



ENVIRONMENTAL GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

TOPIC – ASBESTOS HANDLING

Summary Information:

Asbestos is a banned substance under current legislation. This is due to the likelihood of asbestos causing severe lung disease which can result in death.

Asbestos may not be stocked or used in any form other than where it is in existing use such as in gaskets and brake or clutch linings fitted to a vehicle.

In some cases where the asbestos will do no harm, such as in an old vehicle or in a building, it may be allowed to remain undisturbed. Asbestos must be handled and disposed according to Regulations (contact the MTAQ or local authorities for further information).

Residual asbestos dust in clutches or brakes must be collected as follows:

- Remove components to allow access to dust;
- Prevent dust from becoming airborne;
- Collect dust with a low pressure water / detergent spray using a very strong detergent such as floor stripper;
- Catch any waste in a bucket or similar container;
- Dispose of dirty water in accordance with prescribed waste regulations;
- Wipe down remaining surfaces with a rag.

NB. If it is not possible to distinguish asbestos dust from non-asbestos dust, treat all brake and clutch lining dust as if it contains asbestos.

Good Practice Risk Control:

- Consider the age of vehicles you work on.
- Determine if there is any possibility of asbestos being used in vehicles being serviced.
- Where asbestos is in use and must be replaced, you must comply with the requirements of the Asbestos Regulations including:
 - Isolation of the vehicle
 - Use of prescribed overalls and respirator
 - Use of prescribed vacuum cleaner or 'wet rag' methods to collect dust
 - Storage of old parts in a specified marked container.
- If there is any possibility of asbestos dust being present, have air quality monitoring tests conducted.
- Do not allow any friction material dust to be blown off with compressed air.
- Dispose of hard materials containing asbestos in accordance with prescribed waste requirements.