Hello and welcome to the March edition of Invercargill City Council’s Building Sector News.

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Invercargill City Council, Telephone (03) 211 1777
NEW LICENCES REQUIRED FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL

Check whether your business will need an asbestos removal licence

A national licensing system for asbestos removal is being introduced from 4 April 2016. Will your business need a licence?

Three types of licences will be available under the new asbestos regulations, which cover what types of asbestos can be removed:

**Class A Licence**

Any type or quantity of asbestos or asbestos-containing material, including:

- any amount of friable asbestos or asbestos containing material (ACM)
- any amount of asbestos-contaminated dust or debris (ACD)
- any amount of non-friable asbestos or ACM.

**Class B Licence**

- Any amount of non-friable asbestos or ACM.
- ACD associated with removing any amount of non-friable asbestos or ACM.

**Asbestos Assessor Licence**

- An Asbestos Assessor provides air quality monitoring during removal work, inspects the finished job and provides a clearance certificate.
- A licensed Asbestos Assessor will be required to assess Class A asbestos removal work from 2018 onwards.

No licence is required for asbestos removal:

- up to and including 10m² of non-friable asbestos or ACM, cumulatively, over the whole course of the removal project for the site
- ACD that is associated with removing 10m² or less of non-friable asbestos or ACM and any associated minor ACD.
Other important points:

- The new removal licences will be held by a business, rather than a person.
- For businesses requiring a Class A and Class B licence:
  - You can apply for a Class A and Class B licence from 4 April 2016.
  - Information on the application criteria and process will be available in early 2016.
- Current certificate of competence holders will be able to continue removing asbestos (in the categories specified on their certificate) and supervise asbestos removal until their certificate expires.

If you will need a Class B licence from 4 April 2016, get in touch with WorkSafe now to register your interest and speed up your licence application.

More detail can be found at www.asbestosaware.co.nz.
LOCATIONS WHERE ASBESTOS MAY BE FOUND

If you are doing residential work and you are unsure whether asbestos may be present or not, proceed as if it is present.

Where is asbestos likely to be found?

Any building constructed, altered or refurbished before the late 1980s is likely to contain asbestos and/or asbestos containing materials (ACMs).

Buildings constructed after 1990 are generally unlikely to contain ACMs but as materials containing asbestos are still permitted to be imported into New Zealand, some buildings built after 1990 may contain ACMs.

As a general rule, if a building was constructed:

**Before the mid-1980s** - it is very likely to have materials containing asbestos

**Between the mid-1980s and 1990** - it is likely to have materials containing asbestos.

**After 1990** - it is unlikely to have material containing asbestos.

ACMs may be found in:

**Roofs**
- corrugated cement roofing, including lap cement dust. (Debris in the roof space from a previous roof replacement may contain asbestos)
- guttering, downpipes, rainwater head
Ceilings
- ceiling tiles
- sprayed/textured ceilings
- lathe and plaster (skim coat)

External cladding and eaves
- sheet claddings (flat/corrugated)
- baseboards and kickboards
- shingles
- imitation brick/stone claddings
- soffit linings

Interior walls and finishes
- sprayed/textured wall finishes
- insulation board (eg around fireplaces)
- plasterboard lining and jointing compound
- skim coat on lathe and plaster

Floors
- vinyl sheet and tile flooring

Insulation
- roof and wall insulation
- lagging (insulation)
- hot water cylinder insulation

Pipes
- drainage pipes

Miscellaneous
- flues
- seals on wood burners/fire doors
- fuse boards (mill board)/linings in fuse holders
- fire cement in old chimneys
- night store heater
- fences
- Moss, lichen and algae from the roof and exterior walls
Asbestos containing materials come in all shapes, sizes and colours. There are mostly three types of raw asbestos used in NZ — blue, brown and white asbestos, and all were used in many building products. Asbestos was often mixed with other materials so it is virtually impossible to identify by eye whether or not it is present in suspect materials. The only way to be certain if your home contains asbestos is to have materials tested in an accredited laboratory. Do not attempt to obtain a sample without talking to the laboratory first.

It is estimated that there could be over 70,000 dwellings in Christchurch that have asbestos containing materials present. This is to be expected as asbestos containing materials were a common building product from the 1940’s through until the 1990’s. Because asbestos is fire, heat, chemical and noise resistant as well as providing added strength to otherwise brittle materials (such as cement) it was widely used. In some instances it was used earlier than 1940, such as in lathe and plaster. It may also be found in more recent products as there is currently no ban on the importation and use of asbestos containing materials in New Zealand. However, products containing asbestos have not been manufactured here since the 1990s.

A large proportion of buildings built or renovated during this time period will contain some asbestos materials, however some houses built after this era may also.

Asbestos can be found in:

- asbestos cement products (pipes, flues, roofs etc)
- wall cladding (fibrolite)
- lagging (on pipes and boilers etc)
- water tanks
- asbestos insulating board
- sprayed coatings on ceilings, walls and beams/columns
- textured decorative coatings, flat and stippled plaster
- vinyl floor tiles
- textiles and composites
- gaskets and ropes (such as on wood burners)
- lathe and plaster
- mastics and sealants
- damp proof courses (malthoid)
Asbestos Aware has been developed to assist homeowners who may be suspicious or know that they have asbestos in a building or premises. However, you may also be concerned that there are traces of asbestos in your soil as a result of historic or accidental dumping or burying. For guidance on contaminated land and how to manage this risk visit www.contamland.co.nz.

If testing confirms that there is asbestos present in your soil than you should talk to a suitably Qualified and Experienced Practitioner (SQEP) for guidance. You can find out more about that process here.

You should also use these fact sheets to help identify asbestos:

- WorkSafe NZ - Locations where asbestos may be found
- Community and Public Health - All about asbestos
TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW LICENCES

From 2018, asbestos removal workers and supervisors will need to sit and pass relevant training courses. The relevant training is under development and is expected to be available by 2017. This will allow removal businesses to get their workers and supervisors trained in time.

Workers doing asbestos-related work (for example a tradesperson who comes across, but does not remove, asbestos) will also require a minimum amount of training to ensure their safety.

Training is also under development for Asbestos Assessors, but this training will not be the only way for Asbestos Assessors to evidence that they are sufficiently trained and qualified.

What sort of training will I need?

Businesses will need to employ or contract appropriately trained workers to remove asbestos.

The test is ‘does your business remove asbestos”? If the answer is yes, you will need to find out about the new training requirements.

Supervisors will be able to sit interim competency tests at WorkSafe offices in order to supervise asbestos removal after 4 April 2016, but before the new training is ready.

Training requirements are based on the type of asbestos removed or the role of the person

- **Workers doing asbestos related work**
  Asbestos identification and safe handling training (this training can be provided in-house).

- **Workers who remove asbestos (including builders, roofers, and other tradespeople)**
  Class A removal training or Class B removal training. (Estimated to be a two day training course).

- **Supervisor training**
  Required to do Class A, or Class B, worker removal training plus a separate unit on supervision (Estimated to be a four day training course).

- **Assessor training** – Will likely be a higher level course. Early estimates indicate a five day training course.
This information is important for licence holders who wish to name a Supervisor on a Class A or Class B asbestos removal licence from 4 April 2016.

Prior to the relevant training being available for supervisors, there will be a WorkSafe-administered competence test for non-Certificate of Competence holders who wish to supervise asbestos removal work under a licence.

Passing the appropriate test will satisfy the ‘training requirement’ to be a nominated supervisor on a removal licence during the transition period (April 2016 – April 2018).

Who needs to sit the competency test?

- Non-Certificate of Competence holders need to sit the test for either Class A or Class B supervision (whichever they are applying for).
- Certificate of Competence holders with specified categories E and F will only need to sit a competency test if they are applying to supervise Class A work (they will automatically be able to supervise Class B work).

*Current ‘Full’ and ‘Specified’ (categories A-D) CoC holders will not need to sit the competency test.

Testing is free and will start from 4 April 2016. The WorkSafe website will be updated on when and where to apply in your local area.

Applicants will still need to complete the approved training before the end of April 2018 and provide evidence of that to WorkSafe to remain a nominated supervisor.

*‘Current CoC’ means if it is/was current as at 4 April 2016. (If expired you will need to sit a competency test).*
KEY RULE CHANGES

Asbestos removal rules change on 4 April 2016. Full details will be available in the guidance released in 2016.

Key changes include:

Assessment required for asbestos removal
An asbestos assessor is required for asbestos removal to do the following tasks:
- air monitoring during Class A asbestos removal work.
- clearance inspections for Class A and B asbestos removal work.
- issuing clearance certificates for Class A and B asbestos removal work.

The Asbestos Assessor must be an independent competent person.

A ‘competent person’ means a person who has the knowledge, experience, skills, and qualifications to carry out the tasks. The criteria for a competent person is under development.

From 2018, the Asbestos Assessor will need to have an Assessor Licence to do this work for Class A removals.

Who can be an Assessor?
- Air monitoring for friable (Class A) work can be provided by a licensed asbestos assessor. Assessors will need to apply for a licence by 16 April 2018 (there is a two year grace period to allow time for training to be developed).

Supervision required for asbestos removal
- Both friable and non-friable asbestos removal will require supervision from 4 April 2016.
- Supervisors will be required to be at the removal area whenever Class A asbestos removal is being carried out.
- Supervisors will be required to be in the vicinity and readily available to a worker carrying out Class B asbestos removal work.
- Each individual Supervisor will need to be named on a business’s asbestos removal licence at the time of application.
What’s the criteria to be a Supervisor?

Supervisors will need:
- to be at least 18 years of age.
- to have had the relevant training.
- to have at least three years of relevant industry experience (Class A).
- to have at least one year of relevant industry experience (Class B).

Removal control plan required for licensed removals
- An asbestos removal plan will be required for all licensed asbestos removal (Class A and Class B).
- The control plan identifies the specific controls the licensed asbestos removalist will use to make sure people are not put at risk.
- Full details will be available in the Approved Code of Practice, released in 2016.

Notify WorkSafe five days in advance of all licenced asbestos removal work
- The licensed asbestos removal business will need to notify WorkSafe of any licensed asbestos removal in writing at least five days before removal starts. Notifications can be made online.
A Certificate of Competence (CoC) verifies that a person has the knowledge and experience necessary to carry out restricted asbestos removal, maintenance and demolition in the safe and proper manner.

From 4 April 2016 Class A and B asbestos removal licences will replace the current CoC for restricted asbestos work.

**What will change for Certificate of Competence holders?**

- The holder of a current Certificate of Competence is taken to be a licence holder and a supervisor under the new regulations.
- Once their certificate expires they will need to work under an asbestos removal licence.

**Options after a Certificate of Competence expires**

Once a CoC expires the holder can:

1. Apply for an Asbestos Removal Licence (Class A or Class B), and nominate themselves and/or other people to act as Supervisors on the new licence.
2. Continue to work as a Supervisor or worker under another business’s Asbestos Removal Licence.
WHAT’S A CERTIFIED SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Businesses requiring a Class A Asbestos Removal Licence will need to have a safety management system.

A safety management system is designed to ensure a business can identify risks in advance and plan for how to deal with them.

Businesses have until 4 April 2018 to get their safety management system in place certified. In the interim they must still manage the risks of asbestos in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and the Asbestos Regulations.

Work is underway with the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) to develop an accreditation scheme for certifying safety management systems. This is expected to be available later in 2016.

JAS-ANZ will accredit auditors to carry out certification based on the Australia/NZ Standard 4801. Additional requirements may be set by WorkSafe. More information will be provided in early 2016.
If testing has confirmed the presence of asbestos in your home and you are starting renovation, demolition or repair work, you can:

- Leave it undisturbed if it is in a good stable condition and won't be impacted by the renovation work; or
- Engage a competent contractor to put in place other options for dealing with asbestos such as sealing, encasing or complete removal.

Asbestos left undisturbed, in good condition or sealed is relatively safe – but if it is easily crumbled, broken down, or damaged or if you intend to drill it, sand it or break it up, it can be harmful and needs specialist attention.

Asbestos Aware strongly advises you to use professional asbestos removal companies to undertake the removal, transportation and disposal. They are fully trained and equipped to complete this work and to manage the clean-up. Residue from asbestos left in your home can cause health issues in the future – that’s why it’s so important to be asbestos aware.

There are certain types of work with asbestos containing materials that by law can only be carried out by, or under the direct supervision of, someone who holds a Certificate of Competence for Restricted Work with Asbestos issued by WorkSafe NZ. WorkSafe NZ strongly recommends that all asbestos removal work is completed by an approved provider.

Here is a list of Christchurch-based Asbestos Removal Contractors that employ people holding a Certificate of Competence for Restricted Work with Asbestos. You should ask to see the contractors Certificate of Competency before any work commences.

Agility Asbestos Remediation Solutions 03 389 2219
B&D&J&A Contracts Ltd 027 333 3112
Canterbury Demolition 03 381 5273
Harcourt Insulation 021 279 3720
EHSNZ (Environmental Hazard Services New Zealand) 03 313 9960
Natural Living Homes – Asbestos Removal Ltd 0800 813 813
NZDAA demolition-asbestos.co.nz
Scope Demolition South Ltd 03 313 5790
Southern Cross Asbestos Removal 021 779 008
Wheelers Ltd 0508 66 77 101 / 03 940 7180
WorkSafe Canterbury 0220 996 764
Invercargill based removal contractors are:

Southern Insulation 03 218 2096
Public Health South (only for private residences) 03 211 0900

Certified contractors should follow approved methods for removal. You can find out more about this methodology and what to expect from the removal company by downloading the fact sheets on this page.

After safe removal and disposal you can expect your contractor to complete the following as a final clean up in your home:

- Vacuum residue and dust from all surfaces (including unsealed drawers and cupboards) using a vacuum cleaner fitted with a HEPA filter.
- Wet mop after vacuuming.

Remember, asbestos is safe if it is left intact and undisturbed.

Fact sheets:
- Ministry of Health advice to householders
- Community and Public Health – Removing Asbestos from the Home
- WorkSafe NZ – Managing asbestos
- WorkSafe NZ – personal protective equipment to use when working with asbestos
Asbestos is a health hazard, although the risk to you and your family is very low from short-term low-level exposure in the home. Asbestos creates a health risk only if it is disturbed or broken up and fibres are released into the air. Don’t expose yourself and your family to this risk.

Asbestos related diseases generally occur in workers who have had heavy exposure over extended periods of time. Short term high exposure can sometimes happen during home renovation or maintenance involving materials which contain asbestos. It is always best to avoid exposure as much as reasonably possible.

All types of asbestos fibres are known to cause serious health hazards in humans. There are a number of diseases that can be related to breathing in asbestos fibres, including:

- Asbestosis (scarring of lung tissues)
- Mesothelioma (malignant cancers developing around the linings of either the chest or the abdominal cavities)
- Lung cancer
- Pleural plaques (thickening of membranes around the lungs which may or may not lead to further disease, and leading to varying degrees of debilitation).

By using a certified contractor to remove and correctly dispose of the asbestos you can avoid the unnecessary danger of exposing your family to the risk.

- Community & Public Health – Hazardous Substances
- Asbestos - The Silent Killer
Asbestos is a hazardous waste and must be disposed of correctly.

Asbestos waste must only be disposed of at an approved local authority refuse site. It must not be sold or reused. It must be removed from the construction area to an approved refuse site as soon as possible. Incorrect disposal of asbestos waste is prohibited and can result in a fine or prosecution.

The only refuse station in the greater Christchurch Area that accepts asbestos is the Metro Place Eco Drop in Bromley, Christchurch. Asbestos cannot be taken to the site without prior arrangement and must be packaged correctly for disposal.

Asbestos must be transported and delivered in a safe and secure manner. Asbestos Aware strongly advises you to use experienced asbestos removal companies to undertake the removal, transportation and disposal of asbestos from your home.

For approved disposal sites outside of greater Christchurch, check with your local Council.

Asbestos specialists should follow approved methods for storage, transport and disposal, such as:

- Placing asbestos into closed containers that are impermeable to asbestos dust.
- Using bags no bigger than 1200mm x 900mm, and only half filling them.
- Being careful when letting excess air out so that asbestos dust is not released.
- Double-bagging materials in case bags rupture during handling and transport.
- Sealing the bags or sheets well to prevent asbestos dust from escaping.
- All asbestos waste must be sealed in plastic bags (200µm thick) and labelled “Asbestos hazard - wear respirator and protective clothing while handling contents”.

You can find out more about this methodology and what to expect from the removal company by downloading the following fact sheet.

- WorkSafe NZ – Disposal of asbestos waste
The only way to be certain if your home contains asbestos is to have suspect materials tested in an accredited laboratory. Do not attempt to obtain a sample without talking to the laboratory first. Below is a list of Christchurch companies that can take samples and test for asbestos.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Qualified to take samples for testing (air and/or materials)</th>
<th>Accredited testing and analysis laboratory</th>
<th>Qualified to undertake soil testing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Environmental Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fibres@ihug.co.nz">fibres@ihug.co.nz</a></td>
<td>04 566 3311</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRL Energy Ltd</td>
<td><a href="mailto:m.young@crl.co.nz">m.young@crl.co.nz</a></td>
<td>03 3412120 027 471 3165</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td></td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dowdell and Associates</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nfo@dowdellassociates.co.nz">nfo@dowdellassociates.co.nz</a></td>
<td>09 526 0246</td>
<td>✅</td>
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<td>🟢</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental &amp; Industrial Analysis Group</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jessica@eiag.co.nz">jessica@eiag.co.nz</a></td>
<td>033774314</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td>🟢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill Laboratories</td>
<td><a href="mailto:barbara.muller@hill-labs.co.nz">barbara.muller@hill-labs.co.nz</a></td>
<td>03 377 7176</td>
<td>✅</td>
<td>✅</td>
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<tr>
<td>K2 Environmental</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@k2.co.nz">info@k2.co.nz</a></td>
<td>03 384 8966</td>
<td>✅</td>
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<tr>
<td>Precise Consulting</td>
<td><a href="mailto:admin@preciseconsulting.co.nz">admin@preciseconsulting.co.nz</a></td>
<td>03 943 5394</td>
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<tr>
<td>AANZ Canterbury</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wayne.larmour@aanzcanterbury.kiwi.nz">wayne.larmour@aanzcanterbury.kiwi.nz</a></td>
<td>027430-6716</td>
<td>✅</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agility Asbestos Remediation Solutions</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sales@agbs.co.nz">sales@agbs.co.nz</a></td>
<td>03 389 2219</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chem Safety</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paul@chemsafety.co.nz">paul@chemsafety.co.nz</a></td>
<td>03 366 3700</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGEO</td>
<td><a href="mailto:goddy@engeo.co.nz">goddy@engeo.co.nz</a></td>
<td>03 3289012</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Construction Partners NZ Ltd</td>
<td><a href="mailto:admin@icp-usa.com">admin@icp-usa.com</a></td>
<td>03 967 1500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sephira Environmental Limited</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brett@sephira.nz">brett@sephira.nz</a></td>
<td>03 967 9523</td>
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<tr>
<td>TriEx Health, Safety &amp; Wellness Ltd</td>
<td><a href="mailto:enquiries@triex.co.nz">enquiries@triex.co.nz</a></td>
<td>03 343 2997</td>
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</table>
For a full list of accredited testing facilities visit ianz.govt.nz and search for keyword asbestos.

To find out more about preparing a sample visit fibres.co.nz

If you live outside the greater Christchurch area, and want to find out about approved testing laboratories in your region, contact the Health Protection Team working in the Public Health Unit of your District Health Board.
WorkSafe NZ is the country’s health and safety regulator. For asbestos this means ensuring workers, employers, contractors and companies involved in asbestos work comply with the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 and the Asbestos Regulations. As well as this, WorkSafe also manages the Certificate of Competency regime. You can view their asbestos toolkit – a series of eight information sheets on asbestos – online. You can also phone them on 0800 030 040. *WorkSafe NZ has produced an Asbestos Toolkit*

**Canterbury Rebuild Safety Charter** is an agreement on health and safety between the leaders of a number of government organisations and companies leading the rebuild. More than 170 organisations have signed up to the Charter. *Its website has a host of information on asbestos*

**Community and Public Health**, a division of the Canterbury DHB, has information on asbestos on its website. You can also phone them on (03) 364 1777. *Community and Public Health Asbestos Information*

**Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA)** In accordance with best practice, contractors provide a plan to CERA and WorkSafe for the safe removal of asbestos from buildings. *CERA’s Asbestos Removal Guide*

**Christchurch City Council** provides education and advice to homeowners about handling asbestos in Do-It-Yourself residential settings. You can phone them on (03) 941 8999 or 0800 800 169 and ask to speak to the Environmental Compliance Team.

**Waimakariri District Council** has information on reducing the health risk of asbestos to you and your family. You can also phone them on (03) 311 8900. *WDC Asbestos Guide*

**Environment Canterbury** is focused on identifying instances of illegal or unsafe disposal of asbestos, and taking enforcement action when illegal waste disposal occurs. You can also phone them on (03) 353 9007. *ECan Asbestos Guidelines*

**Accident Compensation Corporation** has a role to raise awareness of the serious harm issues of exposure to asbestos and the preventative steps that people can take to minimise risk and stay safe. *ACC Asbestos Information*
# ASBESTOS LICENCE FEES

Fees for the new licences are now confirmed following public consultation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Fee payable (incl GST)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Application for Class A asbestos licence</td>
<td>$490.00</td>
<td>Licence valid for five years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominated Supervisor in Class A asbestos licence application</td>
<td>$470.00</td>
<td>Each Supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application for Class B asbestos licence</td>
<td>$490.00</td>
<td>Licence valid for five years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominated Supervisor in Class B asbestos licence application</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application for Asbestos Assessor licence</td>
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<td>Application for renewal of Class A or Class B asbestos licence</td>
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<td>Nominated Supervisor for Class B asbestos licence renewal</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Application to add a new nominated Supervisor to Class B asbestos removal licence</td>
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</table>
ASBESTOS AWARE

Are you starting renovations or repairs on your property and worried about the risk of asbestos? Asbestos Aware will help you identify what asbestos could look like, where it could be found and how it should be dealt with.

Asbestos is a health hazard to you and your family if you inhale the very fine fibres that can be created when you damage or disturb materials that contain asbestos. If you, or any contractors you use, don’t plan work carefully and take appropriate precautions, you may spread contamination. This can settle on carpets, drapes and soft furnishings and become airborne at a later date. Don’t expose yourself and your family to this risk.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that was a popular component of many building materials used in the construction or refurbishment of homes in New Zealand, particularly between 1940 and 1990. By following the information on this site you can find out how to recognise and manage the hazards associated with asbestos containing materials and you will find the contact details for those people who can assist with testing for asbestos and its safe removal.

The Asbestos Aware site has been developed specifically for greater Christchurch, but the information is relevant for anyone undertaking or commissioning residential work that may involve disturbing asbestos containing materials.
ODD SPOT

What is wrong with this photograph?

Waste pipe runs directly to drain, should run to a gully trap.

Water pipe is supported by a bucket (kiwi ingenuity is alive and well).

Waste pipe not sealed where it exits building cladding.
CONFORMANCE OF REINFORCING STEEL MESH

Building Controls Update No. 178: Conformance of reinforcing steel mesh

4 March 2016

The Commerce Commission this week asked two companies to stop selling some steel mesh products amid concerns they might not comply with the Australia/New Zealand Standard (AS/NZ 4671:2001). These companies both claim their product complies with this Standard as the pathway for achieving Building Code compliance.

The Commission has been investigating these products and initial testing showed the product did not meet the requirements of the Standard. One of the companies has challenged the test results. Further investigation is now underway.

The two products are:

- 147E G500E (147E) steel mesh – supplied by Brilliance Steel Limited, and
- SE615-500STD (SE615) steel mesh – supplied by Euro Corporation Limited.

These products have been supplied in New Zealand since 2012. It is believed they have been supplied mainly to the residential market with the use limited to residential floor slabs, driveways and paths.

Whatever the outcome of the Commerce Commission investigation, MBIE analysis has concluded that for houses there are no concerns about life safety and compliance with the Building Code.

Neither of these companies are dominant suppliers of this mesh in New Zealand. Our initial understanding is that their product has not been widely used in commercial or multi-story buildings, if at all. However we are checking this further and if it has been used in these buildings, case-by-case assessments would be needed.
Ductile steel reinforcing mesh is used to help control cracks in concrete floor slabs. It increases the slab’s flexibility, improving its performance in a serious earthquake. It is one of a range of factors that contribute to a building’s resilience.

In 2011, following the Canterbury earthquakes, the ductility level for mesh in concrete slabs required by the Ministry’s Acceptable Solution and Verification Method was increased to a minimum elongation of ten percent. Before then, mesh in concrete slabs generally had an elongation of about two percent.

The Commerce Commission test results of this product so far average around eight per cent. These homes will still be more resilient than the many of thousands of houses built prior to 2011.

While the compliance of these companies’ products is in dispute, MBIE advice is that this product should not be used in concrete slabs that haven’t yet been poured where the consent requires Grade 500E mesh.
QUIZ ON ARTICLES IN THIS NEWS SHEET

1. Asbestos is a health risk when it is disturbed.
   (a) True
   (b) False

2. Night store heaters may contain asbestos.
   (a) True
   (b) False

3. Asbestos containing materials are ACM’s.
   (a) True
   (b) False

4. ACD means
   (a) asbestos contaminated dust
   (b) asbestos contaminated debris
   (c) asbestos contaminated dust or debris

5. A national licensing system for asbestos removal is being introduced from
   (a) 1 March 2016
   (b) 4 April 2016
   (c) 1 June 2016

6. The new licences will be held by a person.
   (a) True
   (b) False

7. There will be how many types of licences available under the new asbestos regulations.
   (a) One
   (b) Two
   (c) Three

8. If a building was constructed after 1990 it is unlikely to contain asbestos.
   (a) True
   (b) False

9. An Asbestos Assessor provides air quality monitoring during removal work, inspects the finished job, and provides a _____________.
   (a) code certificate
   (b) compliance certificate
   (c) clearance certificate

10. The training to obtain an asbestos removal Class A licence is available now.
    (a) True
    (b) False
11. Workers doing asbestos related work (eg a tradesperson who comes across but does not remove asbestos) will require a minimum amount of training to ensure their safety.
   (a) True
   (b) False

12. A licensed Asbestos Assessor will need to apply for a licence by __________ 2018. (There is a two year grace period to allow time for training to be developed).
   (a) 1 April 2018
   (b) 4 April 2018
   (c) 16 April 2018

13. The criteria to be a supervisor is that they must be at least 18 years of age, have had relevant training, have at least ____ years of relevant industry experience (class A) and one year of relevant industry experience (class B).
   (a) one year
   (b) two years
   (c) three years

14. Asbestos material can be loaded into an open trailer and disposed of in the public part of the local refuse tip site.
   (a) True
   (b) False

15. A class A asbestos licence is going to be valid for how many years.
    (a) One year
    (b) Two years
    (c) Five years

16. Asbestos ACM’s may be found in corrugated cement roofing.
    (a) True
    (b) False

17. Asbestos ACM’s may be found in insulation board (around fireplaces).
    (a) True
    (b) False

18. Asbestos ACM’s may be found in seals on wood burners/fire doors.
    (a) True
    (b) False

19. Asbestos ACM’s may be found in vinyl sheet and tile flooring.
    (a) True
    (b) False

20. Asbestos ACM’s may be found in soffit linings.
    (a) True
    (b) False
ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. a   6. b   11. b   16. a
2. a   7. c   12. c   17. a
3. a   8. a   13. c   18. a
4. c   9. c   14. b   19. a
5. b   10. b  15. c   20. a