

Safety Alert

Issued 2020

Asbestos containing material found in work benches

Asbestos containing material (ACM) can be a risk to the health of our staff, students and community. Maintained appropriately and left undisturbed this risk can be managed.

Recently, an incident that released ACM occurred at a school. A piece of furniture in a technology workshop was being modified. ACM contained and hidden within the furniture was released when staff cut into the panelling. Once this release was identified the room was closed and cleaned. Staff and students involved in the incident were informed of the possible exposure and the incident recorded.



What are the issues / hazards?

- ACM was not identified before the work commenced
- staff and students were potentially exposed to asbestos
- removal and disposal of any ACM containing furniture must be undertaken by QBuild or a service provider with an Asbestos Class A or B removal license
- all work involving ACM must be undertaken by QBuild or a service provider with an Asbestos Class A or B removal licence as described in the [WAAP](#) process.

What should schools do?

- identify any similar objects (furniture built over 20 years ago) and either remove them from the school or mark them as possible ACM and ensure they are treated as ACM
- ensure all possible ACM is recorded in Asbestos Registers (within [BEMIR](#))
- seek explicit written permission of the school principal for modification of any school equipment

Further information is available on the OnePortal [Asbestos Management](#) page.