Asbestos Management and Control Policy

Policy Statement

Queensland Health’s long term objective is for all buildings and infrastructure to be free of asbestos containing material. Until this is achieved, Queensland Health is committed to managing and controlling asbestos in Queensland Health facilities to safeguard the health and well being of patients, staff, service providers and the community.

Intent of this policy

The policy has been established to ensure that all asbestos in Queensland Health facilities is managed and controlled in accordance with:

- legislative requirements
- asbestos management principles and best practice guidance, and
- the requirements specified in the Implementation Standard for Asbestos Management and Control.

Scope

This policy applies to all Queensland Health employees, service providers and suppliers responsible for the management, operations and maintenance of buildings and supporting infrastructure under the control of Queensland Health.

Principles

This policy is underpinned by the following principles:

- Asbestos will be managed and controlled using a risk management based approach until all buildings and infrastructure are free of asbestos
- Asbestos management plans (including an up-to-date asbestos register) will be available for all facilities with asbestos
- Work activity with the potential to disturb asbestos will only be undertaken by trained staff following the issue of a work permit
- Removal of asbestos will be undertaken (where practicable) in conjunction with any building maintenance, refurbishment or demolition activities
- Removal of asbestos will be addressed through asset management plans, maintenance plans or special programs as appropriate
- Removal of asbestos will only be carried out by appropriately licensed removalists
• Buildings with asbestos (as far as possible) will not to be leased or purchased for use by Queensland Health, and
• Asbestos related records will be collected, maintained and managed.

Legislative or other Authority
• Work Health and Safety Act 2011
• Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
• Environmental Protection Act 1994
• Environmental Protection Regulation 2008
• Workplace Health and Safety Queensland Code of Practice: How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace (2011)

Related policy or documents
• Asbestos Management and Control Policy for Government Buildings (2011)
• Capital Works Management Framework
• Maintenance Management Framework

Supporting documents
• Implementation Standard for Asbestos Management and Control

Review
This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.

Date of last review: 25 May 2012
Approval and Implementation

Policy Custodian
Senior Director, Asset and Property Services Branch, Health Planning and Infrastructure Division

Responsible Executive Team Member:
Deputy Director-General, Health Planning and Infrastructure Division

 Approving Officer:
Deputy Director-General, Health Planning and Infrastructure Division

Approval date: 1 June 2012
Effective from: 1 June 2012

Definitions of terms used in this policy and supporting documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition / Explanation / Details</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Asbestos</td>
<td>Is the common term that is used to describe the fibrous form of naturally occurring mineral silicates belonging to the serpentine and amphibole group of rock forming minerals.</td>
<td>Asbestos Management and Control Policy for Government Buildings (2011); Department of Public Works.</td>
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<td>Asbestos containing material (ACM)</td>
<td>Means any material, object, product or debris that contains asbestos.</td>
<td>Asbestos Management and Control Policy for Government Buildings (2011); Department of Public Works.</td>
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<td>Asbestos register</td>
<td>Is a document that lists all identified (or assumed) asbestos in a workplace.</td>
<td>How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace (2011); Code of Practice, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland.</td>
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<td>Risk Management</td>
<td>Is a systematic process to identify, analyse, assess and treat risks that may impact on an organisation’s objectives.</td>
<td>Strategic Asset Management Framework; (2012) Department of Public Works.</td>
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