



January 23, 2023 | By email: 2 pages

WorkSafeBC asbestos containing material Sustained Compliance Initiative – begins in January

This month, WorkSafeBC (WSBC) is beginning a sustained compliance initiative in the K-12 sector with respect to asbestos containing material management. WSBC Officers will visit school district sites and ask about asbestos management practices in compliance with the Workers Compensation Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

Recommended Action

School districts should ensure they have implemented and maintained asbestos exposure control programs, including up to date inventories for all sites. Site supervisors should be able to access any necessary information through district procedures. Employees should be aware of asbestos as a workplace hazard.

Background

In 2016, WSBC launched the first targeted compliance campaign for asbestos management in the K-12 sector. During a five-month period, WSBC Officers visited 56 sites in 27 school districts. At that time, the inspections were to “verify that effective and sustainable asbestos management programs have been developed and maintained.”

A total of 58 orders were issued to improve existing programs. Key items of note were:

- Annual review of exposure control plans
- Maintaining the inventory of asbestos containing material
- Education and training workers

For more information on the 2016 initiative, review the attached copies of the initial notification letter and the follow up letter.

Contact

Hans Loeffelholz, Senior Manager, Occupational Health and Safety, hansl@bcpsea.bc.ca

Resources

Sustained Compliance: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/what-we-do/industry-initiatives/sustained-compliance>

WSBC Asbestos Information: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/hazards-exposures/asbestos>

WSBC Asbestos Guidelines: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-guidelines/guidelines-part-06#SectionNumber:G6.1-1>

WSBC Asbestos Regulation: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation/part-06-substance-specific-requirements#SectionNumber:6.1>

WSBC Asbestos Safe Work Practices: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/resources/health-safety/books-guides/safe-work-practices-for-handling-asbestos>

Sample Asbestos Management Program: <https://bcpsea.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Asbestos-Abbotsford-School-District-AMP-2015.pdf>