

## Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

### Clearance inspections for asbestos work areas

#### Purpose

This fact sheet describes requirements for clearance inspections for asbestos work areas.

#### What is a clearance inspection?

A clearance inspection verifies that an asbestos work area is safe to be returned to normal use after work involving the disturbance of asbestos containing material has occurred. A clearance inspection must be carried out by a competent person and include a visual inspection. It may also include clearance monitoring and/or settled dust sampling. A clearance inspection should only be carried out when the asbestos work area is dry.

**Please note:** settled dust sampling can only provide an indication of cleanliness and cannot be used as an indicator of risk to health.

#### When is a clearance inspection required?

Where the asbestos removal work involves the removal of any quantity of friable (easily broken) asbestos, or 10m<sup>2</sup> or more of bonded asbestos material, a clearance inspection must be conducted by a competent person who is independent of the person doing the removal work.

A clearance inspection by a competent person is also required for the removal of less than 10m<sup>2</sup> of bonded asbestos containing material or for any maintenance work carried out on asbestos containing material. However, the competent person does not need to be independent of the person doing the removal or maintenance work.

For example, a clearance inspection by a competent person who is independent of the work being carried out may not be necessary for the removal of:

- less than 10m<sup>2</sup> of bonded asbestos containing material (e.g. removing two sheets of asbestos cement sheeting)
- brake linings
- asbestos heat mitts or heat plates
- asbestos friction materials.

For a competent person to be regarded as 'independent' of the person doing the removal work, the competent person must not have been involved in the removal work. This could be a competent person external to the business doing the asbestos removal work **or** a competent person who works for the business doing the asbestos removal work but who was not involved in the actual asbestos removal work for the job requiring a clearance inspection.

#### Who is a competent person for a clearance inspection?

A person who is suitable to conduct a clearance inspection should have:

- working knowledge of the asbestos removal industry, the asbestos management code and asbestos removal code
- the ability to identify what is, or what may be, asbestos containing material
- the ability to thoroughly inspect the area for suspected material
- experience in asbestos removal work, inspection of asbestos removal areas or audits of workplaces for asbestos containing material
- the ability to interpret air monitoring reports for friable asbestos removal work (where required).

## For more information

Visit [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au) or call the Workplace Health and Safety Infoline on 1300 369 915.

Visit the website to download:

- *Identifying and recording asbestos in the workplace* fact sheet
- *Air monitoring when removing asbestos* fact sheet
- *Asbestos flooring* fact sheet
- *Code of Practice for the Management and Control of Asbestos in Workplaces*
- *Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos 2nd edition*
- *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*
- *Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2008*

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