Asbestos Safety

**GENERAL INDUSTRY STANDARD**
[29 CFR 1910.1001]

- Have you ensured through monitoring that no employee is exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos in excess of 0.1 fiber per cubic centimeter of air (1f/cc) as an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA)? [(c)(1)]

- Have you ensured through monitoring that no employee is exposed to airborne concentrations of asbestos in excess of 1.0 fiber per cubic centimeter of air (1f/cc) as averaged over a sampling period of 30 minutes? [(c)(2)]

- Do you monitor the air with sufficient frequency and pattern to discover the levels of exposure to employees with reasonable accuracy? [(d)(3)]

- Do you conduct additional monitoring whenever there is a change in production processes, control equipment, personnel, or work practices that may result in additional exposures above the permissible exposure limit? [(d)(5)]

- Are employees notified of the results of monitoring within 15 days of receipt of results, either in writing or by posting the results in a place accessible to all employees? [(d)(7)(i)]

- Have you established “regulated areas” wherever airborne concentrations of asbestos exceed permissible limits? [(e)(1)] Are these areas clearly set off from the rest of the workplace? [(e)(2)] And is access to these areas limited to authorized personnel only? [(e)(3)]

- Is each person entering a regulated area provided with a respirator and required to use it? [(e)(4)]

- Do you prohibit eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum or tobacco, and the application of cosmetics in regulated areas? [(e)(5)]

- Have you established engineering controls and work practices to reduce and maintain employee exposure below permissible exposure limits, including:
  - effective local exhaust ventilation and dust collection systems? [(f)(1)(iv)]
  - the use of local exhaust ventilation with hand and power tools that could produce or release asbestos fibers? [(f)(1)(v)]
  - the use of wet methods when handling, mixing, applying, removing, cutting, scoring, or otherwise working with asbestos products to prevent emission of airborne fibers? [(f)(1)(vi)]
  - prohibition against using compressed air to remove asbestos materials unless the compressed air is used with an effective ventilation system? [(f)(1)(ix)]
  - prohibition of sanding asbestos-containing floor material? [(f)(1)(x)]

- Do you have a written compliance program to reduce employee exposure where exposure limits exceed permissible levels? [(f)(2)(i)]

- Are employees required to use respirators:
  - when installing or implementing engineering and work practice controls? [(g)(1)(i)]
  - during work operations such as maintenance and repair for which engineering and work practice controls are not feasible? [(g)(1)(ii)]
  - during work operations for which feasible engineering and work practice controls are not yet sufficient to reduce employee exposure below permissible levels? [(g)(1)(iii)]
  - in emergencies? [(g)(1)(iv)]
Do you provide a tight-fitting, powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) instead of a negative pressure respirator when the employee chooses to use a PAPR and it provides adequate protection? [(g)(2)(ii)]

Do you select and provide the appropriate respirators specified in paragraph (d)(3)(i)(A) of 29 CFR 1910.134 and not select or use filtering facepiece respirators for protection against asbestos fibers? [(g)(3)(i)]

Do you provide HEPA filters for powered and non-powered air-purifying respirators? [(g)(3)(ii)]

Do employees receive a medical examination before being assigned a task requiring the use of a respirator? [(g)(2)(iii)]

Do you provide appropriate protective clothing and equipment to employees, including coveralls, gloves, head and foot coverings, face shields, and vented goggles? [(h)(1), (h)(1)(i)–(h)(1)(iii)]

Do you make sure that:
—employees remove contaminated work clothing only in changing rooms? [(h)(2)(i)]
—no employee takes contaminated clothing out of the changing room (except employees authorized to do so for laundering, maintenance, or disposal)? [(h)(2)(ii)]
—all contaminated clothing is placed and stored in closed containers? [(h)(2)(iii)]
—all containers leaving the changing room are properly labeled? [(h)(2)(iv)]

Do you launder, repair, or replace protective clothing and equipment to maintain their effectiveness and provide clean clothing and equipment at least weekly? [(h)(3)(i)]

If you send clothing and equipment out for cleaning, do you inform the cleaner that these items have been contaminated with asbestos? [(h)(3)(v)]

Is contaminated clothing and equipment always transported in sealed impermeable bags or containers and properly labeled? [(h)(3)(vi)]

Do you make sure that employees who work in areas where airborne exposure is above permissible limits shower at the end of each work shift? [(i)(2)(i)]

Do you provide lunchroom facilities for employees who work in areas where exposure is above permissible limits? [(i)(3)(i)]

Do you make sure that these employees wash their hands and faces before eating, drinking, or smoking? [(i)(3)(ii)]

Is smoking prohibited in work areas where employees are exposed to asbestos? [(i)(4)]

Have you informed employees who may be exposed about asbestos hazards? [(j)]

Are warning signs posted at each regulated area? [(j)(4)(i)]

Are warning labels attached to raw materials, mixtures, scrap, waste, debris, and other materials containing asbestos? [(j)(5)(i)]

Are all employees who are exposed to asbestos hazards properly trained prior to the time of their initial job assignment and at least annually thereafter [(j)(7)(i) and (ii)] and does training include information about the following:
—health effects associated with asbestos exposure? [(j)(7)(iii)(A)]
—relationship between smoking and exposure to asbestos producing lung cancer? [(j)(7)(iii)(B)]
—quantity, location, manner of use, release, and storage of asbestos, and the specific nature of operations that could result in exposure? [(j)(7)(iii)(C)]
—engineering controls and work practices associated with the job assignment? [(j)(7)(iii)(D)]
—specific procedures implemented to protect employees from exposure? [(j)(7)(iii)(E)]
—purpose, proper use, and limitations of respirators? [(j)(7)(iii)(F)]
—purpose and description of medical surveillance program? [(j)(7)(iii)(G)]

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