

INFORMATION SHEET

Asbestos

Changes to the amount of asbestos that can be removed in workplaces

Schedule 1 of The *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations 1998* has recently been amended to change the definition of “exempt removal work” in relation to asbestos.

This change reduces the amount of asbestos cement or similar non-friable asbestos material that can be removed by a person other than a licensed asbestos removalist from 100m² to 10m².

The removal of any amount of asbestos containing material over 10m² in a workplace now requires a licensed asbestos removalist to undertake the work. In addition, the removal of amounts less than 10m² must be carried out over a period not exceeding two hours in any seven day period.

These changes should reduce the risk of exposure to asbestos fibres in the community and will still allow smaller jobs where release of asbestos fibres can be easier to manage to be undertaken by non-licensed individuals.

The changes will also bring Tasmania into line with other jurisdictions and the proposed national occupational health and safety regulations, of which asbestos forms a major component.

Anyone removing less than 10m² of asbestos will still need to ensure that they take appropriate precautions to safeguard the health of themselves, their family and the community. They also need to contact their local council for disposal requirements and locations.

Safe removal must be done in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos 2nd Edition [NOHSC: 2002 (2005)] which is available at www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au

A list of licensed asbestos removalists is available at: www.wst.tas.gov.au/asbestos or search for GB096

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further assistance please contact the Workplace Standards Tasmania Helpline:

Phone: 1300 366 322 (in Tasmania) | (03) 6233 7657 (outside Tasmania) | Fax (03) 6233 8338

Email: wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au | Web: www.wst.tas.gov.au

PO Box 56 ROSNY PARK TAS 7018

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