



REGULATION CHANGE BULLETIN

November 23, 2005



The Occupational Health and Safety Act
of Ontario

Highlights of Amended
Ontario Asbestos Regulation



Special
Publication

Regulatory Amendments Take Effect Effective November 1, 2005

Highlights of Amended Ontario Asbestos Regulation O.Reg 278/05

Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Building and
Repair Operations

Introduction to Changes

The amended Ontario Regulation 278/05 of the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act became effective on November 1, 2005. They govern Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Building and Repair Operations .

The amended Regulation is designed to enhance the protection of workers, specifically, those directly handling **asbestos containing material** (ACM) by removing or repairing ACM. It is also designed for the protection of those who may inadvertently disturb ACM such as renovation project workers, plumbers, electricians, etc.

Summary of Significant Changes

Some of the significant changes that now apply to asbestos are:

- any material containing at least 0.5% asbestos, by dry weight, is ACM.
- non-friable ACM is now included in most of the Regulation.
- building surveys require many more bulk samples.
- ACM must be inspected "frequently" and the building survey updated annually.
- fallen ACM, on top of ceilings, must be cleaned up, if deterioration continues, the source must be removed.
- Asbestos Management Programs and/or Plans, currently in place, must be updated by November 1, 2007.
- asbestos containing ceiling tile removal up to only 7.5 m² (75 ft²) is Type 1 removal.
- drywall removal greater than 1 m² (10 ft²) with asbestos containing joint compound is at least a Type 2 removal.
- respiratory protection requirements for workers are upgraded.
- glove bag removals are now included in the Regulation.
- negative pressure monitoring and containment enclosure inspections required for Type 3 removals.
- airborne particulate clearance sample now mandatory, number of samples required is based on square footage.
- formal training requirements, for workers and supervisors, effective November 1, 2007.



Global review

Across the globe, workplace safety agencies are noting an alarming increase in asbestos related illness and fatalities. Often these are workers that do not have the traditional exposure likelihood. There are several factors that contribute to this sudden increase:

- peak usage of asbestos in the 1950s to 1970s.
- long latency periods from 10 - 40 years after exposure before symptoms appear.
- lack of scientific consensus on zero risk exposure threshold.

There are many asbestos containing products, from sprayed on fireproofing, vermiculite loose fill insulation, pipe and boiler insulation, acoustic plasters, in buildings and in older automobiles brake pads, clutches, etc.

The revisions to the Regulations emphasize that asbestos is a very hazardous product that must be handled with care by competent professionals and properly trained workers.

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Global review of asbestos awareness

Impact of changes to regulations.

- .5% Asbestos is considered ACM.
- Airborne particulate clearance sampling is mandatory.
- Enclosure inspections are mandatory for Type 3 removals.
- Asbestos Management Programs must be updated by November 1, 2007.

Impact

The amended regulation applies to ALL buildings with Asbestos Containing Material.

Asbestos is a focal point for The Ministry of Labour and will continue to grow as additional health effect data becomes available.

In the future, this issue can only get more and more regulated. Building owners and employers must prepare themselves for that.

The overall cost of Asbestos management will undoubtedly increase as a result and, so will the cost of non-management of asbestos.

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