

TO: Building and Emergency Contacts

FROM: Valerie Brangan *VB*  
Occupational Health and Safety Manager

DATE: October 9, 2017

RE: Impact of Asbestos Regulations on Purchasing, Project, and Work Order Requests

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR  
PURCHASING, PROJECT ADMINISTRATION, OR INITIATING WORK ORDERS**

Departments planning renovation or installation projects, equipment maintenance or repair work, or **any other activity** that will involve the disturbance of building materials (see below), are advised that federal and state (OSHA, EPA, DEEP, DPH) regulations **require inspection or testing of suspect materials for asbestos content *prior to proceeding*, regardless of building age.** If the material is found to contain asbestos, abatement by licensed firms will be required.

**Departments are responsible for securing the requisite testing in self-funded projects** and should bear in mind that the presence of asbestos can cause delays in project completion and may considerably increase the cost of a project. **Improper disturbance of building materials can present a health risk to faculty, staff, students, visitors and contractor employees. It also represents a financial risk of fines by regulatory agencies.**

Examples of **building materials that could contain asbestos** include, but are not limited to:

- Pipe insulation, boiler insulation, and pipe-fitting mud and cements
- Plasters, sprayed-on materials, and textured paints on walls, ceilings, or other structural members
- Sheetrock and joint compound, chalkboard/whiteboard adhesives
- Vinyl and asphalt floor tiles and floor sheeting (linoleum), as well as underlayments, cove base, and adhesives
- Ceiling tiles and panels and associated adhesives
- Wallboard, cement board, corrugated roofs, and building siding
- Caulks and sealants, lab bench tops, fume hood walls
- Roof shingles, felt, tar, tar paper, and flashing

Examples of **activities that typically require asbestos testing of building materials before they are disturbed** include, but are not limited to:

- **Equipment installation** that requires penetration (nailing, drilling, sawing, boring, etc.) into walls, floors, or ceilings.
- **Carpet installations** where an older carpet or floor covering must first be removed.
- **Service, repair, or renovation work** that could potentially disturb building materials listed above.
- **Painting operations** involving sanding, scraping, or other disturbance of previously painted surfaces, plasters, sheetrock, cement board, or other surfacing materials on walls or ceilings.
- **Telecommunications/data and video network cabling** installation or relocation.
- **Any other activity** that could potentially disturb building materials.

Questions related to health and safety information and the regulatory requirements regarding asbestos should be directed to Environmental Health and Safety at 486-3613. All requests for asbestos testing and removal must go through the appropriate Asbestos Coordinator as required in the [Asbestos Management Plan](#).