

# DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

## CHIEF DIRECTORATE: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

PRETORIA

### OHS DIRECTIVE :

Chief Directors Provincial Operations:

Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, North-West, Free-State, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, Northern Cape and Kwa Zulu-Natal.

**ATTENTION: CHIEF DIRECTORS PROVINCIAL OPERATIONS  
INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT SERVICES**

### OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT, 85 of 1993. ASBESTOS REGULATIONS 2002.

**Withdrawal of the 2009 Memo, re; Department of Labour's explanatory notes on the interpretation of the definition of demolition work.**

1. The Department of Labour endeavours to support sustainable economic growth through safe employment. In an effort to achieve this, the Chief Directorate Occupational Health and Safety will clarify the following matters related to asbestos work. This is also done in preparation of the promulgation of the newly reviewed Asbestos Regulations.
2. The Departmental Memo dated 25 November 2009 titled: *Asbestos Contractors and Asbestos Approved Inspection Authorities* is herewith withdrawn. Until the newly reviewed Asbestos Regulations are promulgated by the Minister, the following measures should be implemented in the asbestos sector when asbestos and asbestos materials are handled.
3. Moving forward, asbestos work will be regulated within the following parameters:  
  
Removal of asbestos insulation material – where asbestos insulation materials such as insulation ropes or sprayed-on asbestos insulation are removed for disposal, the services of a Registered Asbestos Contractor (RAC) must be used. Registration of contractors are

facilitated at Department of Employment and Labour's Head Office in Pretoria. A registration certificate, valid for 3 year will be issued to the contractor.

Removal / dismantling of asbestos containing cement material – Where asbestos containing cement products such as roof sheets or wall partitions are removed intact (without any breakage) the services of a Registered Asbestos Contractor is not needed.

4. An Employer undertaking **removal of asbestos containing cement products, intact** shall:
  - Develop a comprehensive risk assessment.
  - All employees likely to be exposed to asbestos are trained in accordance with regulation 5 of the Asbestos Regulations, 2002.
  - Medical surveillance is performed for employees likely to be exposed to asbestos, in accordance with regulation 9 of the Asbestos Regulations, 2002.
  - Develop and implement a "Safe Operating Procedure" (SOP) to remove asbestos products, intact.
  - Notification of asbestos to the relevant Provincial Office of the Department of Employment and Labour, 14 days prior to commencement of work, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Asbestos Regulations, 2002.
  - Air monitoring conducted by an AIA – where the risk assessment indicates.
  - Ensure asbestos waste is transported and disposed of safely in accordance to regulation 20 of the Asbestos Regulations, 2002.
  
5. **Removal of asbestos insulation material shall only be conducted by a RAC, and the RAC shall ensure that:**
  - A comprehensive risk assessment is performed.
  - All employees likely to be exposed to asbestos are trained in accordance with regulation 5 of the Asbestos Regulations 2002.
  - Medical surveillance are performed for employees likely to be exposed to asbestos, in accordance with regulation 9 of the Asbestos Regulations 2002
  - Development of a "plan of work" (POW) for the removal project, approved by an AIA.
  - Develop and implements a "Safe Operating Procedure" (SOP).
  - Notification of asbestos work is provided to the Provincial Office of the Department of Employment and Labour, 14 days prior to commencement of work, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Asbestos Regulations, 2002.
  - Air monitoring / personal sampling is conducted by an AIA as the risk assessment indicates.
  - Transport and disposal of asbestos waste is safely and in accordance to regulation 20 of the Asbestos Regulations, 2002.



# labour

Department:  
Labour  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Definitions:

**AIA:** Approved inspection authority with asbestos as part of their scope of work.

**Asbestos work:** means work that exposes or is likely to expose a person to asbestos.

**Asbestos cement material:** means a range of building materials that were manufactured using moulding and consists of a hardened mixture of asbestos fibres, cement and water.

**Asbestos insulation material:** means any material containing asbestos which is used for thermal, acoustic or other insulation purposes, including fire protection.

**Demolition:** includes demolition, alteration, stripping, removing, repair, gleaning of any split asbestos, or high-pressure water jetting and any structure containing asbestos lagging or insulation, but does not include work performed on asbestos cement sheeting and related products and asbestos cement products that form part of the structure of a workplace, building, plant or premises.

**RAC:** Registered Asbestos Contractor with a valid registration certificate.

Signed by: Mr. T Szana

Chief Inspector

Date:

17/7/2019