

Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register

Link to the National Strategic Plan:

Strategy:
Identification

Deliverable:
Review building and infrastructure data to estimate likely presence of ACMs

Outcome:
Estimated total presence of ACMs in the built environment is available

Location:
Victoria, statewide

The issue

On 31 December 2016, the Victorian government established the Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency (VAEA) to plan for the prioritised removal of asbestos from Victorian government-owned buildings.

VAEA's specific functions are to:

- develop the Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register to record the location and condition of asbestos in relevant buildings
- construct the Victorian Government Asbestos Risk Assessment Model to analyse the risk of exposure to identified asbestos
- produce the Schedule for the Prioritised Removal of Asbestos to plan for the removal of identified asbestos hazards
- report its recommendations to the Victorian Government.

The agency's first report is due in December 2018. Thereafter VAEA will report annually to the government on the progress of removal. The reporting cycle will ensure a consistent, risk-based approach across government to the assessment, removal and management of ACMs in Victorian Government buildings now and into the future.

Action taken

In its first six months of operation, VAEA has established its governance and management systems, developed protocols to support its functions and operation, and worked collaboratively with over 400 government departments, agencies and public sector bodies to:

- provide stakeholders with clear advice and ongoing information about its work
- design the Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register

- standardise ACMs related terminology to ensure consistency in the data collected on the type, condition and location of ACMs
- tailor building data from state asset registers to each portfolio.

Having commenced data collection across the Victorian public sector, the agency is now developing its risk assessment methodology.

Results

The Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register will improve how the government identifies and manages ACMs. By building upon information already contained in workplace asbestos registers, this centralised register will:

- furnish the government with a sector-wide understanding of the presence and condition of ACMs in government buildings
- inform the agency's risk-based approach to its analysis of building data
- underpin a plan for prioritised asbestos removal that will minimise asbestos risks by targeting hazardous asbestos.

Outcomes

With the development of the Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register, the VAEA has devised the tools it needs to implement and deliver on phase one of its project.

Next steps

For the remainder of 2017, the agency will continue collecting available data from public sector bodies and enter that data into the newly established Victorian Government Building Asbestos Register.

In 2018, VAEA will continue to provide input into the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–18 through its work on the Victorian Government Asbestos Risk Assessment Model and the Schedule for the Prioritised Removal of Asbestos.

The agency's removal schedule is aligned to the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency's strategic outcomes and deliverables as VAEA will:

- review the potential risks and benefits of a prioritised removal program to safely remove ACMs in government-owned buildings
- propose practical, evidence-based options to remove ACMs in poor condition
- consider how the asbestos removal infrastructure will be able to meet the requirements of prioritised removal and the future needs/demands of ageing ACMs without creating increased risk
- estimate the realistic capacity and achievable rate for the safe removal of ACMs.

By the time VAEA reports to the Minister for Finance in December 2018, it will have supported the Victorian government's commitment to the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014–18 by meeting five deliverables and six outcomes within two key strategies.

