

SECTION 11 - ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

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Synopsis

NOTE: The purpose of this section is to provide guidelines for employees and supervisors who work in or around asbestos-containing material or are responsible for removal and disposal of this material.

The section applies to all National Weather Service (NWS) facilities, work sites, and employees.

Initial Implementation Requirements:

- Review National Weather Service Manual 50-1115 Occupational Safety and Health, Section 31 - Asbestos Safety
- Analyze Site Operations versus Requirements of the Procedure
 - Identify all sites where an asbestos hazard may be present (NWSM 50-1115, 31.3.3)
- Perform Visual Inspection and Instrumental Testing of “suspect” asbestos-containing materials (ACMs), if required. (NWSM 50-1115, 31.3.3)
- Designate Person to Administer the Asbestos Safety Procedure Requirements (if required)
- Develop/Obtain Documentation/Information Required for Site
 - Develop an Asbestos Control Program (NWSM 50-1115, 31.3.3) (if applicable)
- Provide Local Training of Site Personnel (if required)
- Provide Oversight/Coordination of Asbestos Removal Plan (if applicable)
- Contract with a State licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor if ACM is present
- Manage the removed material per the State and Federal requirements (if applicable)

Recurring and Annual Task Requirements:

- Until the ACM is removed:
- Perform Inspection/Assessment/Testing
 - Perform Visual Inspection and Instrumental Testing of “suspect” ACMs. (NWSM 50-1115, 31.3.3), as necessary
- Review/Update Documentation/Information required for Site
 - Maintain Asbestos Control Program. (NWSM 50-1115, 31.3.3) (if applicable)
- Provide Refresher Training of Site Personnel (if required)

Asbestos Management Checklist	YES	NO	N/A
1. Does the facility or work site have or is it suspected to have asbestos or asbestos-containing material? (11.5.1)	—	—	—
• If yes, has testing been performed? (11.5.1)	—	—	—
2. If asbestos is found, has an Asbestos Control Program been established? (11.5.2)	—	—	—
a. Has an Asbestos Control Program Coordinator been appointed? (11.5.2)	—	—	—
b. Have all affected employees been notified in writing of the presence of asbestos? (11.5.2a)	—	—	—
c. Have “regulated areas” been established? (11.5.2d)	—	—	—
d. Is access to the regulated area restricted to only properly trained personnel? (11.5.2e)	—	—	—
e. Are there plans to manage the asbestos? (11.6)	—	—	—
f. Are abatement project notifications properly submitted to the EPA or appropriate State regulatory agency? (11.6.1)	—	—	—
g. Has a formal file to record all activities been created? (11.6.2)	—	—	—
h. Are all records pertaining to asbestos removal retained onsite for at least 2 years? (11.6.2)	—	—	—
i. Has or will the removed asbestos material be disposed at an approved landfill? (11.6.3)	—	—	—

SECTION 11 - ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

11.1 Purpose and Scope

While the National Weather Service (NWS) has attempted to remove asbestos from the workplace, because of the persistent use of this material in building construction, asbestos-containing materials (ACMS) may still be found at some NWS facilities and work sites. To ensure NWS personnel are protected from this material during its use, removal, and disposal, this section has been created. It applies to all NWS facilities where asbestos or asbestos-containing material are known or assumed present.

On July 12, 1989, EPA issued a final rule banning most asbestos-containing products. In 1991, this regulation was overturned by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. As a result of the Court's decision, the following specific asbestos-containing products remain banned: flooring felt, rollboard, and corrugated, commercial, or specialty paper. In addition, the regulation continues to ban the use of asbestos in products that have not historically contained asbestos, otherwise referred to as "new uses" of asbestos.

Asbestos-containing product categories no longer subject to the 1989 ban include: asbestos-cement corrugated sheet, asbestos-cement flat sheet, asbestos clothing, pipeline wrap, roofing felt, vinyl-asbestos floor tile, asbestos-cement shingle, millboard, asbestos-cement pipe, automatic transmission components, clutch facings, friction materials, disc brake pads, drum brake linings, brake blocks, gaskets, non-roofing coatings, and roof coatings.

NOTE: Most U.S. manufacturers have ceased the use of asbestos in commercial products due to liability concerns.

11.2 Definitions

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| Friable Asbestos | Any material that contains more than one percent of asbestos that, when dry, can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure. Examples of friable asbestos include spray-on insulation and pipe insulation. |
| Non-Friable Asbestos | A material containing more than one percent asbestos that cannot be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure. Vinyl asbestos floor tile is an example of non-friable asbestos. |
| Operating Unit | Includes the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP), National Data Buoy Center (NDBC), NWS Training Center (NWSTC), National Reconditioning Center (NRC), National Logistics Support Center (NLSC), Radar Operations Center (ROC) or the Sterling Field Support Center (SFSC). |
| Regulated Asbestos Containing Materials (RACM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friable asbestos material • Category I non-friable ACM that has become friable • Category I non-friable ACM which has been, subjected to sanding, grinding, cutting or abrading |

- Category II friable ACM that has a high probability of becoming friable.

Station Manager

For the purpose of this procedure, the Station Manager shall be either the NWS Regional Director; NCEP Director; Directors of Centers under NCEP (Aviation Weather Center, NP6; Storm Prediction Center, NP7; Tropical Prediction Center, NP8; and Space Weather Prediction Center, NP9); Directors of the NDBC, NWSTC, and Chiefs of NRC, ROC and SFSC facilities; or Meteorologist in Charge (MIC), Hydrologist in Charge (HIC), or Official in Charge (OIC).

11.3 Acronyms Employed in This Section

ACM	Asbestos-Containing Material
CIH	Certified Industrial Hygienist
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
DOT	Department of Transportation
NESHAP	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
SECO	NOAA Safety and Environmental Compliance Office
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
NWS	National Weather Service
NWSH	National Weather Service Headquarters
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
RACM	Regulated Asbestos-Containing Material

11.4 Regulatory Requirements

11.4.1 Federal Laws and Regulations

a. Occupational Safety & Health Administration

OSHA, in 29 CFR 1910.1001 (Asbestos), regulates asbestos in all industries other than construction, ship repair, and shipbuilding. OSHA regulates asbestos in the construction industry in 29 CFR 1926.1101.

b. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA regulates asbestos emissions, removal, and disposal under 40 CFR Part 61 - The National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, Subpart A (40 CFR Parts 61.01 to 61.19) and Subpart M (40 CFR 140-157 and Appendix A to Subpart M).

In 1986, the [Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act \(AHERA\)](#) was signed into law as Title II of the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). CFR 40 CFR Part 763, Subpart E,

Asbestos Containing Materials in Schools, was promulgated. AHERA mandated that EPA develop regulations to respond to asbestos in schools. This included the use of accredited laboratories and established training requirements for accredited personnel.

Additionally, the Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Reauthorization Act (ASHARA), passed in 1990, required accreditation of personnel working on asbestos activities in schools and public and commercial buildings. Specifically, the Asbestos Model Accreditation Plan (40 CFR Part 763, Appendix C) required the use of accredited inspectors, workers, supervisors, project designers, and management planners (schools only) when conducting asbestos activities at schools and public and commercial buildings.

c. National Weather Service

NWS Asbestos Control Program is detailed in NWSM 50-1115, Occupational Safety and Health, Section 31 - Asbestos Safety.

11.5 Asbestos Control Program

11.5.1 Identification of Asbestos-Containing Material

As defined in 11.2, the EPA and OSHA use two definitions of asbestos - friable and non-friable.

The EPA further divides non-friable asbestos into two categories – Category I and II.

Category I non-friable asbestos-containing material includes asbestos-containing packings, gaskets, resilient floor covering, and asphalt roofing products containing more than one percent asbestos.

Category II non-friable asbestos-containing material is any material other than a Category I ACM that contains more than one percent asbestos that when dry, cannot be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure.

Friable ACMs are potentially more hazardous since they can release airborne fibers if damaged or disturbed.

National Weather Service Manual 50-1115, Occupational Safety and Health Section 31 - Asbestos Safety, 31.3.3, requires that NWS facilities where asbestos or ACM are potentially present (e.g. buildings and structures built before 1980), will arrange visual inspections and testing of “suspect” materials by an accredited inspector or a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) who has completed an EPA-approved asbestos training course. This effort will be coordinated with NWSH environmental and safety staff and NWS Regional/Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinators.

11.5.2 Establish an Asbestos Control Program

NWSM 50-1115, 31-3.3 states that when presence of asbestos or ACM is confirmed, an Asbestos Control Program must be established and maintained. The NWSH environmental and safety personnel, and NWS Regional/Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator must be contacted as soon as presence of ACM is suspected.

This program includes:

- a. Designation of an Asbestos Control Program Coordinator by the Station Manager to coordinate the facility efforts.
- b. The notification of all affected employees of any asbestos monitoring results within 15 days of the receipt by the NWS facility or work site. This notification must be in writing and it can be made individually or by posting of the results in a location accessible to all employees.
- c. The notification of all affected employees of the procedures taken to minimize exposure.
- d. Establishment of a regulated area if airborne concentrations of asbestos or presumed asbestos material are in excess of the OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit (0.1 fibers per cubic centimeter of air as an eight (8)-hour time-weighted average (TWA)). The regulated area must be clearly demarcated and access limited.

Persons entering the regulated area must use appropriate personal protective equipment, including respirators, and will be trained and certified in its use. All NWS employees must also complete the appropriate asbestos worker level training to enter a regulated area. Per NWSM 50-1115-31.3.3, NWS employees that work in facilities where presence of friable asbestos is confirmed must receive the asbestos awareness course, at least 2 hours long, per Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requirements set forth in 40 CFR 763.92. Employees who provide housekeeping or maintenance activities in a building that contains ACM must also complete awareness level training. If housekeeping and maintenance staff conduct any activities that will result in disturbance of ACM, awareness training and 14 hours of additional training shall be completed per 40 CFR 763.92.

- e. All employees are prohibited from eating, drinking, smoking, chewing tobacco or gum or applying cosmetics in the regulated area.

11.6 Asbestos Management Plan

In consultation with the NWSH environmental and safety personnel and/or Regional/Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator, the decision will be made whether to:

- a. Implement an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Program to manage the confirmed or suspect ACMs in place.
- b. Repair, encapsulate, or enclose the ACMs,
- c. Remove the ACM.

An asbestos abatement plan and notification must be prepared in accordance with 40 CFR 61.145 for any activities other than O&M. These documents are typically prepared by the state licensed asbestos abatement contractor on behalf of the building owner. The NWSH environmental and safety staff can assist in the coordination and review of the abatement plan.

11.6.1 Notification

Depending on the amount, type and location of the asbestos or asbestos-containing material, the EPA, or appropriate State regulatory agency, may require a notification prior to initiating the asbestos abatement activities. The EPA notification requirements are detailed at 40 CFR 61.145.

While EPA must receive notification at least 10 working days before the start of the asbestos abatement project, the State may impose different timeframe requirements. The notification usually includes a description of the analytical procedures used to identify the material, the removal techniques to be used, the location of the material, the starting and completion dates, the name, and location of the disposal site and a certification that the asbestos removal operations will be conducted by licensed contractor. Written approval for an asbestos abatement project are not generally provided by the regulatory agency, unless a variance is requested to deviate from accepted work practices (e.g., dry removal instead of wet removal). Any approval must be kept at the work site during the operation.

The EPA's Notification of Rules and Regulations Regarding the Demolition of Asbestos-Containing Structures is found at: <http://www2.epa.gov/asbestos/epas-notification-rules-and-regulations-regarding-demolition-asbestos-containing-structures>

NOTE: The States can impose more stringent requirements for managing, reporting, and notification of an abatement project. The NWS Regional/Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator and NWSH environmental and safety staff will assist with obtaining the specific information.

11.6.2 Recordkeeping

A copy of the EPA or State notification, the EPA or State approval (variances), the waste shipment record (WSR) and the disposal site confirmation is to be forwarded to the NWS Regional/Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator and the NWSH environmental and safety staff. The EPA NESHAP regulations require that these records are kept on-site for at least two years; however, it is highly recommended that these records be kept permanently.

11.6.3 Disposal

Before disposal, all asbestos and asbestos-containing materials must be wetted to minimize the release of airborne particles. The asbestos waste must be double-bagged in 6-mil plastic and packaged, and transported in accordance with OSHA, EPA, and Department of Transportation regulations.

In general, wetted, double-bagged asbestos can be disposed in a State-approved solid waste facility. Prior contact with both the disposal facility and the State by the NWS Regional/Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator and/or NWSH environmental and safety staff will assure all local ordinances are known and followed.

In addition to the OSHA danger label (often pre-printed on the disposal bag), each bag must contain the generator's name and address. State or local regulations may require additional information, such as the date the bag was sealed.

Once the asbestos is disposed, the facility asbestos inventory must be updated.

11.7 Responsibilities

11.7.1 NWS Headquarters

- a. The NWSH Environmental/Safety Office will provide assistance to Regional Headquarters, Operating Unit, and field personnel to ensure that NWS facilities comply with requirements of this section.
- b. NWSH will coordinate with SECO, as necessary, regarding compliance issues related to this section.

11.7.2 Regional or Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator

- a. Will monitor and promote compliance with the requirements of this section at field offices or Operating Unit facilities.
- b. Will ensure that applicable procedures are implemented at Regional Headquarters or Operating Unit facilities to ensure compliance with requirements of this section.

11.7.3 Station Manager

- a. Will have oversight over the implementation of this section and ensure that the applicable requirements of this section are followed by individuals at the NWS facility.
- b. Will ensure sufficient personnel and funding are available to enable compliance with all applicable requirements of this section.
- c. Will ensure that an asbestos control program is developed and implemented at NWS field offices with asbestos containing materials in coordination with Regional/Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator and NWSH environmental/safety staff.
- d. Will review or delegate review of this section on an annual basis to ensure that the facility is complying with its requirements, if applicable. Confirmation of this review will be forwarded to the Regional or Operating Unit Environmental/Safety Coordinator.

11.7.4 Environmental or Environmental/Safety Focal Point or Asbestos Control Program Coordinator

- Will ensure any tasks delegated to them by the Station Manager are implemented in accordance with the requirements of this section.

11.7.5 Employees

- a. Individual employees affected by this section are required to read, understand, and comply with the requirements of this section.
- b. Report all violations of the requirements of this section to their supervisor or Environmental Focal Point.

11.8 References

11.9 Incorporated References

The following list of references is incorporated as a whole or in part into this section. These references can provide additional explanation or guidance for the implementation of this section.

11.9.1 Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration

29 CFR 1910.1001	Asbestos (General Industry Standard)
29 CFR 1926.1101	Asbestos (Construction Standard)

11.9.2 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

40 CFR 61	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants, Subpart M, “Asbestos”
40 CFR 61.145	Standard for Demolition and Renovation
40 CFR Part 763, Subpart E	Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act
15 USC § 2641	Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Reauthorization Act

11.9.3 National Weather Service

Manual 50-1115	Occupational Health and Safety	Section 31, Asbestos Safety
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