

Q: What are corrugated asbestos cement sheets?
Are they harmful to the environment and public health?

A: Corrugated asbestos cement sheets (CACS) is one of the most common low-risk asbestos containing materials (ACMs). The asbestos fibres in CACS bind tightly to the base material matrix of the cement. Therefore, under normal circumstances, CACS will not release any asbestos fibres, cause air pollution or affect public health.



However, improper handling or removal of CACS may give rise to release of very fine asbestos fibres which will remain airborne for a very long period of time. Under these circumstances, it is possible that people will inhale some of these fibres which, once inhaled, can remain in the body for many years and hence increase their health risk due to such exposure.

Q: Where can CACS be found?

A: Before the mid-1980s, the roofs of old style village houses were commonly made of CACS and some farmers used CACS for the purposes of blocking soil, catching water for irrigation or preventing flood. As it is difficult for the general public to tell whether a material contains asbestos or not solely by its appearance or colour, for safety's sake, you should take a precautionary attitude and treat all suspected materials as ACMs unless proved otherwise by a registered asbestos consultant.

Q: How should I handle CACS used for different purposes?

A: CACS commonly seen in rural areas can be broadly classified into three types. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) recommends the following approaches to handling them:



(1) CACS roofing – The landowner or occupier should comply with statutory requirements by hiring a registered asbestos contractor to handle and dispose of the CACS when the roofing undergoes maintenance or reconstruction.



(2) CACS used for the purposes of blocking soil, catching water for irrigation or preventing flood – Although CACS does not release asbestos fibres under normal circumstances,

the landowner or occupier should consider replacing CACS with other materials, and hire a registered asbestos contractor to handle and dispose of the CACS. Please note that improper handling, cutting, crushing or dismantling of CACS can lead to release of asbestos fibres, cause air pollution or affect public health.



(3) CACS remains intact – Provided that no asbestos removal works are involved and the CACS remains intact, the landowner or occupier can hire a licenced chemical waste

collector to collect and dispose of the CACS. If the CACS is substantially worn, the landowner or occupier must hire a registered asbestos contractor to properly handle and dispose of CACS in accordance with the relevant ordinances.

Q: Why are only registered asbestos contractors eligible to carry out asbestos removal works?
What will they do then?

A: As registered asbestos contractors will adopt adequate precautionary measures to prevent release of asbestos fibres when removing CACS, the risks involved will be minimal. These measures include segregation of work areas, provision of decontamination facilities, minimum breakage and sufficient wetting during the asbestos removal works. The registered asbestos contractors will also take other safety and health measures such as continuous supervision of the work by a registered asbestos supervisor, providing protective clothing and respiratory protective equipment for workers' safety as well as air monitoring around the work area. For removal of CACS covered with a layer of concrete screeding, the workers will, under the supervision of the registered asbestos supervisor, separate the CACS carefully into manageable sizes for easy packaging and disposal.



Q: When is CACS a problem?
A: CACS generally does not pose any health risk. However, when it is broken into pieces or dismantled inappropriately, asbestos fibres will be released and may lead to health problems if inhaled.

Q: How can I comply with the Air Pollution Control Ordinance if I need to remove, alter or handle CACS?

A: As the landowner / occupier, you must hire a registered asbestos contractor to remove, alter or handle the CACS and give a written notice to EPD not less than 28 days prior to the commencement of the works. You may approach EPD for details.



Application form for
Notification of Commencement of Asbestos Abatement Work

BY POST or BY HAND

第 311 章《空氣污染管制條例》第 73 條
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE (Chapter 311) section 73
石棉消滅工程的動工通知
Notification of Commencement of Asbestos Abatement Work

日期 Date _____

致：空氣污染管制監督
To the Air Pollution Control Authority,

A 部 (由處所擁有人#填寫)
PART A (To be completed by the owner of premises#)

1. *本人 / 我們 (姓名) _____
地址 _____

電話號碼 _____, 傳真號碼 _____, *香港身分證 / 護照 / 商業登記證編號 _____ 的持有人, 現擬於本通知書第 2 段所述的處所進行石棉消滅工程。
*本人 / 我們謹此聲明, 根據《空氣污染管制條例》第 2 條, *本人 / 我們作為該處所擁有人的身分如下:
*I/We (full name) _____
of (address) _____

Telephone No. _____, Fax No. _____, holder of *HKID No./Passport No./Business Registration Certification No. _____, intend to carry out asbestos abatement work in the premises stated in paragraph 2 of this notification.
*I/We declare that in accordance with section 2 of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, *I/we are the owner of the said premises in the following capacity:

- *(a) 業主, 即該處所的所有人;
- *(b) 就該建築物或處所而言, 是該建築物或處所的承租人或佔用人; in relation to the building or premises, the lessee or occupier of the building or premises;
- *(c) 為進行建造工程而管有該處所的承建商 (請提供證明文件如業主授權書或合約); the contractor who has possession of the premises for the purposes of construction work; (please provide supporting document, e.g. owner's authorization or contract document)
- *(d) 就該建築物的公用地方而言, 是該建築物的管理委員會或負責該建築物的管理或管轄的其他團體。 in relation to the common area of the building, the management committee or other body responsible for the management or control of the building.

(#-處所擁有人可能是個人、公司、合夥人或團體組織。如適用, 請填上有關機構的商業登記編號並遞交商業登記證副本。The premises owner may be an individual, a company, partnership or organization. If applicable, please enter the business registration number and submit a copy of the business registration certificate.)

2. *本人 / 我們擬進行的石棉消滅工程詳情如下:
The particulars of the asbestos abatement work that *I/we intend to carry out are as follows:

(a) 處所地址 Address of the premises _____

(如在郊區可填地段編號 If in rural area please provide Lot number)

(b) 石棉消滅工程的簡略描述 Brief description of the asbestos abatement work _____

Q: How to handle the CACS to be disposed of?

A: Registered asbestos contractors will place the CACS to be disposed of into metal drums or strong plastic bags for temporary storage in a safe designated place, and arrange for early removal of waste by licensed chemical waste collectors. Please note that asbestos waste is a kind of chemical waste under the Waste Disposal (Chemical Waste) (General) Regulation. It should not be mixed with household waste, nor delivered to refuse collection points or public dumping areas for disposal.



Q: Is it a criminal offence if I fail to comply with the Air Pollution Control Ordinance?

A: Under Sections 73 and 77 of the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, a person who fails to give a written notification to EPD before the asbestos abatement works commence or appoint a registered asbestos contractor to carry out the asbestos removal works commits an offence and is liable on conviction to **a maximum fine of \$200,000** and to **imprisonment for 6 months**.

Some other useful information

1. List of Registered Asbestos Contractors

1 Gor Limited

E-mail: info@1gor.com.hk
Tel: 3163 9332 Fax: 2124 1463

AAA Services Limited

E-mail: aaa@aaalhk.com
Tel: 2168 7800 Fax: 2380 6699

Achieve Construction and Engineering Company Limited

E-mail: achieve ltd8@yahoo.com.hk
Tel: 2343 1388 Fax: 2343 1283

Asbestos Removal Contractors (HK) Company Limited

E-mail: arccheng@netvigator.com
Tel: 2850 8876 Fax: 2850 8927

C.B.M. Asbestos Abatement Limited

E-mail: inf@cbm.com.hk
Tel: 2698 6027 Fax: 2696 3799

Fineness Goal Limited

E-mail: fineness.g@gmail.com
Tel: 2387 2581 Fax: 2386 5393

General Central Engineering Limited

E-mail: info@gceng.com.hk
Tel: 2428 8923 Fax: 2484 1662

Sublett and Associates (HK) Limited

E-mail: sublett.hk@gmail.com
Tel: 2333 1019 Fax: 2765 6396

Teemway Engineering Limited

E-mail: works@teemway.com
Tel: 2796 2268 Fax: 2796 2217

UBW Environmental Co. Limited

E-mail: sales@ubw.com.hk
Tel: 2516 6866 Fax: 2904 1893

2. List of Registered Asbestos Laboratories

Aspec (HK) Limited – Aspec Testing

E-mail: mail@aspec.biz
Tel: 3101 0671 Fax: 3101 0647

ETS - Testconsult Limited

E-mail: asbestos@ets-testconsult.com
Tel: 2695 8318 Fax: 2695 3944

Fugro Technical Services Limited

E-mail: matlab@fugro.com
Tel: 2450 8233 Fax: 2450 6138

The Lab (Asia) Limited

E-mail: info@thelab.asia / donney@thelab.asia
Tel: 2470 2588 / 9098 3164 Fax: 2470 2589

Enquiries

General	Tel: 2755 3554 Fax: 2834 9960
Hotline Complaint	Tel/Fax: 2838 3111
Web Site	http://www.epd.gov.hk
Correspondence	Environmental Protection Department, 28/F, Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Don't Mess with Asbestos Sheet

“How to Handle Corrugated Asbestos Cement Sheets”



Environmental Protection Department

