

Management of asbestos containing materials in department-owned facilities

Background

Asbestos containing building materials were used extensively throughout Queensland between the 1940's and the 1980's. These materials were used in floors, walls, roofs and many other building applications for houses, schools and other types of buildings, both government and non-government.

The department's highest priority is the safety of students and staff at all times.

Asbestos containing materials that are in sound condition do not pose a health risk unless disturbed. For more information about Asbestos, see Dr. Keith Adam's podcasts available from the [department's asbestos advisors](#) page.

Asbestos will continue to be managed in accordance with the [Queensland Government's Asbestos Management Policy for its Assets](#) which incorporates a number of control measures to manage in-situ asbestos containing material. The department's policy and plan for asbestos management is available from the [Asbestos management – policy, plan and guidelines](#) page.

The condition of materials containing asbestos in department-owned facilities is managed through an extensive awareness program as well as QBuild Annual Maintenance Condition Assessments and three-yearly specific asbestos audits.

Any asbestos containing material classified as being in poor condition through these inspections is made safe and programmed for remedial action as required.

Staff – asbestos information and training

Departmental staff play a key role in ensuring that any asbestos containing material (ACM) that is found in department-owned facilities is managed in such a way as to minimise the risk to students, staff and other visitors.

An awareness and understanding of the issues associated with ACM and the department's asbestos management procedures is essential to minimise potential exposure to asbestos at the workplace or learning facility.

Central to the department's staff asbestos awareness strategy is the 'Asbestos Management – Your Role', informing staff of key requirements for all maintenance, installation, refurbishment and construction related works, undertaken in department owned facilities. These key requirements include:

Asbestos management – your role

No WAAP – No work! No way!

- BEMIR Work Area Access Permits (WAAPs) are a 'permit to work'.
- Service providers must possess a current WAAP before commencement of any building related work at the facility.

Clear out before building related work starts

- No students or staff are to be in the area or room while building related work is taking place.
- Asbestos removal work must take place outside of operational hours.

Be asbestos aware, act with care

- Only external service providers are to undertake building related work with assumed or confirmed asbestos containing material.
- Departmental staff are not to undertake building related work with assumed or confirmed asbestos containing material.
- Know your asbestos management team and report any damage, incidents or concerns.

Let the professionals take care of the clean up

- External service providers are responsible for cleaning up after their own building related work.
- Where an asbestos incident including accidental damage has occurred, QBuild (or their nominated contractor) must undertake the repairs and clean.

Responsibilities of schools officers

- Adhere to departmental policies and procedures for the management of ACM.
- Not allowing access to service providers to carry out work unless specifically authorised to do so through receipt of an approved WAAP.
- Ensure that under no circumstances is DoE equipment to be provided to services providers for their use during works.
- Not to undertake any work on assumed or confirmed ACM including make safe repairs.
- Obtain a WAAP before commencing any maintenance activities (see Section 10.10 – routine day-to-day WAAP in the asbestos management plan).

Further information

- [The Asbestos Management Policy, plan and guidelines.](#)
- For further advice regarding asbestos management processes, please discuss with your school Principal or Regional Facilities Manager