

ASBESTOS ABATEMENT

DISCUSSION

The Alberta Building Code no longer addresses Asbestos Abatement requirements. Asbestos abatement requirements are now located in the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code administered by Workplace Health and Safety of Alberta Employment and Immigration (AE&I).

AE&I has the requirements related to the management of asbestos at the work site in the OHS Code (<http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/53.html>). Additional guidance on best practices related to asbestos management and abatement can be found in the Alberta Asbestos Abatement Manual, available online at:

<http://employment.alberta.ca/SFW/2988.html>

Fire safety and protection of the public during construction, alteration, or demolition of buildings will remain under the jurisdiction of the safety codes officers employed by the authority having jurisdiction. Exiting, fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, hose and standpipe systems, and ventilation systems must remain operational for portions of the building that are to be occupied during an asbestos abatement project. Replacement materials that will provide for the fire protection of building structural members also remain an item to be assessed by the safety codes officer. However, the health and safety for workers involved with asbestos abatement projects is under the jurisdiction of AE&I.

The safety codes officer needs to confirm that any asbestos-containing materials have been dealt with by the owner of the building prior to issuing a renovation or demolition permit (contact with AE&I may be necessary to confirm this has been completed).

With the transfer of responsibility for asbestos abatement related requirements to Workplace Health and Safety, a safety codes officer that suspects construction or demolition is proceeding in a manner that would constitute an unsafe condition by possibly exposing building occupants to asbestos fibres is expected to take appropriate action.

For an asbestos abatement project, OHS legislation includes requirements for notification of project start-up.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the Alberta Building Code 2006.

SUBMIT AN ASBESTOS PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Occupational Health and Safety legislation requires anyone beginning an asbestos project to notify Workplace Health and Safety at least 72 hours before workers may be exposed to airborne fibres. This includes set-up operations that may release asbestos fibres. An asbestos project that would require notification involves the abatement of asbestos or the demolition or the renovation of a building or equipment containing asbestos.

To notify Workplace Health and Safety of an asbestos abatement project:

- Download and complete the Asbestos Project Notification Form

http://employment.alberta.ca/documents/WHS/WHS-PUB_whs3910.pdf

- Return the form to the Workplace Health and Safety Contact Centre
Email: whs@gov.ab.ca
Fax: 780-422-3730

For information on asbestos projects and notification requirements, phone the WHS Contact Centre at the numbers.

1-866-415-8690 (Toll-free within Alberta)
780-415-8690 (Edmonton and surrounding area)

Deaf/hard of hearing with TDD/TTY:
780-427-9999 in Edmonton
1-800-232-7215 throughout Alberta

CODE REFERENCES

Article 1.2.2.4. of Division A states:

1.2.2.4. Asbestos

- 1) Except as permitted by Sentence (2), no person shall install any product that has a potential for releasing asbestos fibres in a *building*.
- 2) Asbestos-cement board and asbestos-cement pipe may be used in a *building* but not in a supply or return air system.