



Asbestos Management

Introduction

The Church recognises and is committed to their obligation to ensure the health and safety of all workers whilst they are engaged in Church activities. The commitment extends to ensuring structures containing asbestos or asbestos containing materials (ACM) are safe.

Purpose

To clearly outline the process identifying, labelling and managing asbestos with the Diocesan structures.

Legislative Requirements

WHS Act 2011 (QLD) - [Work Health and Safety Act 2011 - Queensland Legislation - Queensland Government](#)

WHS Regulations 2011 (QLD) - [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 \(legislation.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Worksafe Qld - How to Safely Remove Asbestos Code of Practice 2011 - [How to safely remove asbestos Code of Practice 2021 \(worksafe.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Worksafe Qld - How to Manage and Control Asbestos within the Workplace Code of Practice 2011 Procedure - [How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace Code of Practice 2021 \(worksafe.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Procedure

Stage 1

Identifying if asbestos and ACM are at the workplace by reviewing the Asbestos Management Plan for each site – available from Church Head Office.

Step 1

Asbestos must be identified within that workplace by a competent person unless it is assumed that asbestos is present or there are reasonable grounds for asbestos not to be present.

A competent person is someone who has acquired knowledge and skills to carry out the task through training, a qualification or experience such as an occupational hygienist, licensed asbestos assessor or asbestos removal supervisors. As site staff/ volunteers are not qualified to conduct any work related to asbestos, the Church policy is to engage a qualified specialist.

If a competent person cannot identify asbestos or ACM but believes it is present then it must be assumed that it is present. Additionally, if the workplace is inaccessible and is likely to contain asbestos or ACM then it must be assumed that it does.

Reasonable grounds for assuming that asbestos or ACM are not present include:

- Workplace constructed post 1990 and there is no plant or equipment made prior to 2004
- Pre 2004 building where the building is constructed entirely of brick, metal or concrete and the internal walls are not made of fibro, gyprock, or similar cladding.



- Register indicates that identified and assumed asbestos has been removed.

Stage 2

Indicating the presence of asbestos at the workplace

Step 2

Asbestos that has been identified or is assumed to be present must be clearly indicated through use of labels or warning signs.

A competent person should indicate where label should be located. If it is not reasonably practicable to use labels, due to risk of asbestos disturbance, then warning signs can be used. Warning signs must comply with Australian Standard *AS1319 Safety Signs for the Occupational Environment* and placed at the entrance of the work area.

Stage 3

Asbestos Management Plans

Step 3

A Church wide asbestos register has been developed and maintained by Church head Office.

The register outlines the following:

- Record of asbestos or ACM identified or likely to be present at the workplace, including the date in which it was identified, location, type and condition of asbestos.
- State that no asbestos or ACM is identified or is likely to be present at the workplace.

The Asbestos Management Plans are reviewed every five years or when there are changes to the buildings, plant and structures.

The Asbestos Management Plans are readily available to workers, health and safety representatives and contractors that have carried out or intend to carry out work at Church workplaces through Church Head Office.

Stage 4

Asbestos Management Plans

Step 4

Asbestos Management Plans have been developed and are maintained by the WHS/ Asbestos Management Team from Church head office

The Asbestos Management Plan outlines the following:

- Identification of asbestos and ACM with links to the register and location of signs and labels
- Decisions about the reasons for the management of asbestos
- Procedures for notifying incidents involving asbestos
- Workers carrying out work involving asbestos including consultation training and information requirements and responsibilities
- How asbestos risks will be controlled
- Timetable for managing risks
- Responsibilities
- Plan review
- Air monitoring procedures if required



The plan must be reviewed when:

- Asbestos is removed, disturbed, sealed or enclosed at the workplace
- The plan is no longer adequate, or
- At least every five years.

The plan must be readily available to workers, health and safety representatives and contractors that have carried out or intend to carry out work at Church premises.

If Asbestos is removed from a church building, the licensed contractor who does the removal must supply a Certificate of Removal of Asbestos to the Presbytery/ Charge/ Committee for retention with the Asbestos Management Plan and forwarded to Church office for retention.