

Asbestos Exposure Control Plan (ECP) Entry into a construction site with a building built prior to 1990

NOTE: City of Victoria employees entering building for inspection or regulatory purpose(s) are entering a site for which either:

- The owner must provide and maintain the owner's land and premises that are being used as a workplace in a manner that ensures the health and safety of persons at or near the workplace, or
- The prime contractor on a multiple-employer workplace must (a) ensure that the activities of employers, workers and other persons at the workplace relating to occupational health and safety are coordinated, and (b) do everything that is reasonably practicable to establish and maintain a system or process that will ensure compliance with the Workers Compensation Act and OHS Regulation.

Work procedures established by the owner, prime contractor or contractor for working with and around asbestos-containing materials should protect City of Victoria workers and all other workers on site. This ECP has been developed to provide additional protection if these work procedures are either insufficient or not followed.

Demolition and renovation activities conducted without proper controls in buildings built prior to 1990 can release asbestos fibres into the air. Breathing in asbestos fibres can cause asbestosis (a serious lung disease characterized by scarring and thickening of the lungs), mesothelioma, and other lung cancers. These diseases can result in death.

Health Hazards of asbestos

- Asbestos is a hazardous material. Its fibres are extremely fine and can remain suspended in the air for hours. Workers exposed to asbestos-contaminated air can inhale the fibres. If handled without precautions, such as appropriate respiratory protection, asbestos may cause serious chronic health problems or even death.
- Asbestosis is a chronic lung disease resulting from prolonged exposure to asbestos dust. The fibres gradually cause the lungs to become scarred and stiff, making breathing difficult.
- Asbestos fibres in the lungs may cause lung cancer. Smoking tobacco in combination with inhaling asbestos greatly increases the risk of developing lung cancer.
- Mesothelioma is a rare, rapidly progressing, malignant form of cancer affecting the lining of the chest or the abdominal cavity. There is a strong link between asbestos exposure and mesothelioma.

- Due to the relationship between asbestos exposure and cancer, exposure to asbestos fibres must be kept as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).

Purpose and responsibilities:

The City of Victoria has a duty to protect our workers from exposure to asbestos fibres when asbestos-containing materials are disturbed.

A combination of control measures will be required to achieve this objective. We commit to being diligent in our efforts to select the most effective control technologies available, and to ensure that the best practices, as described in this ECP, are followed at our worksites.

The employer is responsible for the following:

- Ensuring that the materials (i.e., tools, equipment, personal protective equipment) and other resources (i.e., worker training) required to fully implement and maintain this exposure control plan (ECP) are readily available where and when they are required.
- Conducting a periodic review (at least annually) of the effectiveness of the ECP. This includes a review of available asbestos control technologies to ensure these are selected and used when practical.
- Ensuring that all required tools, equipment, and personal protective equipment (PPE) are readily available and used as required by the ECP.
- Ensuring that supervisors and workers are educated and trained to an acceptable level of competency.
- Maintaining records of training, fit-test results, crew talks, and inspections (e.g., of equipment, PPE, and work methods/practices).
- Initiating immediate investigations into incidents/accidents and reporting these to WorkSafeBC.
- **Work with the owner or qualified coordinator (as appointed by the Prime Contractor, if one has been designated) to ensure the coordination of health and safety activities for the worksite.**

The Asbestos Management Team (as outlined in our Asbestos Program) is responsible for:

- Administering the overall program, including the maintenance of records
- Reviewing the program on an annual basis with the joint health and safety committee

Supervisors are responsible for the following:

- Providing adequate instruction to workers on the hazards associated with inspection activities in buildings built prior to 1990.
- Selecting and implementing the appropriate control measures.
- Ensuring that workers using respirators have been properly trained and fit-tested, and that the results are recorded.

- Ensuring that work is conducted in a manner that minimizes and adequately controls the risk to workers and others. This includes ensuring that workers use appropriate controls and wear the necessary PPE.

Workers are responsible for the following:

- Participating in all required health and safety education and training.
- Using the assigned protective equipment in an effective and safe manner.
- Following established work procedures as directed by the supervisor.
- Reporting any unsafe conditions or acts to the supervisor.
- Reporting to the employer any exposure incidents or any signs or symptoms of asbestos exposure.

Hazard identification and risk assessment

- Asbestos is a fibrous mineral that's very tough and resistant to chemicals and heat. Up until 1990, it was regularly used in a large number of building products, including ceiling texture, drywall mud, flooring, and attic insulation. If these materials are disturbed (such as when they are drilled, sawed, sanded, or broken up during renovations or demolition), workers can breathe in asbestos fibres. If people breathe in enough asbestos fibres, their lungs can suffer damage, making breathing very difficult and potentially resulting in cancer and death.
- Construction activities can disturb asbestos containing materials.

Exposure limit

- The 8-hour occupational exposure limit (EL) for asbestos (all forms) is 0.1 fibres per millilitre (fibres/cc).
- As asbestos exposure is linked to lung cancer, the ALARA principle also applies, and workplace exposures must be reduced to levels ***as low as reasonably achievable***.

Control of asbestos fibres

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation requires employers to select asbestos controls based on the following hierarchy:

1. Engineering controls (for example, local exhaust ventilation using a HEPA vacuum)
2. Administrative controls (for example, cutting when other workers are not in the area)
3. Personal protective equipment (for example, respirators and disposable coveralls)

Acceptable control methods for entering a construction site with a building built prior to 1990

- The work methods that appear in the table below are acceptable, provided that the respirator selection and other controls are adhered to.
- The control options below will be used to eliminate or reduce the risk to workers from the hazards of exposure to asbestos fibres.

Work activity	Dust suppression	Other controls	Personal protective equipment
Entry into a construction site with a building built prior to 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request a copy of the building's pre-renovation or pre-demolition asbestos survey report Review the report to understand what ACMs are present If the report is not available, assume everything that is not wood, glass (including fibreglass) or steel is suspect ACM. Refer to WorkSafeBC publication for residential buildings. 	<p>Based on survey report and information provided by owner/Prime Contractor, either:</p> <p>Enter site without PPE, Enter site donning PPE,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half-face respirator with P100 series (HEPA) filters Optional disposable coveralls (e.g., Tyvek type) <p>Refuse to enter the site</p>

Respiratory protective equipment

- Each worker will be fit-tested if a respirator is required.
- If a worker is required to wear a respirator that requires an effective seal with the face for proper functioning, the worker must be clean-shaven where the respirator seals with the face.
- When the worker notices a notable resistance to breathing, the respirator filters must be replaced.
- Respirators will be used, cleaned, and stored in accordance with the respiratory protection program.

Annual review

- This ECP will be reviewed at least annually and updated as necessary by the employer, in consultation with the joint health and safety committee.