# ASBESTOS IN THE WORKPLACE

A Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) must not carry out, direct or allow a worker to carry out, work involving asbestos if that work involves manufacturing, supplying, transporting, storing, removing, using, installing, handling, treating, disposing of or disturbing asbestos or Asbestos Containing Material (ACM), except in prescribed circumstances.

If asbestos or ACM is identified in a workplace and demolition or refurbishment work is going to be carried out, the asbestos or ACM must be removed if it is likely to be disturbed before the work starts. If other

maintenance or service work is to be carried out at the workplace, removal of asbestos should be considered as a control measure.

Where removal is not reasonably practicable, other control measures must be implemented to minimise exposure, including encapsulation or sealing.

In addition to the prohibition, there is also a restriction on who can remove asbestos. Asbestos removalists and their workers must be competent to carry out asbestos removal work and, except in limited circumstances, must be licensed. Further details on who can remove asbestos can be found in the WHS Regulations and the Code of Practice: How to Safely Remove Asbestos.

## <http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/SWA/> AboutSafeWorkAustralia/WhatWeDo/Publications/Pages/Safely- Remove-Asbestos-COP.aspx

**WHAT IS AN ASBESTOS REGISTER?**

The asbestos register is a document that lists all identified (or assumed) asbestos in a workplace. The asbestos register must:

* record any asbestos or ACM that has been identified or is likely to be present at the workplace from time to time. This would include: the date on which the asbestos or ACM was identified
* the location, type and condition of the asbestos; or
* state that no asbestos or ACM is identified at the workplace if the person knows that no asbestos or ACM is identified or is likely to be present from time to time at the workplace

A comprehensive asbestos register may also include:

* details of any asbestos assumed to be in the workplace
* results of any analysis that confirms a material at the workplace is or is not asbestos
* dates when the identification was carried out
* details of inaccessible areas

It may also be useful to attach photographs or drawings to visually show the location of the asbestos or ACM in the workplace.

## PROPERTY NAME: ADDRESS: PHONE: FAX:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date of Identification** | **Type of Asbestos** | **Is it Friable or Non- Friable?** | **Condition of Asbestos** | **Specific Location of Asbestos** | **Is this an inaccessible area?** |
| eg 1/2/2011 | Fibro Wall Cladding | Non-friable | Sound condition structurally, paint lifting in some places | Exterior cladding of living quarters | Accessible. Unlikely to be damaged. |
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