

Environment Information

Unexpected Asbestos Finds Protocol

The following document details protocols of what must be done if asbestos containing material (ACM) or potentially asbestos containing materials (PACM) are unexpectedly encountered during construction activities undertaken at the Bankstown Airport or Camden Airport sites.

1 What does asbestos look like and where could it be?

There are two primary types of asbestos; bonded 'non-friable' and non-bonded or 'friable' asbestos. These forms differ in their appearance although they both contain asbestos. ACM and PACM may be present within the following:

- Materials within buildings and structures
- On site surfaces as a result of damage to buildings and structures or illegal waste disposal
- Buried at depth associated with historical waste disposal and/or construction activities
- Below ground pipework and services.

Generalised descriptions of ACM and PACM which may be encountered at the airport site are provided below.

Bonded or 'Non-friable' Asbestos	
Picture Examples	 
	 
Descriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour dependant on building material matrix, typically white-grey. • Fibrous edges or 'torn cardboard' appearance on broken edges.

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Bonded or 'Non-friable' Asbestos	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fibre cement sheeting has dimpled surface. • Cannot be crushed or broken up with hand force.
Common Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction materials up to 15 years and older. • Fibre cement sheeting / cladding (i.e. fibro). • Vinyl products (floor tiles). • Fibre cement corrugated roofing material (i.e. Super 6). • Fibre cement guttering and pipework. • Electrical backing boards.
Non-bonded or 'Friable' Asbestos	
Picture Examples	
Descriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White, grey, blue or dirty fibrous material. • Fluffy. • Easily crushed with finger pressure.
Common Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insulation. • Weathered/damaged fibre cement sheeting. • Fibrous clumps of material.

2 Where is there a risk of encountering asbestos?

The higher risk activities for encountering asbestos on the airport site during construction activities are considered to be:

- Demolition of buildings and structures
- Excavation works.

Higher risk areas for encountering asbestos on the airport site during construction activities are considered to be:

- Site surfaces surrounding locations of former buildings and structures
- Areas of fill
- Below ground services, namely service pits, storm water and electrical services.

3 What to do if asbestos or potential asbestos is encountered?

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In general, if ACM or PACM are encountered, works should be stopped, the work area secured and the Airport Facilities Manager (8709 9413) contacted to provide advice and direction on management of the ACM or PACM.

A flow chart demonstrating the requirements for managing unexpected asbestos finds is provided below.

Prior to Commencing Works

Review

Undertake a review of any relevant information held by the airport for the work area (e.g. Asbestos register)
If known asbestos is present within work area, seek advice from Airports Facility Manager prior to works commencing.
If there is a potential for encountering asbestos within the work area, contractors are to be extra diligent in identifying ACM or PACM.



Inspect

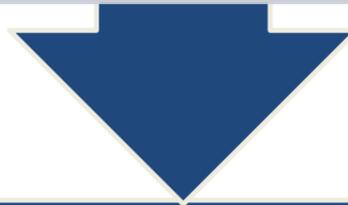
Prior to commencing works, inspect the work area for indicators of ACM or PACM.
Is there evidence of older buildings/structures, or former buildings/structures within or immediately adjacent to the work area, fragments of ACM or PACM on site surfaces, areas of filling, stockpiles of soil or rubbish, service pits, stormwater or electrical services?
If ACM or PACM is identified within the work area, seek advice from Airport Facilities Manager prior to works commencing.

During Works

Unexpected Asbestos Find

Immediately stop work and secure the work area. Securing of the area should restrict access to and generation of dust from the affected areas. Securing of the work area should include (but is not limited to) as a minimum:

- For unexpected asbestos finds in buildings during demolition - All contractors to exit the building. Doors and windows to be shut.
- For unexpected asbestos finds in structures during demolition/removal - Structure should be covered with tarps or plastic sheeting and areas immediately surrounding the structure barricaded off (tape/bunting/temporary fencing).
- For unexpected asbestos finds across site surfaces - Areas immediately surrounding the surface ACM/PACM to be barricaded off (tape/bunting/temporary fencing).
- For unexpected asbestos finds during excavation - Areas immediately surrounding the excavation to be barricaded off (tape/bunting/temporary fencing). Any stockpiled material from the excavation should be covered with tarps or plastic sheeting.



Contact Airports Facility Manager

Once work areas are secured, immediately contact the Airports Facilities Manager for further instructions.



Recommence Work

Works can only recommence following instruction from the Airports Facilities Manager.

4 Legislative, standards and codes of practise

These protocols have been developed to ensure adherence to relevant legislative, standards and codes of practices.

- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and associated Regulations.*
- NSW WorkCover Working with Asbestos Guide (2008).
- National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, 2nd Edition [NOHSC: 2018 (2005)]: Code of Practice for the Management and Control of Asbestos in Workplaces.
- National Occupational Health and Safety Commission, 2nd Edition [NOHSC: 2002 (2005)]: Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos.
- Safework Australia (2016) How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace Code of Practice.

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