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Welcome to Track 5: Safe Prioritised Removal & Effective Waste Management

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Mandatory Training around identification: can it work?

Jo Morris

Operations Manager, Reflections

Bob Taylor

CEO, E-Oz Energy Skills Australia

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Mandatory Training Around Identification – Can it Work?

Jo Morris
Reflections



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reflections
Reducing the Impact of Asbestos

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Mandatory Training Around Identification—Can it Work?

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E-Oz Energy Skills Australia





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Mandatory in the ACT

ACT workers who are likely to encounter materials containing asbestos are now required to complete training on how to handle asbestos safely. This course is in addition to the mandated 10675NAT – Course in Asbestos Awareness that came into effect in the ACT on 30 June 2014.

Recent amendments to the [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011](#) mandate that people in occupations that are likely to work with asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) must complete an approved training course in working safely with asbestos. (10559NAT Working Safely with Asbestos Containing Materials).

The amendments will not broaden the range of people who can work with ACMs, but instead will ensure those who are already able to carry out minor or routine maintenance work will have the skills and knowledge to be able to do so safely.

The amendments commenced on 1 July 2019.



List of Occupations Mandated in the ACT

- Air-conditioning and Mechanical Services Plumber
- Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic
- Cabler (Data and Telecommunications)
- Electrical or Telecommunications Trades Assistant
- Electrician (General)
- Electrician (Special Class)
- Gasfitter
- Plumber (General)
- Plumber's Assistant
- Telecommunications Technician



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Delivered by licensed RTOs

This course is delivered through a licensed RTO who has undertaken an assessment processes, including assessment of qualification of their trainers.



Course Figures

- 3435 completed*



- 260 enrolled*



*As of 24 October 19



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Thank you.

Bob Taylor

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A review of the WA guidelines for the assessment, remediation and management of asbestos contaminated sites

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Environmental Health Directorate

Department of Health WA

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Asbestos as a soil contaminant

Three separate categories used

- Fibrous asbestos – includes all friable material (whether originally friable or degraded to friable)
- ACM - non-friable for the purposes of WA guidelines
- Asbestos Fines – small debris, fibre bundles and fibres.





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Asbestos as a soil contaminant

- Does not affect environment
- Is not a health issue in soil – only air
- Release of airborne ‘respirable fibres’ depends largely on dust generating activity and presence free fibres throughout the soil.



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Why do we need guidelines for soil?

- The intent of the Guidelines remains the same:
 - to ensure that asbestos soil contamination is identified early and managed properly.
 - Need to record information about site contamination and protect future generations



Ongoing need

- Contamination does occur and we need to be able to respond in a safe and consistent way.
- Need to manage contamination from
 - pre-regulation – legacy issues (brownfield sites)
 - Non-compliance with current regulations
 - Incidents





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The existing guidelines

- Primary reference for site investigations in Western Australia
- Principles used to
 - investigate contamination in C&D Recycling and waste criteria
 - Respond to fires, natural disasters and significant incidence of contamination





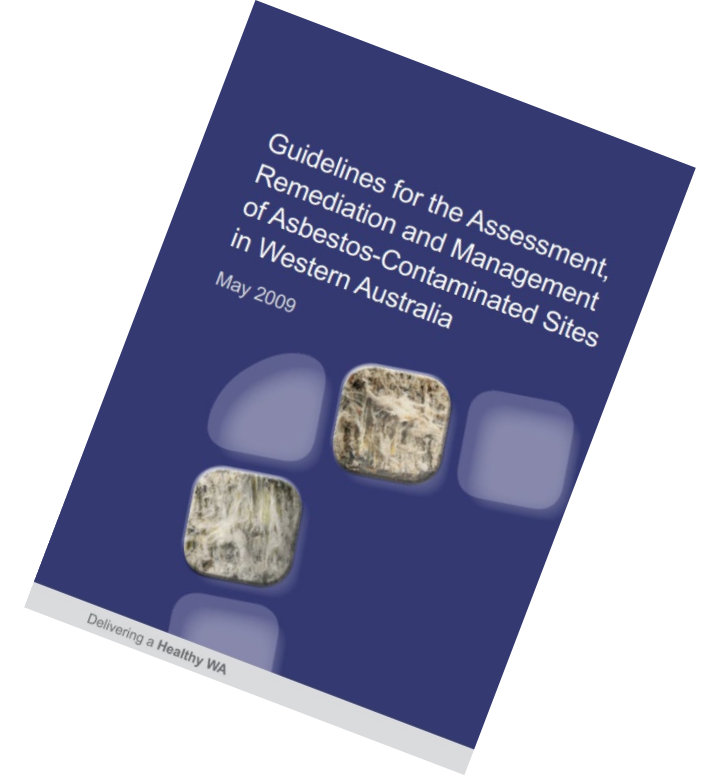
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Why Review?

Why review the existing guidelines

- It has been 10 years since publication
- Evolution over time, with feedback from users
- Improved understanding of asbestos in soil issues
- Experience on what works and what doesn't for remediation and control
- Misinterpretation leading to sometimes overcautious or under managed situations
- Complementary legislation is all being reviewed





What is being updated?

- New chapter on how guidelines fit with existing legislation
- Increased expectation on competency required to assess and manage contamination
 - Increase skills and breadth of knowledge
 - Bring in health or specialist knowledge





What is being updated?

- Clarity regarding site inspection methodology and reporting requirements
 - ACM/FA as the main measure of contamination
- Use and interpretation of laboratory reports
- Tier 2/ health risk assessment
- Increased focus on effective and specific Site Management Plans



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Legislation and competency

Asbestos is a controlled substance, need knowledge of:

- OSH and Health Legislation
- National Codes of Practice
- Range of asbestos products historically used
- Sampling and analytical methodology and limitations





Sampling and assessment

- Conceptual site models and focused sampling plans to aid early decision making and management.
- Site specific assessment, including site specific criteria and health risk assessment.



Supplementary Guidance

Supplementary guidance will be provided for:

- Small-scale or simple surface impacts – low potential exposure
- Immediate Response Actions – high potential exposure
- Response to fires and other natural disasters
- Long term management of parks and reserves





Stakeholder engagement

- Current situation
 - Generic site management plans often without endorsement from clients
- Desired situation
 - Early stakeholder engagement, especially for in situ management that requires controls in perpetuity



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Risk communication

Current situation

- Focus on detection rather than site specific risk

Desired situation

- Site specific information provided on exposure potential for past, current and future users of a site.





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Remediation

Less prescriptive

- Allows innovative approaches and consideration of site specific limitations
- Basic principles regarding containment apply
- Emphasis on need for control measures



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Implications of update

- NEPM
- Uncontaminated fill
- Recycling of C&D Waste
- Landfill/Waste management
- WHS Regulations





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What's next

- Consultation Draft released this month
- Workshops to be held early next year
- Final draft prepared
- Document published online



Conclusions

- Dealing with minor or ‘trivial’ contamination early and effectively using existing legislation rather than through CS Act.
- Greater focus on site specific conditions and exposure assessment.
- Refocus on the need for prioritised and compliant removal of “original” products with an understanding of potential contamination issues.





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Further information or feedback

Environmental Health Directorate

(08) 9222 2000

contaminatedsites@health.wa.gov.au

http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Asbestos-contaminated-sites

- For information on site contamination in general, contact DWER on 1300 762 982 or visit the following website: <http://www.der.wa.gov.au/contaminatedsites>

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Case Study: **Management of asbestos onsite or disposal at landfill: how do we best prevent the risks to health?**

Pamela Lee

Senior Environmental Scientist

Aurora Environmental

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