

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AS ASBESTOS SUPERVISOR

A registered asbestos supervisor must have:

- (a)
 - (i) been educated to form 5 or above and had not less than 12 months recognized working experience in asbestos abatement work; or
 - (ii) been educated to form 3 or form 4 and had not less than 48 months recognized working experience in asbestos abatement work;
- (b) completed a recognized course of training listed at Appendix, with syllabus listed in Part A; and
- (c) satisfied the Asbestos Administration Committee that he is competent to perform the duties and functions required of a registered asbestos supervisor, as listed in Part B.

Part A

Training Course

A recognized course of training for registered asbestos supervisor shall have the following syllabus:

1. Nature and use of asbestos

types of asbestos, amphibole and serpentine asbestos; properties of asbestos fibres; historical use of asbestos; typical use of asbestos in building fabrics, industry, manufacturing, home appliances, etc.; friable and non-friable asbestos containing materials; identification of asbestos containing materials; knowledge of hazards assessment.

2. Health effects related to asbestos exposure

nature of asbestos-related diseases; routes of exposure; dose-response relationships and lack of safe exposure level; synergism between cigarette smoking and asbestos exposure; latency period for asbestos diseases.

3. Codes of practice on asbestos control work

proper procedures for asbestos abatement work, site possession, segregation of work areas, electrical and ventilation system lock-out, preliminary decontamination, posting of warning labels, construction and maintenance of containment barrier and decontamination enclosure system, smoke test; proper working techniques for minimizing fibre release; entry and exit procedures for the work area; use of wet methods; use and maintenance of HEPA appliances, waste water filtration system and negative pressure monitor; proper clean-up and disposal of asbestos wastes; work practices for removal, encapsulation, enclosure and repair; use of glovebag and mini-containment for minor work; emergency procedures for sudden release; recommended and prohibited work practices.

4. Asbestos worker protective equipment

classes and characteristics of respirator types; proper selection, inspection, donning, use, maintenance, and storage procedures; methods for field testing of facepiece-to-face seal (positive and negative pressure fitting tests); qualitative and quantitative fit testing procedures; variability between field and laboratory protection factors; factors that alter respirator fit; selection and use of personal protective clothing; use, handling and storage of non-disposable clothing; regulations governing personal protective equipment.

5. Personal hygiene

entry and exit procedures for the work area; set up of a decontamination unit; use of showers; prohibition of eating, drinking and smoking in the work area; awareness of potential exposures such as family exposure.

6. Other safety hazards

hazards encountered during asbestos abatement activities and how to deal with them - including working at height, slips, trips and falls; heat stress; electrical hazards; working in confined space; air contaminants other than asbestos; fire and explosion hazards.

7. Fibre aerodynamics and control

aerodynamic characteristics of asbestos fibres; importance of proper containment barriers; settling time for different types of asbestos fibres; wet methods in asbestos

abatement; aggressive air sampling following abatement; aggressive air movement and negative pressure exhaust ventilation as an effective air clean-up method.

8. Asbestos air and bulk sampling and analysis

principles of optical microscopy for asbestos identification and fibre counting, phase contrast microscopy, polarized light microscopy; methods of bulk and air sampling; limitations of optical microscopy; principles of electronic microscopy, transmission electronic microscope, scanning electronic microscope; different types of air monitoring tests (leakage, work area, penultimate, final clearance, reassurance).

9. Medical monitoring

requirements for a pulmonary function test, chest X-rays and medical history; respiratory protection programme and medical surveillance programme.

10. Local legislations and codes of practice on asbestos control

Air Pollution Control Ordinance, Air Pollution Control (Asbestos) (Administration) Regulation, Waste Disposal Ordinance, Codes of Practice, Factories and Industrial Undertakings (Asbestos) Special Regulations.

The course shall be taught in not less than 4 days, or 30 hours, and completed with a practical or workshop session on proper entry and exit procedures for work area and decontamination unit and set up of a full containment, and a course end examination.

Part B

Professional Competency

A registered asbestos supervisor should have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Asbestos Administration Committee that he is competent to perform the following duties and functions:

1. supervise the carrying out of an asbestos abatement work to ensure that the work is carried out in accordance with relevant codes of practice and the asbestos abatement plan;
2. maintain good working practices and housekeeping at work site;
3. provide training to workers on safe work practices and personal hygiene;

4. maintain specialized equipment in good working condition, including HEPA air movers and vacuum cleaners, waste water filtration system, negative pressure monitor, personal respiratory protective equipment, smoke generating equipment;
5. handle, store, transport and dispose of asbestos wastes in accordance with relevant code of practice and legislation;
6. conduct emergency clean-up and any remedial actions necessary in case of accidental release of asbestos occurs;
7. report work progress and any difficulties encountered on site.

List of Recognized Course of Training for
Registered Asbestos Supervisor

1. Certificate of Competence in the Safe Handling of Asbestos; organized by the Occupation Safety and Health Council
2. Courses, which are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States of America as satisfying the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) accreditation requirements for Asbestos Contractors and Asbestos Supervisors.