

HSEM BULLETIN

Asbestos Containing Materials

Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Staff & Students

Background

The purpose of this bulletin is to raise awareness amongst staff & students regarding possible Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) at Curtin University.

Information

ACM fibres may become airborne whenever they are disturbed, causing a potential health risk to persons if fibres are released within the person's breathing zone. Disturbance may occur from direct action such as drilling or cutting, inspection and removal processes, maintenance, refurbishment, renovation and demolition of buildings, or weathering.

During a recent refurbishment of a laboratory, several pieces of old equipment (gauze heat resistant and Bunsen burner mats) were located in a cupboard. This equipment was subsequently analysed and was found to contain asbestos.

Some common types of laboratory equipment that MAY contain asbestos are shown below.



Heat mat



Gauze mat



Gloves



Tongs

Recommendations

If suspected ACM has been located or disturbed then you should take the following steps immediately:

- Cease any activity which may cause further disturbance to the ACM.
- Report the asbestos hazard verbally to Curtin HSEM on 9266 4900, your supervisor and the designated Safety and Health Representative.
- Isolate the area to restrict access.
- Report all incidents, no matter how minor, on the University online incident reporting system – C.H.A.R.M.

Who do we call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact Health, Safety and Emergency Management on 9266 4900 or email healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au.

References

[Asbestos Management Plan](#) – Curtin University

[Code of practice for the management and control of asbestos in workplaces](#)
[NOHSC:2018(2005)]

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03/08/2017