

Queensland Government Asbestos Management Policy for its Assets

April 2021



Queensland
Government

Queensland Government Asbestos Management Policy for its Assets

© The State of Queensland (Department of Energy and Public Works) 2021



You are free to copy and communicate the work in its current form, as long as you attribute in the following manner. You may not alter or adapt the document in any way.

To attribute this material, cite Queensland Government Asbestos Management Policy for its Assets, State of Queensland (Department of Energy and Public Works) 2021

Policy Position

The Queensland Government is committed to protecting the health and well-being of workers, contractors and the community by ensuring that asbestos containing materials are safely and appropriately managed.

Our departments are responsible for a wide range of assets servicing the people of Queensland including, but not limited to, buildings (workplaces and domestic premises), land, vehicles, vessels, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

Our long-term objective is for all assets managed or controlled by government departments to be free of asbestos containing materials. Until this is achieved, we will appropriately manage all asbestos containing materials in our assets, to safeguard those who occupy, service and visit our assets from exposure to respirable asbestos fibres.

To achieve this, we will strive to meet the following standards:

Standard 1: We will manage asbestos containing materials in our assets

1.1 We meet statutory requirements, as a minimum (refer to Appendix 1).

For our domestic premises:

1.2 We identify and record domestic premises in which the presence of asbestos containing materials has been confirmed or is assumed.

1.3 We manage asbestos containing materials based on an assessed level of risk.

Standard 2: We will appropriately manage our asbestos information

2.1 We ensure our asbestos information is managed to meet our statutory obligations.

2.2 We take a whole-of-Government approach to the way our asbestos information is managed and reported.

Responsibilities

Each department will be responsible for managing the asbestos containing materials in their assets and managing their asbestos information in accordance with this Policy.

The Department of Energy and Public Works will undertake a lead agency role on asbestos management for assets managed or controlled by departments, which includes:

- ensuring this Policy assists departments to meet their asbestos management responsibilities
- providing implementation standards, guidance and support to departments
- establishing the approach for managing asbestos information, including minimum requirements
- coordinating any required whole-of-Government monitoring and reporting on the management of asbestos in assets managed or controlled by departments
- establishing governance arrangements
- advocating on behalf of government departments.

We expect government-owned corporations, statutory bodies and statutory authorities will implement their own system for managing asbestos that fulfils their statutory and broader community obligations. However, they may, by their own choice or at the direction of their administering minister or department, apply this policy.

Administration

Authority

The original version of this Policy was approved by the Premier of Queensland on 14 May 2014. That version replaced the *Asbestos Management and Control Policy for Government Buildings* (2011).

This April 2021 version (second edition) now replaces the May 2014 version (first edition).

Review

The Department of Energy and Public Works will review this Policy every three years, or earlier if required.

Amendments that do not affect the Policy Position, that do not significantly impact on the implementation of the Policy will be approved by the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement.

Amendments to the Policy or its appendices that are of a minor administrative nature will be approved by the Director-General, Department of Energy and Public Works, or a delegated representative.

Definitions

The meanings of particular terms used within this Policy are provided in **Appendix 2**.

Further Information

This Policy and further information for Queensland government employees can be found at the 'Manage asbestos' website <https://www.forgov.qld.gov.au/manage-asbestos>

General information on asbestos and statutory requirements in Queensland can be found at the Queensland Government's asbestos website <https://www.asbestos.qld.gov.au>

Appendix 1

List of relevant Queensland legislation and codes

- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- *Environmental Protection Regulation 2019*
- *Financial Accountability Act 2009*
- *Public Health Act 2005*
- *Public Health Regulation 2018*
- *Public Records Act 2002*
- *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011*
- *How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace Code of Practice 2021*
- *How to Safely Remove Asbestos Code of Practice 2021*

Appendix 2

Definitions

Term	Definition/Explanation
Asbestos containing material (ACM)	See Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011
Building	See Building Act 1975
Department	See Financial Accountability Act 2009
Government owned corporation (GOC)	See Government Owned Corporations Act 1993
Manages or controls	See Queensland's How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace - Code of Practice 2021
Respirable asbestos	See Queensland's How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace - Code of Practice 2021
Statutory authority	See Financial Accountability Handbook: Information Sheet 1.4 – Entity Types
Statutory body	See Financial Accountability Act 2009
Whole-of-Government	Means relevant to or applying to all Queensland Government departments.