

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AS ASBESTOS CONTRACTOR

A registered asbestos contractor must have:

- (a) employed at least one registered asbestos supervisor at any one time;
- (b) possessed and maintained in good working condition specialized equipment, personal protective gear and tools, with the specifications, number and type as listed in Part A; and
- (c) satisfied the Asbestos Administration Committee that company / contractor is competent to perform the duties and functions required of a registered asbestos contractor, as listed in Part B.

Part A

Specialized Equipment and Tools

Specifications

1. **High efficiency particulate air filtered air mover**
 - (a) Fitted with one or two stages of pre-filters, and with the final stage fitted with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters capable of trapping and retaining not less than 99.97% of particles (asbestos fibres) greater than 0.3 microns mass median aerodynamic equivalent diameter.
 - (b) Each filter should have a standard nominal rating of at least 1,100 cubic feet per minute (c.f.m.) with maximum pressure drop of 1 inch water clean resistance.
 - (c) Air handling capacity of the smallest unit is 1,000 c.f.m. under clean filter condition.
 - (d) The fan should be of the centrifugal type.

- (e) Equipped with manometer to measure pressure drop across the filters.
2. **High efficiency particulate air filtered vacuum cleaner**
- (a) Fitted with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters capable of trapping and retaining 99.97% of particles (asbestos fibres) greater than 0.3 microns mass median aerodynamic equivalent diameter.
 - (b) Vacuum efficiency of the smallest unit: 96 c.f.m. and 85 inch waterlift.
3. **Negative pressure monitor**
- (a) Measurement accuracy to 0.001 inch water column, or 0.01 mm water column, or 0.1 Pascals.
 - (b) Provided with audible alarm, and printer for producing continuous time record of pressure differential on a continuous basis.
 - (c) Alarm levels can be set on site as required.
4. **Waste water filtration system**
- (a) A submersible pump provided with a swing check valve at suction.
 - (b) Filtration unit should be of aquarium type which is capable to capture particles of size down to 5 microns in suspension in water.
5. **Full-face air-purifying respirator**
- (a) positive-pressure type powered by a portable, rechargeable battery pack.
 - (b) Provided with disposable HEPA filters.
 - (c) Approved by Labour Department for asbestos work.
6. **Half-face air-purifying respirator**
- (a) negative-pressure type, with disposable HEPA filters.
 - (b) Approved by Labour Department for asbestos work.

7. **Smoke generator**

Smoke should be of persistent type.

Minimum number of specialized equipment possessed

8. A registered asbestos contractor must have possessed at least the following numbers of equipment and respirators, with the specifications as set out in this part:

	Type	Number
1.	HEPA-filtered air mover	2
2.	HEPA-filtered vacuum cleaner	2
3.	Negative pressure monitor	1
4.	Waste water filtration system	1
5.	Full-face respirator	4
6.	Half-face respirator	8
7.	Smoke generator	1

9. The contractor should have possessed or in the process of procuring other tools and consumable for asbestos work with specifications as set out in the codes of practice, where applicable. These include:

polythene sheets, asbestos waste bags, duct tapes, airless water spray equipment, personal protective clothing, water-base polyvinyl acetate (PVA) adhesives, wetting agents.

Part B

Professional Competency

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

1. carry out asbestos abatement work in accordance with relevant codes of practice and the asbestos abatement plan;
2. maintain good working practices and housekeeping at work site;
3. 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, and smoke generating equipment, etc;
4. maintain a maintenance programme for the specialized equipment, and keep maintenance records, usage logs, etc.
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. provide continued and professional in-house training to workers covering use and hazard of asbestos, use of respirators, decontamination procedures, proper work practices, relevant legislations, maintenance of specialized equipment, and site safety.
8. maintain records of medical surveillance programme and training programme for workers.