

Waterbury Public Schools Asbestos Statement

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires schools to ensure that workers and building occupants or their legal guardians are informed at least once each school year about inspections, response actions, and other activities related to asbestos in the school.

General Information on Asbestos

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that is mined from the earth, and added to certain products including building materials such as floor tiles, piping insulation, plaster, or other building substrates. It was widely used in building materials in the past for its superior insulation properties, fireproofing properties, and the ability it has to strengthen and add longevity to building substrates.

Inhalation of asbestos fibers has been shown to have serious health risks such as Asbestosis, Lung Cancer, and Mesothelioma. These diseases can be a consequence of asbestos exposure, however, symptoms may take many years to develop.

It should be noted that building occupants are only at risk to asbestos exposure when building materials containing asbestos are disturbed or damaged. When materials that contain asbestos are intact, the asbestos fibers remain dormant in the substrate. Damage or disturbance to these materials can cause a release of asbestos fibers that can lead to exposure. For this reason, the condition and locations of known or assumed asbestos containing materials is checked periodically to ensure appropriate response actions to any damage or disturbance to building materials thought to contain asbestos.

Steps that are being taken to protect the health and safety of people in the school

Periodic surveillance of the schools is performed every 6 months to monitor the condition changes of any materials that are known or presumed to contain asbestos. Periodic re-inspections of the schools are performed every 3 years to update the school's management plan concerning the current status of ACM in the schools. Copies of the 6 month Periodic Surveillance reports and 3 year re-inspection reports are available along with the school's Asbestos Management Plan (AMP), which is located in the main office.

Asbestos in the building materials

A comprehensive list of the types and locations of building materials in the school that are known or presumed to contain asbestos is available in the school's Asbestos Management Plan, located in the main office.

Asbestos Management Plan

A written Asbestos Management Plan is available that documents inspection and surveillance activities, known and presumed asbestos containing materials in the building, records of asbestos-related building material disturbances and response activities, and post-response documentation. The Asbestos Management Plan is located in the main office and is available for review by parents, legal guardians, teachers and other school personnel, representatives of EPA, representatives of the State, and the public.

The designated person for the Waterbury school district's AHERA program is John Cross, and he can be contacted by telephone at 203-574-8013, or via email at jcross@waterbury.k12.ct.us

DANGER

ASBESTOS
CANCER AND LUNG
DISEASE HAZARD
AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL ONLY
RESPIRATORS AND
PROTECTIVE
CLOTHING ARE
REQUIRED IN THIS
AREA

OSHA FACT Sheet

Asbestos

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is the name given to a group of naturally occurring minerals used in certain products, such as building materials and vehicle brakes, to resist heat and corrosion. Asbestos includes chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite, tremolite asbestos, anthophyllite asbestos, actinolite asbestos, and any of these materials that have been chemically treated and/or altered.

What are the dangers of asbestos exposure to workers?

The inhalation of asbestos fibers by workers can cause serious diseases of the lungs and other organs that may not appear until years after the exposure has occurred. For instance, asbestosis can cause a buildup of scar-like tissue in the lungs and result in loss of lung function that often progresses to disability and death. Asbestos fibers associated with these health risks are too small to be seen with the naked eye, and smokers are at higher risk of developing some asbestos-related diseases.

Are you being exposed to asbestos?

General industry employees may be exposed to asbestos during the manufacture of asbestos-containing products or when performing brake and clutch repairs. In the construction industry, exposure occurs when workers disturb asbestos-containing materials during the renovation or demolition of buildings. Employees in the maritime environment also may be exposed when renovating or demolishing ships constructed with asbestos-containing materials. In addition, custodial workers may be exposed through contact with deteriorating asbestos-containing materials in buildings.

Are there any OSHA standards that cover workers exposed to asbestos?

Yes. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has the following three standards to protect workers from exposure to asbestos in the workplace:

- 29 *CFR* 1926.1101 covers construction work, including alteration, repair, renovation, and demolition of structures containing asbestos.
- 29 *CFR* 1915.1001 covers asbestos exposure during work in shipyards.
- 29 *CFR* 1910.1001 applies to asbestos exposure in general industry, such as exposure during brake and clutch repair, custodial work, and manufacture of asbestos-containing products.

The standards for the construction and shipyard industries classify the hazards of asbestos work activities and prescribe particular requirements for each classification:

- **Class I** is the most potentially hazardous class of asbestos jobs and involves the removal of thermal system insulation and sprayed-on or troweled-on surfacing asbestos-containing materials or presumed asbestos-containing materials.
- **Class II** includes the removal of other types of asbestos-containing materials that are not thermal system insulation, such as resilient flooring and roofing materials containing asbestos.
- **Class III** focuses on repair and maintenance operations where asbestos-containing or presumed asbestos-containing materials are disturbed.
- **Class IV** pertains to custodial activities where employees clean up asbestos-containing waste and debris.

There are equivalent regulations in states with OSHA-approved state plans.

What are the permissible exposure limits for asbestos?

Employee exposure to asbestos must not exceed 0.1 fiber per cubic centimeter (f/cc) of air, averaged over an 8-hour work shift. Short-term exposure must also be limited to not more than 1 f/cc, averaged over 30 minutes. Rotation of employees to achieve compliance with either permissible exposure limit (PEL) is prohibited.

Are employers required to conduct exposure monitoring?

In construction and shipyard work, unless you are able to demonstrate that employee exposures will be below the PELs (a “negative exposure assessment”), you are generally required to conduct daily monitoring for workers in Class I and II regulated areas. For workers in other operations where exposures are expected to exceed one of the PELs, you must conduct periodic monitoring. In general industry, you must perform initial monitoring for workers who may be exposed above a PEL or above the excursion limit. You must conduct subsequent monitoring at reasonable intervals, and in no case at intervals greater than 6 months for employees exposed above a PEL.

Must employers create regulated areas?

You must create controlled zones known as regulated areas that are designed to protect employees where certain work with asbestos is performed. You must limit access to regulated areas to authorized persons who are wearing appropriate respiratory protection. You must also prohibit eating, smoking, drinking, chewing tobacco or gum, and applying cosmetics in these areas. You must display warning signs at each regulated area. In construction and shipyards, workers must perform Class I, II, and III asbestos work (and all other

operations where asbestos concentrations may exceed a PEL) within regulated areas. In general industry, you must establish regulated areas wherever asbestos concentrations may exceed a PEL.

What compliance methods must employers use to control exposures?

You must control exposures to or below the PELs using engineering controls and work practices to the extent feasible. Where feasible engineering controls and work practices do not ensure worker protection at the exposure limits, you must reduce employee exposures to the lowest levels achievable and then supplement them with respiratory protection to meet the PELs. In construction and shipyards, each work classification has specific control method requirements. In general industry, specific controls are prescribed for brake and clutch repair work. For example, you must prohibit certain practices, such as the use of compressed air, to remove asbestos.

When are employers required to provide respiratory protection for workers?

You must provide and ensure the use of respirators when a PEL is exceeded. In construction and shipyards, you must require workers to use respirators when performing certain work. Generally, the level of exposure determines the type of respirator needed. In addition, the standards specify the type of respirator to be used for certain asbestos work. (See *CFR* 1910.134.) Employees must get respirator training and medical clearance to use respirators.

Are employers required to provide protective clothing for workers?

Yes. For any employee exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos that exceed a PEL, you must provide and require the use of protective clothing such as coveralls or similar full-body clothing, head coverings, gloves, and foot coverings. You must provide face shields, vented goggles, or other appropriate protective equipment wherever the possibility of eye irritation exists and require workers to wear them.

Must employers provide hygiene facilities?

Yes. You must establish decontamination areas and hygiene practices for employees exposed above a PEL. In addition, employees may not smoke in work areas that might expose them to asbestos.

Do OSHA standards require employers to provide training?

Yes. In construction and shipyards, you must provide training for employees exposed above a PEL and for employees involved in each identified work classification. The specific training requirements depend upon the particular class of work being performed. In general

industry, you must provide training to all employees exposed above a PEL. You must also provide asbestos awareness training to employees who perform housekeeping operations covered by the standard. You must place warning labels on all asbestos products, containers, and installed construction materials when feasible.

What are employers required to provide concerning medical examinations?

In construction and shipyards, you must provide medical examinations for workers who, for 30 or more days per year, engage in Class I, II, or III work or experience exposure above a PEL. In general industry, you must provide medical examinations for workers who are exposed above a PEL.

What are the recordkeeping requirements for asbestos exposures?

You must keep accurate records of the following:

- All measurements taken to monitor employee exposure to asbestos—30 years;
- Medical records, including physician's written opinions—duration of the employee's employment plus 30 years; and
- Training records—1 year beyond the last date of employment.

How can you get more information on safety and health?

OSHA has various publications, standards, technical assistance, and compliance tools to help you, and offers extensive assistance through workplace consultation, voluntary protection programs, grants, strategic partnerships, state plans, training, and education. OSHA's *Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines* (*Federal Register* 54:3904-3916, January 26, 1989) detail elements critical to the development of a successful safety and health management system. This and other information are available on OSHA's website.

- For one free copy of OSHA publications, send a self-addressed mailing label to OSHA Publications Office, P.O. Box 37535, Washington, DC 20013-7535; or send a request to our fax at (202) 693-2498, or call us at (202) 693-1888.
- To order OSHA publications online at www.osha.gov, go to **Publications** and follow the instructions for ordering.
- To file a complaint by phone, report an emergency, or get OSHA advice, assistance, or products, contact your nearest OSHA office under the "U.S. Department of Labor" listing in your phone book, or call toll-free at **(800) 321-OSHA (6742)**. The teletypewriter (TTY) number is (877) 889-5627.
- To file a complaint online or obtain more information on OSHA federal and state programs, visit OSHA's website.

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs and standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements or carry the force of legal opinion. For compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to *Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations*. This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone is (202) 693-1999. See also OSHA's website at www.osha.gov.



Consortium of Northeast States

www.epa.gov/asbestos *and* www.nelar.net/cones.aspx



ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS



Information on Compliance with AHERA Requirements for Superintendents of Schools, Headmasters, Directors, Asbestos Inspectors & Management Planners

Contact your state's asbestos program or visit the program's website

Revised May 17, 2007

Ct Dept. of Public Health
www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Asbestos/asbestos_program.htm
(860) 509-7367



Keeping Connecticut Healthy



Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection
www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/asbestos/asbestosinschools.htm
(207)287-7751

MA Division of Occupational Safety
www.mass.gov/dos
(617) 969-7177



NH Dept. of Environmental Services
www.des.nh.gov/ard/asbestos.htm
(603) 271-4555

NJ DH&SS
www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/leadasb
(609)631-6749



New York
www.emsc.nysed.gov/facplan
(518) 474-3906
www.labor.state.ny.us/workerprotection/safetyhealth/dosh_asbestos.shtm
(518)457-1255



RI Dept of Health Asbestos Program
www.health.ri.gov/environment/occupational/asbestos/index.php
(401) 222-3601



VT Dept. of Health
www.healthvermont.gov/enviro/asbestos/asbestos.aspx
800-439-8550



The Consortium of Northeast States (CONES) has developed this guidance to help Local Education Agencies (LEA's) achieve compliance with the **Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools** regulation (**40 CFR Part 763**).

These regulations, in effect since 1986, require that public and not-for-profit non-public, elementary and secondary schools be inspected to determine the presence of asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) and that asbestos management plans be developed as a result of those inspections.

Each of the CONES states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New

York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) has been designated by the Environmental Protection Agency to implement the AHERA program. Contact your state program to find out if your state has any additional requirements for the management of asbestos in schools.

Over the past decade, the CONES states have conducted audits of school asbestos management plans in order to determine regulatory compliance. Several key requirements have been identified during the course of these inspections as critical to ensuring that the school asbestos management plan remains properly updated. The most common items cited for non-compliance are presented below.

Designated Person

THE **LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA)** MUST DESIGNATE A PERSON ("DESIGNATED PERSON") TO ENSURE THAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEA, AS DETAILED IN THE REGULATIONS, ARE PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED.

- *The LEA must verify that this individual has received proper training.* The individual is not required to be a licensed asbestos consultant. There is **no specific training course** for the designated person, however, the EPA has developed a "**Designated Person's Self-Study Guide**" that details specific background knowledge the designated person must have. This document can be downloaded from this link: <http://www.epa.gov/region2/ahera/e23.pdf>
- *The school **asbestos management plan** ("AMP") must include a true and correct statement signed by the Designated Person that certifies that the general responsibilities of the LEA have been or will be met.*
- *In the event that the Designated Person leaves his or her position, the LEA must ensure that a new individual is identified and appropriately trained to serve as the Designated Person.* The newly identified Designated Person must then sign the aforementioned statement of certification.
- *The Designated Person must have a basic knowledge of the health effects of asbestos, the detection, identification and assessment of asbestos-containing material, options for controlling asbestos-containing material, asbestos management programs, and relevant federal and state regulations concerning asbestos.*

Reinspection

THE LEA MUST RETAIN THE SERVICES OF A LICENSED ASBESTOS INSPECTOR OR MANAGEMENT PLANNER TO CONDUCT A REINSPECTION EVERY THREE (3) YEARS SUBSEQUENT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN.

- *Tri-ennial reinspections must include an inspection of each area of every building that is leased, owned, or otherwise used as a school building.*



Written Notification Regarding Availability of the AMP

AT LEAST ONCE EACH SCHOOL YEAR, THE LEA MUST PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION TO PARENT, TEACHER, AND EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF THE ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ANY RESPONSE ACTIONS TAKEN OR PLANNED.



- *This notice must be dated and a copy placed in the AMP.*
- *The AMP must describe the steps taken to notify. Acceptable methods of notification include placing a notice in the school handbook, mailing a letter to each household, or placing an ad in a local paper.*



Periodic Surveillance

THE LEA MUST CONDUCT PERIODIC SURVEILLANCE IN EACH BUILDING THAT IT LEASES, OWNS, OR OTHERWISE USES AS A SCHOOL BUILDING AT LEAST ONCE EVERY SIX (6) MONTHS AFTER THE AMP HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED.



- *The purpose of surveillance is to look at all known or suspect asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) and note any changes in the material.*
- *Periodic surveillance does not need to be conducted by a licensed consultant. It is often conducted by custodial or maintenance personnel.*
- *A copy of the written surveillance form must be part of the AMP records.*



Custodial & Maintenance Training and Short-Term Worker Notification

ALL MAINTENANCE AND CUSTODIAL STAFF WHO MAY WORK IN A BUILDING THAT CONTAINS ASBESTOS-CONTAINING BUILDING MATERIALS (ACBM) MUST RECEIVE AT LEAST TWO (2) HOURS OF ASBESTOS AWARENESS TRAINING WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO WORK WITH ACBM.



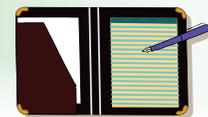
- *Maintenance and custodial staff conducting any activities that will result in the disturbance to ACBM must receive an additional fourteen (14) hours of training.*
- *The LEA must ensure that new custodial and maintenance employees are trained within sixty (60) days after commencement of employment.*
- *The LEA must ensure that short-term workers who may come in contact with asbestos (e.g., utility repair workers) are informed of the location of ACBM.*



Recordkeeping Requirements

THE LEA MUST MAINTAIN RECORDS REQUIRED BY THE REGULATIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN. THIS INCLUDES MAINTAINING:

- *a copy of prior inspection and/or reinspection reports;*
- *documentation related to the training provided to custodial and maintenance employees;*
- *periodic surveillance forms;*
- *dated statements regarding operations and maintenance activities;*
- *a copy of the annual notice of management plan availability;*
- *a copy of all reports on response actions taken; and*
- *a copy of the updated management plan in each school.*



Compliance/Enforcement



THE CONES MEMBER STATES ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO LEAS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS. **While it is the goal of CONES to provide LEAs with assistance in achieving regulatory compliance voluntarily, LEAs that fail to comply with existing regulatory requirements will be subject to enforcement action. Contact your state's Asbestos Program for more information.**