



South Australia is a signatory to the Asbestos Safety and Eradication's *National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management 2019 – 2023*

1. Improve asbestos awareness to influence behavioural change
2. Identification and effective legacy management
3. Safe prioritised removal and effective waste management, and
4. International collaboration and leadership.

359

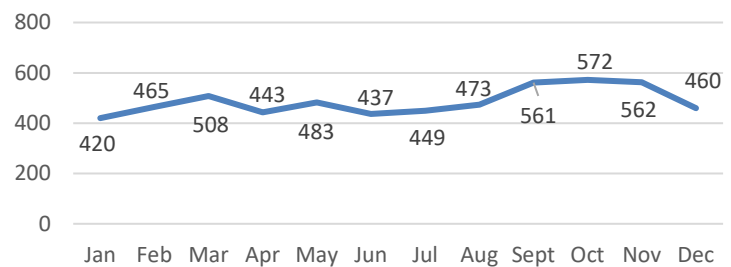
concerns raised in relation to asbestos in 2020

Health and Safety Snapshot

2020, SafeWork SA received **5833** asbestos removal notifications, that is a:

- 14% increase in notifications compared to 2019
- 21% increase in friable removals compared to 2016-2019.

Asbestos Removal Notifications 2020



Top 5

Reasons for issuing Improvement notices

- 21%** Asbestos registers
- 15%** Failure to dispose of asbestos as soon as practicable
- 12%** Failure to review/revise asbestos register prior to commencing demolition/refurbishment
- 12%** Failure to comply with licence conditions
- 6%** Asbestos management plans
- 6%** Failure to engage an independent licensed asbestos assessor

Top 5

Reasons for issuing Prohibition notices

- 22%** Risk of exposure to asbestos
- 22%** Failure to review/revise asbestos register prior to commencing demolition/refurbishment
- 13%** Unlicensed asbestos removal work
- 11%** Worker not fit-tested for negative pressure respirator
- 11%** Health monitoring

Top 5

Reasons for issuing Letters of warning

- 18%** Unlicensed asbestos removal work
- 18%** Failure to provide 5 days' notice to SafeWork SA
- 14%** Failure to dispose of asbestos waste as soon as practicable
- 11%** Worker not fit-tested for negative pressure respirator
- 11%** Licensed asbestos assessor issued clearance certificate with visible asbestos residue remaining

Top 5 Most common complaints

- 25%** Unsafe removal of asbestos material
- 13%** Risk of exposure to asbestos fibres
- 12%** Risk of dust containing asbestos fibres
- 11%** Failure to notify persons in the vicinity prior to commencing licensed asbestos removal work
- 9%** Asbestos not sealed or disposed of as soon as practicable
- 9%** Asbestos debris found

Examples

Convictions

Unlicensed asbestos removal

A worker was convicted and fined for unlicensed asbestos removal and failing to ensure that appropriate signage alerting public to the presence of asbestos was in place. He received a fine of \$24,000 and the licence was disqualified.

Licence suspensions

2 x Class B asbestos removalists were suspended for 3 months for failing to remove the asbestos safely and competently. Visible asbestos residue was scattered throughout the worksite and in-situ asbestos wasn't identified and removed by the removalist prior to commencing demolition work.

An asbestos assessor was suspended for 3 months for issuing a clearance certificate without undertaking a proper and effective inspection of the asbestos removal area after asbestos removal work had been completed to verify that the area was safe for normal use.

Trades at risk

- Building maintenance workers
- Carpenters
- Demolition workers
- Electricians
- Painters
- Plumbers
- Roofers
- Tilers

Expiations issued

Undertaking class A asbestos removal work without an authorised supervisor \$2160.

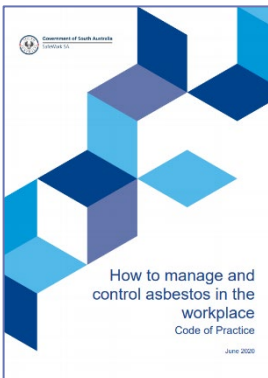
Failure to give a copy of the asbestos register to the person undertaking the demolition or refurbishment work \$3600.

Focus for 2021

- Review/revise of asbestos registers prior to demolition or refurbishment work commencing
- Fit-testing for negative pressure respirator use
- Health monitoring
- Adequate supervision
- Independence of licensed asbestos assessors
- Air monitoring and clearance inspections

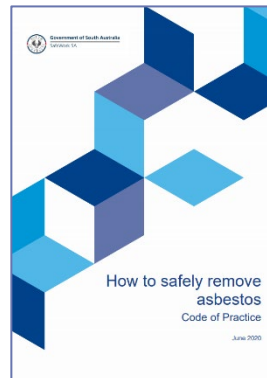
Codes of Practice

The *How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace* Code of Practice includes:



- Asbestos prohibitions and exceptions
- Managing risks associated with asbestos and ACM
- Asbestos registers
- Asbestos management plans
- Naturally occurring asbestos
- Demolition and refurbishment work
- asbestos related work
- Managing exposure to asbestos
- Controlling the risk

The *How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace* Code of Practice includes:



- Licence requirements
- Health monitoring duties
- Training worker
- Respiratory protective equipment
- Prohibited tools and equipment
- Duties for licensed asbestos removal work
- Air-monitoring and clearing inspections
- Controls applicable to all types of asbestos removal
- Removing friable asbestos
- Waste containment and disposal