

# ASBESTOS HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

## A. KEY POINTS FOR THE SAFE HANDLING OF ASBESTOS

### SAFE HANDLING OF ASBESTOS



#### 1. PROVIDE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

- As a minimum, provide workers with gloves, goggles, disposable clothing or replacement clothing, adequate footwear and disposable masks (see Appendix C for specifications).
- Dispose of contaminated clothing and protective equipment in the same way as other asbestos-containing materials (ACMs).
- Provide washing facilities for workers and training to all involved if possible, or work supervisors as a minimum



#### 2. IF POSSIBLE, DO NOT DISTURB IT, BREAK IT OR CUT IT

This can release asbestos dust which contains hazardous fibres



#### 3. DO NOT BURN IT

Never burn suspected ACMs as this releases dangerous fibres into the air



#### 4. WET IT

- If it is necessary to move, saw or break up the materials, keep them thoroughly wet to reduce the amount of airborne fibres
- Work only in well-ventilated areas
- Take particular care with friable materials
- Clean any contaminated surfaces by wetting the area or using damp cloths. Never dust or sweep as this propels fibres into the air



#### 5. COVER IT

- When disposing of it, keep piles of ACMs covered with plastic sheets until they can be disposed of
- Always wet the materials before moving



#### 6. WRAP IT UP

- Store asbestos-containing waste in sealable containers until it can be disposed of safely
- Use metal or plastic drums or strong polyethylene bags
- If using bags put one bag inside another and seal with strong tape
- Label the containers in the local language(s) and include a hazard warning before disposal