

Asbestos: Key duties for surveyors and assessors

Surveyor

Checks a site for the presence of asbestos and advises on a removal plan



Removalist

Removes the asbestos from all known locations



Assessor

Monitors the air quality throughout the asbestos removal process to ensure the work environment is safe



Key duties for surveyors

- Choose a survey type that is appropriate for the client's needs.
- Locate and identify asbestos as appropriate for the type of survey (Management, Refurbishment or Demolition).
- Design the survey so that it can be used by the client or by the removalist to create an asbestos removal control plan.
- Talk to the client about how the survey fits into the process for managing asbestos risks.

Competency expectations

WorkSafe recommends that at a minimum surveyors should:

- have a minimum of six months practical experience of carrying out asbestos surveys under the supervision of experienced and suitably qualified personnel, and
- be able to provide evidence that they have completed at least three management survey reports, and
- be able to provide evidence that they have completed at least one pre-demolition survey alongside another more experienced surveyor, and

- hold a British Occupational Hygiene Society *P402 Building Surveys and Bulk Sampling for Asbestos* qualification, or equivalent.

Key duties for assessors

- Monitor the quality of the air before, during and after asbestos removal to make sure the work environment is safe and that controls are effective.
- Tell the client immediately if respirable asbestos fibres exceed 0.01 fibres per millilitre of air.
- Provide the results of any air monitoring or surface testing to the client.
- Carry out clearance inspections when asbestos removal work has been completed.

Competency requirements

Assessors must:

- hold relevant industry knowledge acquired through training and experience, and
- hold a certificate in relation to an asbestos assessment training course specified by WorkSafe, or
- hold a tertiary qualification in occupational health and safety, occupational hygiene, science or environmental health.

There should be no conflict of interest between the surveyor, removalist and assessor that could influence the outcome of the final clearance inspection.

If asbestos surveyors, assessors or removalists witness unsafe practice in a workplace, they should:

- Notify WorkSafe of the unsafe practice by calling 0800 030 040.
- Provide details of the unsafe practice including location, date, time and people involved.