



Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 175: Asbestos (Part B)

Introduction: The term asbestos describes six naturally occurring fibrous minerals found in certain types of rock formations. Asbestos became a popular commercial product because it is strong, won't burn, resists corrosion, and insulates well. Intact and undisturbed, asbestos materials do not pose a health risk; however, asbestos materials can become hazardous when, due to damage, disturbance, or deterioration over time, they release fibers into the air. If inhaled, these fibers can cause diseases which disrupt the normal functioning of the lungs.



OSHA regulations state that "The employer shall institute a training program for all employees who are exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos at or above the PEL and/or excursion limit and ensure their protection in the program. Training shall be provided prior to or at the time of initial assignment and at least annually thereafter. The training program shall be conducted in a manner which the employee is able to understand."

"Competent person" requirements — On all construction sites with asbestos operations, employers must name a "competent person," qualified and authorized to ensure worker safety and health. The competent person must attend a comprehensive training course certified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or a state-approved training provider or a course that is equivalent in length and content. Under these requirements for safety and health prevention programs, the competent person must inspect Class I job sites at least once during each work shift and upon employee request. The competent person must inspect Class II and Class III job sites often enough to assess changing conditions and upon employee request.

Regulated areas — A regulated area is a marked site where employees work with asbestos. It includes any adjoining area(s) where debris and waste from asbestos work accumulates or where airborne concentrations of asbestos exceed or can exceed the PEL. All Class I, II, and III asbestos work must be done within regulated areas. Employers must mark the regulated area in any manner that minimizes the number of persons within the area and protects persons outside the area from exposure to airborne asbestos. Posted warning signs marking the area must be easy to read and understand.

The signs must bear the following information: DANGER ASBESTOS — CANCER AND LUNG DISEASE HAZARD AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY — RESPIRATORY AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING ARE REQUIRED IN THIS AREA
 An employer performing work in a regulated area must inform other employers on site of the:



- ① The nature of the work being done ② Regulated area requirements ③ Measures taken to protect on-site employees

The contractor creating or controlling the source of asbestos contamination must abate the hazards. All employers with employees working near regulated areas must each day assess the enclosure's integrity or the effectiveness of control methods to prevent airborne asbestos from migrating.

Respirators —All personnel are required to wear an approved respirator when performing tasks that result in asbestos exposure that exceeds the permissible exposure limit (PEL). **Disposable respirators or dust masks are not permitted for asbestos work.**

Protective Clothing — Protective clothing is required in work areas where asbestos fiber concentrations exceed the permissible exposure limit (PEL).

Disposal Procedures and Cleanup — Wastes that are generated by processes where asbestos is present include:

- Empty asbestos shipping containers.
- Process wastes such as cuttings, trimmings, or reject materials.
- Housekeeping waste from wet-sweeping or HEPA-vacuuming.
- Asbestos fireproofing, insulating material, or other building products removed during building renovation or demolition.
- Contaminated protective clothing.

General training requirements —Training must be provided for all employees installing and handling asbestos-containing products. Training courses must be easily understandable to employees and must inform them of the following:

- Ways to recognize asbestos.
- Adverse health effects of asbestos exposure.
- Operations that could result in asbestos exposure and the importance of protective controls to minimize exposure.
- The purpose, proper use, and fitting instruction of respirators.
- The appropriate work practices for performing asbestos jobs.
- Medical surveillance program requirements.
- The contents of the OSHA asbestos standard.
- The names, addresses, and phone numbers of public health organizations that provide information and material or conduct smoking-cessation programs.
- Required signs and labels and their meanings.



Access to information — employers are required to keep records of exposures and medical examinations. These exposure records must be kept for at least thirty (30) years. Employers are required to release exposure and medical records to an employee's physician upon written request.

Conclusion: Asbestos is a respiratory hazard when proper safety measures are not implemented. All personnel must be trained and safety requirements must be adhered to. The OSHA regulations on asbestos are extensive and cannot possibly be comprehensively covered in this meeting. If one works in demolition and renovation where asbestos is encountered on a regular basis, it is prudent to get a complete copy of the OSHA regulations. Following these guidelines will help maintain safe asbestos handling operations.



Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.