



## Policy

Saskatoon & Area - Occupational Health & Safety

**Number:** 53-002

**Title:** Physical Hazard: Asbestos

**Saskatchewan Employment Act:**

**OHS Regulation:** 23-1, 23-16

**Date:** January 1, 2017

**Date Revised/Reaffirmed:** December 2, 2021

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### Purpose

To ensure that workers who are likely to be employed in an asbestos process or are likely to be exposed to asbestos are informed of the health risks and trained and educated on how to protect themselves from exposure to asbestos

### Definition

- **“Asbestos”** is the fibrous form of crocidolite, amosite, chrysotile, anthophyllite, actinolite, tremolite or a mixture containing any of those minerals.
- **“Asbestos dust”** is any dust that consists of or contains asbestos fibres that are likely to become airborne
- **“Asbestos Process”** means any activity that may release asbestos dust, and includes:
  - The sawing, cutting or sanding of asbestos containing material
  - The repair, maintenance, replacement or removal of asbestos materials
  - The mixing or application of asbestos shorts, cements, grouts, putties or similar compounds
  - The storing or conveyance of materials containing asbestos
  - The demolition of structures containing asbestos

### Roles and Responsibilities

Employer must ensure:

- That Facilities Management (FM) is responsible for all SHR processes related to asbestos and completes the work according to OHS Regulations
- All areas with asbestos are to be marked and that the materials containing asbestos be clearly labeled and contain a warning of the danger to the health of workers
- Keep a written record of asbestos containing materials or any material likely to contain asbestos
- The identification of asbestos containing material or the determination of asbestos free materials is completed by a competent person
- All asbestos containing materials or surfaces are inspected annually
- The written record for each asbestos containing material includes its location, its characteristics and its accessibility

- The written record is updated when asbestos containing material is added to or removed from the place of employment
- All relevant information from the written record is provided to contractors and self-employed persons who may be at risk from exposure to asbestos
- Every asbestos surface is kept in good condition
- Removal of asbestos where possible and avoid any new installation or use
- Warnings are displayed indicating asbestos work is in process
- All waste that may contain asbestos is placed in appropriate receptacles that are clearly labelled

Manager/Supervisor must ensure:

- Workers are informed of the risk to their health if they are likely to be exposed to asbestos dust
- There are written safe work procedures in regards to working with asbestos
- Workers are trained in and follow the safe work procedures
- Workers are educated in the health risks associated with working with asbestos
- Workers are offered a medical exam at least once every two years
- That workers involved in asbestos processes must be provided with and wear approved respirators and approved protective clothing
- That Facilities Management (FM) is contacted before any work that may affect asbestos materials to ensure compliance with the FM Asbestos Management Program
- Workers are trained in the use, care and storage of PPE

Worker must ensure:

- They are trained and understand the safe work procedures
- They are trained in any PPE required (care, use and storage)
- They use the provided PPE
- They report to their supervisor and the Safety Alert System/Incident Report Line any incidents or near misses involving asbestos

### **Orientation & Training**

- Training in all policies and procedures related to asbestos
- Training on use and care of appropriate PPE

### **Materials**

- Appropriate PPE if required

**Non-Compliance/Breach:**

Non-compliance with this policy will result in a review of the incident. A review for non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or privileges; fines and /or prosecution of individuals under the Saskatchewan Employment Act and OHS Regulations.

**References**

- [Saskatchewan Asbestos Registry](#)

## Review Dates:

January 1, 2017

May 15, 2018

December 2, 2021