

**UAB POLICY  
FOR  
MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS**

Asbestos is present in several forms throughout the University including pipe insulation, ceiling tiles, and spray-on materials. Potential health hazards to employees, students, and visitors arise whenever individual asbestos fibers become airborne through disturbance, contact, or reentrainment. Subsequent inhalation and deposition in the lungs is associated with serious long-term illnesses. Therefore, it is necessary that the University of Alabama at Birmingham comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and standards to provide its personnel and visitors a safe and health environment free from asbestos overexposure. To assure that UAB is successful in this endeavor, requires a concerted effort on the part of the Department of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Department of Facilities Management as presented below.

**UAB Department of Occupational Health & Safety**

The Asbestos Control Officer will be responsible for keeping abreast of and dissemination information pertaining to current laws, regulations, and standards regarding asbestos exposures. Asbestos Control Officer will provide necessary assistance to maintenance supervisors in the recognition, evaluation, and control of those situations likely to produce exposure to airborne asbestos fibers. Such assistance will be in the form of training and aid in the selection of proper work practices, engineering controls, and approved personal protective devices. As a minimum, the training program will include a two hour asbestos awareness training program for all maintenance and custodial workers who work in buildings which contain asbestos and an additional train for those worker who will be required to disturbed asbestos containing materials. All training will be conducted in accordance with Federal Regulations 40 CFR 763.92 and will include the following items:

**Two hour training shall include**

1. Information regarding asbestos and its various uses and forms.
2. Information on the health effects associated with asbestos exposure.
3. Locations of asbestos identified throughout each building in which they work.
4. Recognition of damage deterioration, and de lamination of asbestos containing building materials.
5. Name and telephone number of the asbestos coordinator.

**Additional Fourteen hour training shall include**

6. OSHA and EPA regulations
7. Use of personal protective equipment including hands-on training.
8. Description of the proper methods of handling ACBM.
9. Packaging, disposal, cleanup and decontamination procedures.
10. Hands-on training in the use of personal protective measures and good work practices and small scale removal projects.

The Asbestos Control Officer will conduct all applicable asbestos monitoring when notified of projects that involve potential exposure to asbestos. Sampling result will be made available too maintenance supervisors and involved personnel. In addition, the Department will notify any personnel overexposed and their supervisor in writing within five (5) days of such a finding and include recommendations to prevent further occurrences. Monitoring records will be maintained indefinitely.

The Asbestos Control Officer will prepare the written notification required by the EPA whenever major project involving asbestos are undertaken. A major project is any project where demolition is done or any project where renovation is performed with the removal of more than 260 linear feet of asbestos material on or in pipe or more than 160 square feet of any other asbestos material or one cubic meter, whichever is less. Such written notification containing the information required in Paragraph 61.22(d)(2) of the Code of Federal Regulation Title 40, Part 61 Subpart B, will be delivered or postmarked no later than working 10 days prior to commencement of the project. A special consideration is given to emergency projects.

In addition, Asbestos Control Officer will respond to questions and promptly investigate any complaints by UAB personnel.

## **Department of Facilities Management**

All maintenance supervisors with personnel potentially exposed to asbestos should become knowledgeable of the contents of the training provided by the OHS Department. In addition, supervisors should ensure that such training is available to each employee exposed to asbestos. All maintenance supervisors should consult with the Asbestos Control Officer no later than 20 days prior to commencement of any major (as defined above) construction, demolition, or renovation projects with the potential for asbestos exposure. Such consultation shall include the following: work practices, controls, personal protective devices, cleanup procedures, caution signs, disposal procedures, and monitoring requirements. All other projects including the machining, cutting, or sawing of asbestos-containing materials not classified as major, which involve asbestos exposure, should be reported to the Asbestos Control Officer five (5) days prior to commencement for consultation. Emergency projects should be reported as soon as possible but no later than two (2) days after beginning. It shall be the responsibility of the maintenance supervisor to see that all requirements resulting from the consultation with the Asbestos Control Officer are implemented.

All OSHA-required medical surveillance relative to working with asbestos will be provided to employees at University expense. All employees who are included in Class I, II, or III work more than thirty days per year or are exposed to above the OSHA TWA or Excursion limit will be included in the medical surveillance program. The medical surveillance will contain the following term:

1. Chest roentgenogram (posterior-anterior 14 x 17 inches)
2. Medical history to elicit symptomatology of respiratory disease
3. Pulmonary function tests which include FVC and FEV<sub>1</sub>

These items must be provided:

1. Within thirty (30) days of initial employment or assignment to a job which would result in asbestos exposure
2. Annually following the initial testing
3. Within thirty (30) days of the employee's termination date

No examination is required if there are adequate records to show that an equivalent examination has been conducted within the last year. A physician will also determine if an employee is physically capable of working while wearing a respiratory protective device. This determination will be reviewed on an annual basis. Medical records must be kept for the duration of employment plus twenty (20) years and be made available to the employee's physician upon the request of the employee.

## **Maintenance Personnel**

All employees and staff are expected to accept the responsibility of personal concern for the safety and health of themselves, fellow workers, students, patients, and visitors through knowledge of and compliance with this policy. Maintenance personnel should attend training programs provided by the OHS Department and abide established rules and procedures pertaining to asbestos exposure. Personnel should report any questions, problems, or violations to their Supervisor or to the OHS Department (934-2487) for clarification.