



APPENDIX P. Asbestos Awareness Safety Program SEPTEMBER 2022

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to educate VSC Fire & Security, Inc. (hereinafter "VSC") employees on the hazards presented by exposure to asbestos.

Note: VSC employees are prohibited from working in and around areas where asbestos containing materials are present in a friable condition reduced to smaller particles and from any abatement activities involving either friable or non-friable asbestos.

Regulatory Scope

This procedure addresses regulatory requirements found in 29 CFR 1926 Subpart Z and 29 CFR 1910.12(b).

Asbestos (Definition)

Asbestos is a natural mineral made up of silicon and magnesium. It takes the form of hollow, nearly indestructible, microscopic fibers. Asbestos includes: chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite, tremolite asbestos, anthophyllite asbestos, actinolite asbestos, and any of these minerals that has been chemically treated and/or altered. It also includes Presumed Asbestos Containing Material (PACM) which is thermal system insulation and surfacing material found in buildings constructed no later than 1980. Asbestos-containing material (ACM) is any material containing more than one percent asbestos.

Prior to 1980 Asbestos was commonly used in industrial, commercial and residential buildings, hospitals, ships, and automobiles. The most commonly encountered type of asbestos in Construction Work is Chrysotile and Amosite.

Chrysotile is white asbestos commonly used as insulation, fireproofing and soundproofing.

Amosite is brown asbestos commonly used in applications such as brake shoes and clutches.

Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) can be found in:

- Thermal system insulation (TSI) on pipes & valves, ducts, furnaces and boilers.
- Sprayed-on fireproofing.
- Plaster.
- Roofing mastic and shingles.
- Floor and ceiling tiles and mastic.
- High-temperature gaskets and seals.
- Disc brake pads and brake shoes.

Hazards

When asbestos fibers remain bonded together, it poses little or no hazard. This is called "non-friable asbestos". However, when asbestos fibers are released from their matrix (bonding material) these fibers can break down into microscopic "fibrils". This is known as "friable asbestos".

When inhaled these fibers can enter the lungs and lodge in the alveoli (air sacs) leaving scar tissue, which restricts the penetration of oxygen into the blood. This condition is called asbestosis. Asbestos fibers can migrate into the pleura (lining of the lungs) and cause malignant mesothelioma (a rare form of cancer).

Procedures to Follow When Working Around Asbestos

The host facility is required to identify all areas where ACM is present. However, should VSC employees suspect that they are working around unidentified ACM, they should immediately *cease all work in that area* and contact their manager and VSC's Safety Department (hereinafter "Safety") for further direction.

Note: Older buildings and their infrastructure may contain asbestos or component parts that contain asbestos. When working in and around these buildings, caution must be taken to identify ACM before work begins at the jobsite. Prior to the start of a project at this type of jobsite the property owner or manager should be questioned as to the existence of any asbestos or asbestos containing material. All precautions must be implemented to avoid contact with friable asbestos.

Of specific concern for VSC employees is work involving older fire protection systems. The flange connections of these older systems may contain asbestos gaskets. As part of the site specific safety plan, a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) must be performed to identify proper removal, handling, and disposal of these gaskets, prior to performing the work at the jobsite. The procedures identified for the removal and disposal of ACM must be included in the required site specific environmental program.

Also of concern for VSC employees is caulking used for fire proofing in wall penetrations. In older structures this caulking may contain asbestos. Aging caulk may become friable, releasing fibers into the atmosphere, which can pose a serious health risk. VSC employees are NEVER to remove this type of caulking. The owner must be immediately notified and direct the abatement of the ACM to a professional abatement service company.

Working Around non-Friable Asbestos

Working around non-friable asbestos containing material can be performed safely by understanding the rules and following these safe working practices:

- DO NOT work around ACM whose matrix renders it friable! If you suspect that you are working around friable asbestos, immediately stop working in that area and contact your manager and Safety.
- DO NOT cut, drill, pull on, tear away, or otherwise disturb ACM that remains bonded together as this activity can render the asbestos friable, creating a work place hazard!
- DO NOT dust, sweep or vacuum debris that contains asbestos.
- Follow all safety rules and precautions when working in areas that are posted with Asbestos warning signs. If in doubt on how to work in these areas, immediately contact your manager.

NOTE: Where the property owner, manager or general contractor has removed asbestos from the site prior to VSC beginning its work on the property, to comply with federal and environmental standards, VSC will need to request the letter of abatement or other relevant documentation verifying no exposure remains on the property.

