those necessary to perform the response action.

2. Shut off or temporarily modify the air-handling system to prevent the distribution of fibers to other areas in the building.
3. Contract with an environmental consultant to evaluate the situation.
4. Contract with a Michigan Asbestos Abatement Contractor to remove the debris.

A licensed asbestos abatement contractor is performing asbestos abatement. What responsibilities does the General Contractor/ Project Manager have with the asbestos abatement project?

Part 602, paragraph (d)(5) specifically states,

> "All general contractors on a construction project which includes work covered by this standard shall be deemed to exercise general supervisory authority over the work covered by this standard, even though the general contractor is not qualified to serve as the asbestos 'competent person' as defined by paragraph (b) of this section. As supervisor of the entire project, the general contractor shall ascertain whether the asbestos contractor is in compliance with this standard, and shall require such contractor to come into compliance with this standard when necessary."

When a general contractor fails to ascertain and ensure, through on site supervision, that all asbestos related work conducted at a project site is done in accordance with Part 602, they are in violation of Part 602, (d)(5) and may be subject to receiving a citation. Therefore, it is recommended that a General Contractor/Project Manager receive competent person asbestos training. It is also recommended that the General Contractor/Project Manager acquire Asbestos Inspector training. This enables the General Contractor/Project Manager to better understand an asbestos building survey and to correctly obtain a material sample when necessary.

Can a contractor have one of his/her employees provide the asbestos awareness training?

A contractor's employees should receive annual asbestos awareness training covering the recognition of all building materials that may contain asbestos, the health hazards associated with asbestos exposure, and the MIOSHA regulations involving asbestos that must be followed. An individual(s) who is knowledgeable of the subject matter must provide this training.

Please be aware, the asbestos awareness training must be two hours in length. Computer/online training courses, videos, and toolbox talks may not satisfy the requirements of Part 602(k)(9).

The MIOSHA Asbestos Program

The MIOSHA Asbestos Program is responsible for ensuring that people who work with asbestos-containing materials are properly trained and comply with rules regulating asbestos-related activities. The rules are designed to protect the individual performing the work and the general public.

For additional information, please contact us at:

Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulator Affairs
Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration
Construction Safety and Health Division
Asbestos Program
530 West Allegan Street
P. O. Box 30671
Lansing, Michigan 48933
517.284.7680 office • 517.284.7700 fax
www.michigan.gov/asbestos
E-mail: asbestos@michigan.gov

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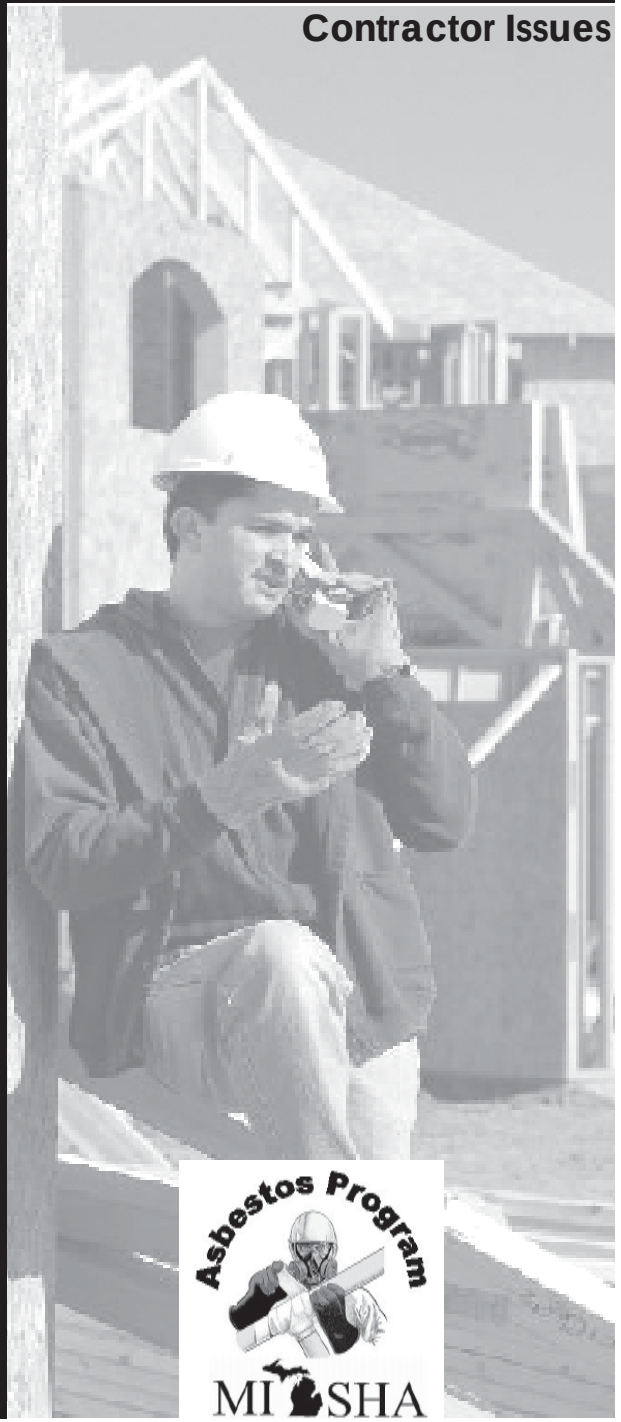
FORM # MIOSHA-CSH-N10 Celery

Asbestos & Construction

Contractor Issues



Background

Asbestos is the name of a group of naturally occurring minerals that can separate into microscopic needle-like fibers. The most common of these minerals are *Chrysotile, Amosite*, and *Crocidolite*. Once released into the atmosphere, the size and shape of these fibers permit them to remain airborne for long periods of time and thus contaminate the building environment.

If inhaled, these needle-like fibers can cause three specific asbestos-related diseases: *Asbestosis* (a fibrous scarring of the lungs), *Lung Cancer*, and *Mesothelioma* (a cancer of the lining of the chest or abdominal cavity). These diseases do not develop immediately after inhalation of asbestos fibers and typically have a latency period ranging from 15 to 30 years and sometimes as long as 40 to 50 years from first exposure.

Asbestos Building Materials

Asbestos has been used in more than 3,000 different products over the last 100 years because of its thermal insulating, fire retardant, and chemical resistant properties. Some common products in buildings that contain asbestos include but are not limited to pipe insulation, floor coverings, ceiling tile, spray-on insulation, boiler wrap insulation, wall coverings, fire doors, and old electrical wire insulation.

Contractors

Under the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health ACT (MIOSHA) requirements, all pre-1981 building facilities (excluding owner occupied residential housing) must have a thorough asbestos inspection conducted of the facility prior to the initiation of a demolition or renovation project. This survey must identify the presence, location and quantity of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) and/or presumed asbestos-containing materials (PACM) within the building and may be obtained from the building owner. Once the building has been determined to have ACM/PACM, the contractor must assess whether their work may require them to disturb or remove these materials during renovation activities. ACM/PACM that has a potential to be disturbed may require removal by a Michigan licensed asbestos abatement contractor. Pursuant to Part 602 (29 CFR 1926.1101), Asbestos Standards for Construction, paragraph k, *'…Building owners…along with employers of potentially exposed employees, are assigned specific information conveying and retention duties…'* This paragraph requires employers (e.g., General Contractor/ Project Manager) to obtain an asbestos building survey and provide this asbestos building survey or information contained within the survey to employees/ subcontractors.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should a contractor do if the building doesn't have an asbestos survey?

If the building owner does not have a survey, an option for the contractor would be to hire an accredited asbestos inspector to conduct a limited asbestos survey of the areas under renovation. This limited survey will help ensure the safety and health of employees and allow the contractor to continue construction activities in the building. However, please be advised that the building owner (excluding an owner occupied residential home) is legally obligated to complete a comprehensive building survey for all asbestos materials in the building.

Is the General Contractor/Project Manager responsible to ensure that employees/ subcontractors have asbestos awareness training?

Asbestos awareness training assists employees/ subcontractors in identifying suspect ACM and understanding information contained within an asbestos building survey. Therefore, to help assure that a General Contractor/Project Manager properly manages a renovation project in a building containing ACM, it is strongly recommended that all employees/sub-contractors on site have annual asbestos awareness training. Asbestos awareness training helps prevent employees from inadvertently disturbing asbestos-containing materials.

The General Contractor/Project Manager is not mandated to ensure that all on-site contractors have asbestos awareness training. However, if an uncontrolled asbestos disturbance occurs, the General Contractor/Project Manager may be accessed a citation for violation of Part 602 (d)(5), – even if a subcontractor created the disturbance.

What if a contractor discovers a building material that may contain asbestos at the project site?

All work activities that may impact suspect material must cease until a sample of the material has been obtained and analyzed. Due to the sampling procedures that must be followed and the varying number of material samples that must be obtained, an accredited inspector should be contacted to obtain the sample(s). Work should not continue until the suspect material has been proven to be negative or properly abated.

The suspect material is asbestos containing. What does a contractor have to do?

First, the information on the newly discovered ACM must be conveyed to the building owner and to all contractors on the project site pursuant to Part 602, (k)(4). The information must include the location and quantity of this newly discovered ACM. Second, it must be decided how to appropriately abate the ACM, which may include the removal of the ACM by a Michigan licensed asbestos abatement contractor.

A subcontractor has disturbed ACM and some of the material is on the floor and/or ground. What should be done?

If the amount of ACM is less than three linear or square feet; thoroughly saturate the debris with water to reduce the release of airborne fibers, restrict entry into the area, and immediately contract with a Michigan licensed asbestos abatement contractor to remove the debris.

If the amount of ACM is greater than three linear or square feet, contact the General Contractor/Project Manager. The General Contractor/Project Manager should:

1. Restrict entry into the area and post signs to prevent entry into the area by persons other than