

South Australia is a signatory to the Asbestos Safety and Eradication's National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management 2019 - 2023

- Improve asbestos awareness to influence behavioural change
- Identification and effective legacy management
- Safe prioritised removal and effective waste management, and
- International collaboration and leadership.

359

concerns raised in relation to asbestos in 2020

Health and Safety Snapshot

2020, SafeWork SA received 5833 asbestos removal notifications, that is a:

- 14% increase in notifications compared to 2019
- 21% increase in friable removals compared to 2016-2019.



Top 5

Reasons for issuing Improvement notices



15% Failure to dispose of asbestos as soon as practicable

12% Failure to review/revise asbestos register prior to commencing demolition/ refurbishment

12% Failure to comply with licence conditions

6% Asbestos management plans

6% Failure to engage an independent licensed asbestos assessor

Top 5

Reasons for issuing Prohibition notices

Risk of exposure to asbestos

22% Failure to review/revise asbestos register prior to commencing demolition/ refurbishment

13% Unlicensed asbestos removal work

11% Worker not fit-tested for negative pressure respirator

11% Health monitoring

Top 5

Reasons for issuing Letters of warning



Unlicensed asbestos 18% removal work

18% Failure to provide 5 days' notice to SafeWork SA

Failure to dispose of asbestos waste as soon as practicable

11% Worker not fit-tested for negative pressure respirator

Licensed asbestos assessor issued clearance certificate with visible asbestos residue remaining

Top 5 Most common complaints

Unsafe removal of asbestos material

13% Risk of exposure to asbestos fibres

12% Risk of dust containing asbestos fibres

Failure to notify persons in the vicinity prior to commencing licensed asbestos removal work 11%

Asbestos not sealed or disposed of as soon as practicable

Asbestos debris found



Examples

Convictions

Unlicensed asbestos removal

A worker was convicted and fined for unlicensed asbestos removal and failing to ensure that appropriate signage alerting public to the presence of asbestos was in place. He received a fine of \$24,000 and the licence was disqualified.

Licence suspensions

2 x Class B asbestos removalists were suspended for 3 months for failing to remove the asbestos safely and competently. Visible asbestos residue was scattered throughout the worksite and in-situ asbestos wasn't identified and removed by the removalist prior to commencing demolition work.

An asbestos assessor was suspended for 3 months for issuing a clearance certificate without undertaking a proper and effective inspection of the asbestos removal area after asbestos removal work had been completed to verify that the area was safe for normal use.

Trades at risk

- Building maintenance workers
- Carpenters
- Demolition workers
- Electricians
- Painters
- Plumbers
- Roofers
- Tilers

Expiations issued

Undertaking class A asbestos removal work without an authorised supervisor \$2160.

Failure to give a copy of the asbestos register to the person undertaking the demolition or refurbishment work \$3600.

Focus for 2021

- Review/revise of asbestos registers prior to demolition or refurbishment work commencing
- Fit-testing for negative pressure respirator use
- Health monitoring
- Adequate supervision
- Independence of licensed asbestos assessors
- Air monitoring and clearance inspections

Codes of Practice

The How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace Code of Practice includes:



- Asbestos prohibitions and exceptions
- Managing risks associated with asbestos and ACM
- · Asbestos registers
- Asbestos management plans
- Naturally occurring asbestos
- Demolition and refurbishment work
- asbestos related work
- Managing exposure to asbestos
- Controlling the risk

The *How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace* Code of Practice includes:



- Licence requirements
- Health monitoring duties
- Training worker
- Respiratory protective equipment
- Prohibited tools and equipment
- Duties for licensed asbestos removal work
- Air-monitoring and clearing inspections
- Controls applicable to all types of asbestos removal
- Removing friable asbestos
- Waste containment and disposal