

FACT SHEET • Asbestos Surveys, Abatement Planning and Monitoring

The US EPA's National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP,) in conjunction with various state regulations, requires property owners to conduct a survey and inspection of their buildings prior to conducting any renovation or demolition activities that will potentially impact suspected asbestos containing building materials (ACBM.) The NESHAP standards have been designed to minimize the exposure of the general public to hazardous airborne contaminants such as asbestos.

An asbestos survey is the process during which samples of any suspected ACBM found during a walk-through of the building are collected and submitted to a certified asbestos-analysis laboratory. Depending on the extent of the proposed demolition or renovation work, and whether or not all parts of the building are occupied, more than one site visit may be required to complete the survey.

Following laboratory analysis, a report of the survey findings is prepared, and any building materials that were found to be asbestos containing (containing >1% asbestos by volume) are listed.

Before any renovation or demolition work can begin, both state and federal laws require that all of the identified ACBM that will be disturbed during the work be removed by a licensed abatement contractor. For projects that may be offered for public bidding, the preparation of standard bid specifications will be performed by a licensed asbestos abatement project designer.

The selected abatement contractor must give ten days advance notification to the appropriate state and federal agencies that a project involving asbestos handling is scheduled to begin. However, in emergency

situations, a waiver of the ten-day period may be granted. An application fee based on the amount of asbestos that will be removed is charged by most states, although some public entities such as municipal housing authorities and state agencies, as well as private homeowners, may be exempt.

Following the notification process, the abatement contractor will proceed with asbestos removal activities in accordance with state and federal regulations. As may be required by these regulations, certain areas affected by the abatement can be subject to clearance air sampling or onsite project monitoring requirements. In either case, a state-licensed asbestos project monitor will be onsite to collect air samples or to view the overall quality of the contractor's work practices. Such steps are taken to ensure that airborne asbestos fibers are not released from within the project area, thereby preventing an asbestos exposure hazard to the general public.

Within thirty-five days of completion of the asbestos abatement project, the building owner will receive a copy of the asbestos waste disposal manifest which serves to document that the asbestos materials taken from a particular site actually arrived at a regulated asbestos landfill as the final destination for disposal.



RI Analytical maintains a full-time staff of specialists available to assist clients with their asbestos survey, inspection, site monitoring and project design requirements. In addition, a fully accredited, in-house asbestos analysis laboratory stands ready to support all asbestos-related analytical needs. We would be pleased to discuss your asbestos-related projects at your convenience.