
Approved method for managing risks associated with asbestos when transporting buildings

Background

The Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016 (the regulations) impose requirements on PCBUs and others in relation to the carrying out of work involving asbestos. The regulations prohibit PCBUs from carrying out work involving asbestos, or from directing or allowing a worker to carry out work involving asbestos, unless the work is of a type described in regulation 7(2) of the regulations, or the work is carried out in accordance with a method approved by WorkSafe New Zealand.

Under regulation 8(1) of the regulations, WorkSafe New Zealand approves this method for work involving asbestos in the transportation of a building.

Commencement

This approved method comes into force on 4 April 2016.

Definitions

(1) In this approved method –

Act means the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

building means a structure intended for occupation by people, animals, machinery or chattels

regulations means the Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016

(2) Terms and expressions used and not defined in this approved method but defined in the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 or the regulations have the same meaning as in the Act or regulations, as the case may be.

Requirements of the approved method

(1) A PCBU who carries out building transportation must ensure that:

- (a) before transportation, any known or presumed ACMs (asbestos containing materials) are identified and recorded, and that this record is provided to all PCBUs and workers carrying out the work to which this approved method applies; and
- (b) all known or presumed ACMs that are likely to be damaged or disturbed during the transportation are removed before transportation, so far as is reasonably practicable; and

- (c) all asbestos removal work is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Act and regulations; and
 - (d) any damaged components of the building that are known or presumed ACMs are secured so that during transportation no asbestos fibres are released, as far as is reasonably practicable. For example, damaged ACMs such as sheeting or cladding must be supported, sealed or removed; and
 - (e) if transportation takes more than one day, the building is inspected for any possible damage whenever it is parked; and
 - (f) if inspection indicates that the building has been damaged and there is a risk of asbestos fibres being released, that the ACMs are re-secured in accordance with paragraph (d); and
 - (g) if transportation occurs off-road or over uneven surfaces that are likely to loosen ACMs, that inspection and controls are carried out at a frequency to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that no asbestos fibres are released; and
 - (h) the building is inspected to check whether it has been damaged once it reaches its intended site.
- (2) A PCBU who carries out building transportation must be prepared to immediately respond to and resolve any event which could reasonably occur that may result in the release of asbestos fibres.
- (3) A PCBU who carries out building transportation must ensure that ACM that has been dislodged from the building during transportation is not re-installed.

Act and regulations to apply

To avoid doubt, a PCBU must comply with all relevant requirements of the Act and the regulations when carrying out, or directing or allowing a worker to carry out, work to which this approved method applies, whether or not those requirements are referred to in this approved method. This includes, for example, requirements relating to demolition or refurbishment of a structure set out in subpart 4 of Part 4 of the regulations.

DATED at Wellington this 21 day of March 2016



Gordon MacDonald
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