by appointment. A copy of the guidance documents, project notification, list of authorized landfills and waste shipment report can be obtained by contacting a regional office listed below.

Maintenance and comparable activities limited to less than three (3) linear or three (3) square feet of ACM, provided the removal is part of a needed repair operation, may be exempt from

certain rules. Contact a regional office for more information.

If you disturb or mishandle ACM and cause tenants, customers, employees, the public or the environment to be potentially exposed to asbestos fibers, you can be liable for clean-up costs and an enforcement action for rule violations. An enforcement action may include a civil penalty assessment.

Copies of the guidance document, building survey Fact Sheet, consultant, laboratory, abatement contractor and landfill lists, project notification and waste shipment report can also be found on the DEQ web page at www.deq.state.or.us/aa/asbestos. For further information about the asbestos regulations, contact a regional office.

For Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Tillamook and Washington Counties, call the Portland office at (503) 229-5364, (503) 229-5473 or (800) 452-4011

For Benton, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties, call the Salem office at (503) 378-8240, ext. 272 or (800) 349-7677.

For Lane County call Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority at (541) 736-1056.

For Jackson, Josephine and Eastern Douglas Counties, call the Medford office at (541) 776-6010, ext. 235 or (877) 823-3216.

For Coos, Curry and Western Douglas Counties call the Coos Bay office at (541) 269-2721, ext. 22.

For all areas east of the Cascades, call the Bend office at (541) 388-6146, ext. 226, or the Pendleton office at (541) 278-4626 or at 1-800-304-3513.

Alternative Formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ Public Affairs for more information (503) 229-5696.