



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
DAVID C. HOLLISTER
DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN OCCUPATIONAL
SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
(MIOSHA)

June 7, 2004

Company contact name
Company Name
Address
City, Michigan Zip

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: *Asbestos Awareness Training*

According to a report by an environmental research group more than ten thousand Americans die each year from asbestos-related diseases, and the number appears to be growing. If you would like to see this report, please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/asbestos and click on "The Asbestos Epidemic in America". The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has also published data on asbestos-related diseases (Work-Related Lung Disease Surveillance Report 2002). More information on asbestos-related diseases is available on the NIOSH website at www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/asbestos/.

Many of the victims of asbestos-related disease are or have worked in the construction trades. As a result of construction activities that disturb asbestos, some members of the general public may also be at risk. In an effort to address this serious concern and prevent inadvertent exposure of employees and the general public to airborne asbestos fibers, **the Asbestos Program is informing companies in the construction trades of their responsibility to provide asbestos awareness training for their employees.**

Construction trades routinely renovate and demolish buildings that were built prior to 1981. Due to the likely presence of asbestos-containing materials (ACM), these buildings are required by the MIOSHA Asbestos Standards (i.e. Part 602 and 305) to have an asbestos survey. It is the employer's responsibility to obtain and review the survey prior to conducting any work activities at these buildings. **If your employees are mechanical systems workers, plumbers, HVAC workers, elevator maintenance workers, construction site clean-up workers, electricians, etc. and are to work in an area where they may contact but not disturb ACM, they must receive asbestos awareness training.** The Asbestos Program has found that such training should be provided to all construction companies to help ensure employees do not disturb ACM. To be effective, this training must be at least two hours in length and be conducted annually by an individual who is knowledgeable of the subject matter. The training must cover 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 if the work involves asbestos removal or disturbance activities. **If your work activities require your employees to actually disturb ACM, additional training, work practices, and engineering controls are required.**

Asbestos Awareness Training

Date

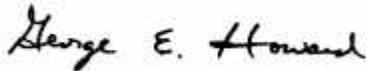
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You may wish to contact your trade association, an environmental consultant, or the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth – MIOSHA Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division by completing and returning the enclosed self-addressed card. CET will contact you with the time and place of their scheduled *Asbestos Awareness Training* courses. Also enclosed in this mailing is a list of Michigan approved asbestos training sponsors who can provide this training. They may be able to provide *Asbestos Awareness Training* at your facility.

If you would like to inform us that you have addressed this matter, you may submit a personnel list of individuals who have registered for or received asbestos awareness training to *Susan Baldwin, Asbestos Program Training Coordinator*, at the address listed below.

Our goal is to ensure that effective training is provided to employees to help reduce exposures to asbestos fibers and lessen the risk of asbestos-related disease. **Should you need additional information, please call the Asbestos Program information line at 517.636.6103.** Your personal support and interest in the safety and health of your employees and the general public is appreciated.

Sincerely,



George E. Howard
Asbestos Program Manager

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Enclosures