

Safety and health alert

03/10 Asbestos gaskets in imported plant

Incident

Items of plant were recently imported into Western Australia and found to contain bonded asbestos gaskets. The plant was imported from New Zealand and Thailand for installation at a major industrial site. Workers at the site were unaware that any gaskets contained asbestos.

Contributing Factors

- All forms of asbestos containing materials have been prohibited imports in Australia since 31 December 2003.
- Gaskets containing asbestos are still manufactured in some other countries.
- Plant was imported that included temporary shipping gaskets containing asbestos.
- Gaskets containing asbestos may have a similar appearance to non-asbestos gaskets.

Recommendations

1. Importers should ensure that imported plant does not contain asbestos containing materials.
2. Suspect material should be analysed by a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratory.
3. Any removal work must be carried out by a competent person such as a licenced asbestos removalist.
4. Removal methods for asbestos gaskets and other asbestos containing materials are found in the Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos.
5. Asbestos waste must be disposed of at a licensed asbestos disposal site.

Further information

- [Code of Practice for the Management and Control of Asbestos in Workplaces \[NOHSC:2018\(2005\)\]](#)
- [Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos 2nd Edition \[NOHSC:2002\(2005\)\].](#)
- Australian Customs Service website: www.customs.gov.au

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email safety@commerce.wa.gov.au

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Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Commerce**

