



# ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT



To be truly effective, health and safety has to be an everyday process supported by all as an integral part of workplace culture.

*Health + Safety Executive, The UK national independent watchdog for work-related health, safety and illness.*

Every business, no matter how small or large, has a legal and moral responsibility to care for the health and safety of their workforce and to ensure that they go home safe at the end of the working day.

Australia has the second-highest rate of mesothelioma deaths (a rare cancer caused by asbestos exposure) in the world. This is attributed to the fact that we had the highest per capita rate of asbestos use in the world between 1950s-1970s. As a result, asbestos or ACM (Asbestos Containing Material) is now highly regulated in Australia and a person with "management or control" of a workplace must ensure asbestos at the workplace is identified, recorded in a register and subject to an asbestos management plan.

As a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) you have these key responsibilities:

- Use a competent person to conduct an Asbestos Audit to identify all asbestos/ACM
- Clearly label the location + presence of all ACM at the workplace
- Ensure an asbestos register is prepared, maintained, reviewed and kept at the workplace
- Develop an Asbestos Management Plan and review it at least every 5 years
- Control the risk of exposure for all employees
- Ensure suitable + adequate training is provided

All workplaces must have a current asbestos register readily available on request. However, other requirements vary as asbestos is regulated by the states and territories. This can make your life very difficult if you don't keep on top of all the variations and any changes/updates that occur. Did you know that directors can be personally liable for breaches of the regulations with penalties of \$600,000 and/or 5 years imprisonment? Clearly, it makes sense to use the services of an asbestos expert like JTA Safety to ensure that you receive the most up to date advice and guidance.

## Key Messages

- ▶ Asbestos or ACM (Asbestos Containing Material) is highly regulated in Australia
- ▶ Asbestos at your workplace must be identified, recorded in a register and subject to an asbestos management plan
- ▶ Asbestos is regulated by the states and territories
- ▶ Directors can be personally liable for breaches of the regulations
- ▶ JTA Safety has been conducting Asbestos Audits for over 25 years

1



## Did you know?

- ▶ In 2010/11, there were 127, 330 serious workers' compensation claims
- ▶ The highest industry incidence rates were recorded by the Transport & Storage, Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing and Manufacturing & Construction industries
- ▶ A typical serious workers' compensation claim involves four weeks absence from work
- ▶ One-quarter of serious claims required 12 or more weeks off work

Key Work Health and Safety Statistics by Safe Work Australia 2013

2

The first step for every organisation is to conduct an Asbestos Audit to identify and register all asbestos/ACM. JTA Safety has been conducting Asbestos Audits for over 25 years. We'll visit your workplace, collect + analyse samples and provide a comprehensive report.

### Your JTA Asbestos Audit Report includes:

- A register of identified asbestos
- A qualitative risk assessment associated with the identified asbestos
- Recommendations to assist in controlling any asbestos exposure risks
- Recommendations to assist in complying with the relevant requirements
- Sample analysis conducted by an independent NATA accredited laboratory

The legal requirement for follow up audits can vary from annually to five yearly depending upon the State.

### Step 2 – An Asbestos Management Plan

Once you have a register in place, it should be integrated within an Asbestos Management Plan which sets out how asbestos/ACM identified at your workplace will be managed. Your JTA Asbestos Management Plan will focus on your key regulatory duties and cover:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Assessment + Control Measures</li> <li>• Asbestos Register Maintenance + Review</li> <li>• Demolition + Refurbishment</li> <li>• Incident Notification</li> <li>• Emergency Procedures</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Monitoring</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Air Monitoring</li> <li>• Asbestos Removal</li> <li>• Prohibitions</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

The highly regulated nature of asbestos necessitates a partner who is always completely up to date with all the regulations and legislation. JTA Safety has extensive experience and a commitment to ongoing research. Our knowledge base covers all aspects of dealing with asbestos and how to manage it properly, safely and in compliance with state legislation.

As part of the services we provide we can inform you when you need another Asbestos Audit, identify when it's necessary to review your Asbestos Register, help you develop and maintain an Asbestos Management Plan, provide a Clearance Certificate or run Asbestos Awareness or Asbestos Removal training.

We believe that a culture of safety is a combination of good sense and good management. JTA Safety's professional and highly experienced Occupational Hygienists and safety consultants will identify potential issues/risks and develop commercially sensible solutions and appropriate safety management systems for you that will drive sustainable business growth.

1300 856 282  
[jtahealthsafetynoise.com.au](http://jtahealthsafetynoise.com.au)



Melbourne . Sydney . Brisbane . Adelaide . Perth . Hobart . Canberra