

G6.8 Procedures for abatement of asbestos-containing material during house and building demolition/renovation

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Regulatory excerpt

Section 6.8 (Procedures) of the *OHS Regulation* states:

- (1) The employer must ensure that procedures for handling or using asbestos-containing material prevent or minimize the release of airborne asbestos fibres.
- (2) The employer must ensure that the procedures for control, handling or use of asbestos are in accordance with procedures acceptable to the Board.
- (3) The procedures must address
 - (a) containment of asbestos operations where applicable,
 - (b) control of the release of asbestos fibre,
 - (c) provision, use and maintenance of appropriate personal protective equipment and clothing,
 - (d) means for the decontamination of workers, and
 - (e) removal of asbestos waste and cleanup of asbestos waste material.
- (4) The procedures must provide a worker with task-specific work direction that addresses both hazards and necessary controls.

Purpose of guideline

In the past, a wide variety of building materials contained asbestos. During renovation or demolition of buildings and other structures constructed of such materials, workers and other persons may be at risk of harmful exposure to airborne asbestos if safe work procedures are not followed.

This guideline provides information to assist with the development of task-specific work procedures required by section 6.8 of the *OHS Regulation* during the renovation or demolition of a house, building, or similar structure involving asbestos material. It also provides information on some of the requirements in the *OHS Regulation* for asbestos control, particularly in [Part 6 \(Substance Specific Requirements - Asbestos\)](#) and [Part 20 \(Construction, Excavation and Demolition\)](#).

The requirements for asbestos in [Part 6](#) apply to any workplace where a worker is or may be exposed to potentially hazardous levels of asbestos fibre including, but not limited to: a workplace where asbestos-containing material (ACM) is present or is used, an operation involving the abatement of ACM, and an operation in which exposure to asbestos fibre in excess of 50% of the exposure limit may occur. The provisions of [Part 6](#) are in addition to those in [Part 5 \(Chemical Agents and Biological Agents\)](#), which, among other things, establishes the exposure limit for asbestos and general measures for control.

Part 20 applies to any construction project as defined in [Part 20](#), including demolition, alteration and repair. Provisions in [Part 20](#) on notice of project (NOP) and hazardous materials are particularly applicable to asbestos control.

This guideline should be used with the WorkSafeBC (WSBC) manual, [Safe Work Practices for Handling Asbestos](#), and other applicable safety information on asbestos in construction. These are available at www2.worksafebc.com/Portals/Construction/HazardousMaterials.asp?ReportID=34092.

Pre-planning and notice of project

Renovation and demolition work involving materials containing asbestos requires proper planning. A risk assessment for asbestos must be done before demolition or other work begins, as required by sections [6.6](#) and [20.112](#) of the *OHS Regulation*.

In addition, an NOP must be submitted, as required by s. [20.2\(1\)\(c\)](#), before beginning any work that involves either

- The removal, encapsulation or enclosure of friable asbestos

- The demolition, dismantling or repair of any building or structure, or parts of them in which insulating materials containing asbestos have been used, or in which asbestos products have been manufactured.

The owner or prime contractor must ensure the NOP is received at the WSBC at least 24 hours before starting the project; not just the day before the project, but less than 24 hours before work is due to begin. Sending NOPs either by fax, or electronically to the WorkSafeBC web site is acceptable.

Note: In some emergency circumstances such as flooded or fire-damaged buildings that contain or are suspected of containing asbestos, immediate work may be necessary to prevent injury to workers or damage to property. In such cases section [20.2\(4\)](#) of the *OHS Regulation* permits work to begin as long as the nearest Board office is provided with an NOP at the earliest possible time. Section [20.2\(4\)](#) does not relieve the employer of the obligation to comply with any other requirement of the *OHS Regulation*, including the obligation to conduct a pre-demolition risk assessment for asbestos. Work must be done safely.

Renovation and demolition scenarios

Ten common renovation and demolition scenarios are outlined in the Table "Guide for handling and removal of asbestos materials during demolition and renovation." The scenarios range from removal of spray-on friable asbestos insulation within a structure, to demolishing a structure using mechanical demolition equipment.

For each scenario, the Table provides information on five aspects of hazard control

- The type of containment, from restricted access to partial or full containment
- Work area controls to minimize the generation of dust and to otherwise control it if present
- Personal protective equipment, particularly respiratory and body protection
- Personnel decontamination, ranging from simple wash-up to full shower provisions
- Site decontamination

The control measures outlined in the Table vary according to risk factors, and are intended to be consistent with the risk-based principles in the manual [Safe Work Practices for Handling Asbestos](#).

One of the risk factors in the Table deals with whether or not the structure will be re-occupied. "Re-occupancy" refers to a circumstance where one or more workers or other building occupants without appropriate personal protective equipment will be returning into the abatement area following the abatement work. Re-occupancy involves a higher level of risk and typically a more stringent standard of work area control and decontamination.

For most scenarios a "Comments" section is included to outline the differences in control measures where no re-occupancy is expected or to provide further technical information.

There are several precautions when using the Table.

1. **The Table does not include all possible scenarios.** Sections [6.5](#) and [20.112](#) of the *OHS Regulation* establish the employer's obligation to identify asbestos at the work site. Section [6.6](#) requires that a risk assessment be done of any identified ACM and before any demolition, alteration or repair of machinery, equipment or structures where asbestos may be disturbed. It also requires that the level of risk be established, which will typically be high or moderate risk for renovation and demolition work. The assessment of ACM must be done by a qualified person. See section [6.6\(4\)](#) of the *OHS Regulation* and OHS Guideline [G6.6-3](#) for information on qualifications.

Measures to identify and assess asbestos may reveal additional scenarios and types of ACM. For any scenario, section 6.8 requires that proper procedures be in place.

2. **The measures in the scenarios are considered only to be a guide to the expected standard of protection.** There may be circumstances at a site where the assessment demonstrates a need to include additional or more stringent measures. In all cases, it is necessary to ensure that the control measures properly protect from exposure to asbestos. Measures must be in compliance with the *OHS Regulation*.

3. The Table does not cover all aspects of asbestos controls required by the *OHS Regulation*. Several examples are provided below.
- **Air monitoring:** Air monitoring must be done if a worker may be exposed to asbestos levels above 50% of the exposure limit of 0.1 fibre/ml, and in certain high risk circumstances specified in the Regulation.
 - **Some procedures are prohibited:** Examples include pressure spraying to remove asbestos, and dry sweeping or using compressed air for clean-up. Procedures such as sanding of asbestos-contaminated flooring and similar surfaces should be avoided where possible, given the requirement in section 6.8 to prevent or minimize the release of airborne asbestos. Any sanding is considered to be high risk and requires a corresponding high level of control.
 - **Before starting work, all workers and supervisors must be properly trained:** Training is required on matters including the hazards of asbestos, the means of identifying asbestos-containing materials at the worksite, the correct use and maintenance of personal protective equipment, the operation of required engineering controls, and the site-specific work procedures to be followed. Workers must be properly supervised.

Table: Guide for handling and removal of asbestos materials during demolition and renovation projects

Note: Explanations of the terms used in this Table are provided at the end of the Guideline.

Work area designation and containment	Work area controls	Personal protective equipment (See Note 1 at the end of the table)	Personnel decontamination (See Note 2 at the end of the table)	Site decontamination comments and explanation (See Note 3 at the end of the table)
Scenario 1: Spray-on friable asbestos insulation or fire-proofing materials, with re-occupancy				
Full containment	Material saturation procedures designed to eliminate or reduce the release of dust before and during disturbance and handling of materials; and HEPA-equipped ventilation cabinet	Air supplied respirator; Protective clothing; and Laceless rubber boots or other appropriate footwear designed to be easily decontaminated	Full shower decontamination facility	Impervious waste containers; HEPA-equipped vacuum to ensure removal of all visible ACM (Wet wash-down also recommended); and Fibre sealant on exposed surfaces after cleaning
Comment: <i>If there will be no re-occupancy, the above measures apply except that partial containment is acceptable as a means of work area containment. Also, the recommendation for wet-wash down would not apply as part of site decontamination as long as decontamination methods ensure removal of all visible ACM.</i>				
Scenario 2: Asbestos-containing textured ceiling or wall removal, with re-occupancy				
Full containment	Material saturation procedures designed to eliminate or reduce the release of dust before and during disturbance and handling of materials; and HEPA-equipped ventilation cabinet	Powered air-purifying respirator with NIOSH 100 Series filters; Protective clothing; and Laceless rubber boots or other appropriate footwear designed to be easily decontaminated	Full shower decontamination facility	Impervious waste containers; HEPA-equipped vacuum to ensure removal of all visible ACM (Wet wash-down also recommended); and Fibre sealant on exposed surfaces after cleaning
Comment: <i>If there will be no re-occupancy, the above measures apply except that partial containment is acceptable as a means of work area containment. Also, the recommendation for wet-wash down would not apply as part of site decontamination as long as decontamination methods ensure removal of all visible ACM.</i>				
Scenario 3: Asbestos cement products, with re-occupancy				
Designated work area	Material saturation procedures designed to eliminate or reduce the release of dust before and during disturbance and handling of materials; and	Half-facepiece dual cartridge air purifying respirator with NIOSH 100 Series filters; Protective clothing; and	Wash-up decontamination facilities	Impervious waste containers, or polyethylene-lined disposal bin; and HEPA-equipped vacuum to ensure removal of all visible ACM (Wet wash-down also recommended)

	Controlled manual procedures	Laceless rubber boots or other appropriate footwear designed to be easily decontaminated		
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Comment:

In some cases it may not be practicable to apply material saturation techniques. In such cases an alternative is to wet exposed surfaces of the ACM and mist the air during removal.

If there will be no re-occupancy then the above measures apply except that the recommendation for wet wash-down would not apply as part of site decontamination procedures, as long as decontamination methods ensure removal of all visible ACM.

Scenario 4: Asbestos-containing joint tape or paper on ductwork, with or without re-occupancy

Designated work area	Glove bag and/or Material saturation procedures designed to eliminate or reduce the release of dust before and during disturbance and handling of materials; and HEPA-equipped vacuum	Half-facepiece dual cartridge air purifying respirator with NIOSH 100 Series filters; Protective clothing; and Laceless rubber boots or other appropriate footwear designed to be easily decontaminated	Wash-up decontamination facilities	Impervious waste containers; and HEPA-equipped vacuum to ensure removal of all visible ACM
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Scenario 5: Asbestos-containing filling compound on gypsum board, with re-occupancy

Partial containment; or Full containment	Material saturation procedures designed to eliminate or reduce the release of dust before and during disturbance and handling of materials; and HEPA-equipped ventilation cabinet	Half-facepiece dual cartridge air purifying respirator with NIOSH 100 Series filters; Protective clothing; and Laceless rubber boots or other appropriate footwear designed to be easily decontaminated	Wash-up decontamination facilities; and HEPA-equipped vacuum	Impervious waste containers; and HEPA-equipped vacuum to ensure removal of all visible ACM (Wet wash-down also recommended)
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Comment:

In some cases it may not be practicable to effectively apply material saturation techniques to joint filling material, for example, if water resistant paints or coatings had previously been applied to the material. In such cases an alternative is to wet exposed surfaces of ACM and mist the air during removal. For gypsum board ceilings with ACM filling compounds it is appropriate to use full shower decontamination facilities.

If there will be no re-occupancy then the above measures apply except that the recommendation for wet wash-down would not apply as part of site decontamination as long as decontamination methods ensure removal of all visible ACM.

Scenario 6: Vinyl asbestos floor tile or vinyl asbestos sheet flooring - with asbestos in the matrix of the flooring or adhesive, with re-occupancy

Partial containment	Material saturation procedures designed to eliminate or reduce the release of dust before and during disturbance and handling of materials; and Controlled manual procedures, or HEPA-filtered local exhaust ventilation	Half-facepiece dual cartridge air purifying respirator with NIOSH 100 Series filters; Protective clothing; and Laceless rubber boots or other appropriate footwear designed to be easily decontaminated	Wash-up decontamination facilities	Impervious waste containers or Polyethylene-lined disposal bin; and EPA-equipped vacuum to remove all visible ACM
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Comment:

During renovation work avoid sanding asbestos-contaminated surfaces wherever possible. In some cases it may not be practicable to effectively apply material saturation techniques. In such cases an alternative is to wet the exposed surfaces and mist the air during removal.

If there will be no re-occupancy then the above measures apply except that the use of a HEPA-equipped vacuum in site decontamination is not necessary as long as decontamination methods ensure removal of all visible ACM.

Scenario 7: Vinyl sheet flooring - with asbestos in backing or underlay, with re-occupancy

Partial	Material saturation	Powered air purifying	Full shower decontam-	Impervious waste containers;
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containment; or Full containment	procedures designed to eliminate or reduce the release of dust before and during disturbance and handling of materials; HEPA-filtered local exhaust ventilation; and HEPA-equipped vacuum	respirator with NIOSH 100 Series filters; Protective clothing; and Laceless rubber boots or other appropriate footwear designed to be easily decontaminated	ination facility	HEPA-equipped vacuum to ensure removal of all visible ACM (Wet wash-down also recommended); and Fibre sealant on exposed surfaces after cleaning
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Comment:

Where feasible, remove vinyl flooring and sub-floor as a unit, without de-lamination. If this is possible then application of fibre sealant is not necessary. Also, if procedures involve immediate application of a new flooring surface on top of the sub-floor then sealant would not be needed. During renovation work avoid sanding asbestos contaminated surfaces wherever possible.

If there will be no re-occupancy then the above measures apply except that the recommendation for wet wash-down would not apply as part of site decontamination as long as decontamination methods ensure removal of all visible ACM.

Scenario 8: Loose-fill vermiculite attic or wall cavity insulation containing asbestos, with re-occupancy

Designated work area; or Partial containment	HEPA-equipped vacuum suction system (eg. Vec loader); Wetting of vermiculite and air misting if manual removal methods (eg. scooping and bagging) are used; and For locations such as attics, maintain negative pressure to prevent fibre spread. Do not use compressed air to blow vermiculite	Powered air purifying respirator with NIOSH 100 Series filters if manual removal procedures are used in attics and similar spaces; Protective clothing; and Laceless rubber boots or other appropriate footwear designed to be easily decontaminated	Full shower decontamination facility if manual removal procedures are used in attics and similar spaces	Impervious waste containers for waste removal; HEPA-equipped vacuum to ensure removal of all visible ACM; and Fibre sealant on exposed surfaces after cleaning.
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Comment:

Vermiculite itself does not contain asbestos. However, some vermiculite is contaminated with asbestos, typically tremolite or actinolite. Representative bulk sample collection and analysis of asbestos-contaminated vermiculite, by a qualified person, is needed to determine the type and amount of asbestos, and to establish any required safe work procedures for preventing harmful exposure.

For bulk sample collection, take samples from the bottom of the insulation. This is because any asbestos will likely be present in greater amounts at the bottom due to the settling out of asbestos fibers from the vermiculite particles. Sampling only the top of the vermiculite may result in a false negative analysis for asbestos.

While most vermiculite is likely to be found in attics and similar spaces, the product may also be found in locations such as hollow concrete block walls. In all cases, safe removal procedures are required. A heat stress assessment must be conducted if workers are or may be exposed to thermal conditions that could cause heat stress, for example, in enclosed attics.

If there will be no re-occupancy then the above measures apply except that site decontamination may not require the application of sealant. In such cases misting of surfaces may be an appropriate alternative. Also, the use of a HEPA-equipped vacuum may not be necessary in site decontamination as long as decontamination methods ensure removal of all visible ACM.

Scenario 9: ACM asphalt roofing materials, with or without re-occupancy

Designated work area; or Partial containment where required to prevent wind dispersion	Controlled manual procedures, or HEPA-filtered local exhaust ventilation on equipment	Half-facepiece dual cartridge air purifying respirator with NIOSH 100 Series filters; and Protective clothing	Wash-up decontamination facilities	Polyethylene-lined disposal bin; and Decontamination methods that will ensure the removal of all visible ACM
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Scenario 10: Using mechanical demolition equipment (for example, a backhoe) to demolish all or part of a house, building or other structure in proximity to publicly accessible areas

Designated work area around whole site	Remove asbestos cement products and friable ACM. Presoak remaining non-friable ACM, and use Water dust suppression. Monitor wind and control	Half-facepiece dual cartridge air-purifying respirator with NIOSH 100 Series filters; and Protective clothing for affected workers including equipment	Wash-up decontamination facilities	Polyethylene-lined disposal bin; and Decontamination methods that will ensure the removal of all visible ACM
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	any potential for fibre spread offsite.	operators		
Comment:				
In Scenario 10, all friable ACM, for example, textured ceiling and wall material, and sprayed-on insulation or fireproofing, is to be removed before mechanical demolition of a structure. containment of asbestos by enclosure or encapsulation is typically not an option. It is also appropriate to remove all asbestos cement products, which can become friable during demolition. Selective sorting of waste materials can significantly reduce the quantities of asbestos waste.				
If the structure is in such a condition that it is dangerous to workers to undertake prior removal, the employer is expected to provide a risk assessment demonstrating such removal is unsafe and take necessary control measures that properly protect workers and others, including transportation and landfill personnel. Where the project involves removal of asbestos by means other than mechanical demolition equipment, then the applicable controls in Scenarios 1-9 apply.				

Notes to the Table

Note 1 - Personal protective equipment (PPE)

The equipment noted in the Table is for protection against exposure to asbestos. Other hazards may also be present that require other PPE, for example, eyewear and hearing protection. One of the main issues in the selection of PPE for protection against asbestos is respiratory protection.

The selection of an appropriate respirator, including the facepiece, is based on the assurance that the maximum use concentration for that respirator is not exceeded (See *OHS Regulation* section [8.34](#); OHS Guideline [G8.34](#)).

Single use or disposable respirators sometimes known as "dust masks" are not acceptable for any work with asbestos materials. The half-facepiece dual cartridge air purifying respirator with NIOSH 100 series filters is the minimum standard and is noted for some scenarios. In other scenarios with higher levels of risk, powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs) with NIOSH 100 Series filters or air supplied respirators are required.

The guidance on respiratory protection in the Table is based on the understanding that effective measures are in place to control the release of airborne asbestos. If the risk posed in a scenario is higher than anticipated in the Table, a more stringent level of protection is required.

For example, if exposure to asbestos-containing dust is expected to be substantial during the removal of drywall filling compounds, or if the removal of asbestos cement products generates substantial dust because of the methods used or condition of the material, then PAPRs may be required in place of half-facepiece cartridge respirators. In all cases, the employer must ensure the level of risk is properly assessed, and that protective equipment addresses that risk.

In some cases the risk may be lower than presumed in the Table. For example, if a mechanical method such as a Vec loader is used to remove vermiculite from wall cavities, a half-facepiece dual cartridge air purifying respirator may be sufficient. A lesser standard of respiratory protection may also be permitted in some other cases, if supported by the on-site risk analysis and application of section [8.34](#) of the *OHS Regulation*. Risk depends on factors such as removal methods, extent of disturbance of material, and the amount and concentration of asbestos.

Note 2 - Personnel decontamination facilities

The expectations for these facilities are based on estimates of typical conditions. There may be some variation in required facilities depending on the level of risk. In some cases more substantial facilities may be required. Examples include procedures that involve extensive overhead work to remove ACM, and circumstances where substantial dust can be generated, such as when pulverizing non-friable ACM. The need for a full shower decontamination facility in several scenarios is due to the anticipated ACM contamination inside protective clothing. In some cases a full shower facility may not be necessary if the hazard is sufficiently controlled. An example is Scenario 9, if HEPA vacuuming is used to remove vermiculite from hollow concrete block walls.

Note 3 - Site decontamination measures

For most of the scenarios in the Table, HEPA-vacuuming is noted as the appropriate means of site decontamination. This is because of its effectiveness. Where removal involves wet methods, it is good practice to HEPA-vacuum the surface after it has dried. In some cases, wet wash-down is recommended as an additional measure, for increased assurance of protection.

All asbestos-containing and asbestos contaminated wastes generated are to be placed in impervious containers. The containers must be labeled as asbestos waste material. The employer must ensure that hazardous wastes are handled in compliance with the *OHS Regulation* and the requirements of provincial and municipal authorities.

Explanation of terms used in the table

ACM (Asbestos-containing material)	<p>Any materials where the asbestos content is equal to or exceeds 1% by weight using analytical procedures acceptable to the Board. Refer to section 6.1 of the <i>OHS Regulation</i> for the legal definition.</p> <p>Note: Where asbestos is present in amounts less than 1% as determined by bulk analysis methods, handling procedures and work processes may still generate airborne-asbestos fibre concentrations above the Exposure Limit of 0.1 f/ml. For example, this situation could arise with vermiculite insulation contaminated with asbestos.</p> <p>The potential for such conditions must be assessed. Work procedures and other necessary controls must be implemented to ensure asbestos fibre concentrations are controlled to levels at or as low as reasonably achievable below the Exposure Limit as per section 5.57(2) of the <i>OHS Regulation</i>.</p>
Asbestos cement products	Include asbestos cement shingles, roofing tiles, siding (transite panels) and pipe, as well as non-friable cementitious stucco and plaster materials.
Asbestos waste	Any waste material generated on a worksite which meets the criteria for special waste set out by the Ministry of Environment or which contains 1% or more by weight of asbestos as determined by analytical procedures acceptable to the Board.
Controlled manual procedures	Manual removal procedures that are designed to minimize or prevent breakage and disturbance of asbestos materials, and do not involve the use of powered equipment or power tools.
Designated work area	<p>A work area that includes the following measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The boundaries of the work area identified by barricades, fences or similar means, with signs posted at all entrances to the work area indicating that asbestos abatement work is in progress, the hazards of asbestos exposure, and the precautions that are required for entering into the work area. b) The work area cleared of all moveable objects, equipment, and materials that are not required during the work. c) Polyethylene drop sheets placed on the floor of the work area beneath the asbestos materials that are being removed, and over objects and materials that cannot be removed from the work area. d) All windows, doorways and other openings including ducts and vents sealed to prevent the release of asbestos fibres into areas beyond the boundaries of the work area. e) Access to an Asbestos Abatement Work Area restricted to trained, authorized, and supervised workers wearing appropriate respiratory protection and protective clothing.
Friable	<p>In reference to a material, means that when dry, it can be easily crumbled or powdered by hand pressure, or is already crumbled or powdered. In other words, this term describes any asbestos-containing material that can, when dry, release airborne asbestos fibre easily due to manual handling methods and practices.</p> <p>Note: Non-friable material, including asbestos cement products, can become friable as a result of deterioration, mechanical destruction or abrasion forces.</p>
Full containment	<p>Involves all of the requirements of the "Designated Work Area," as well as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Complete airtight isolation of the work area to prevent the escape of asbestos fibres by use of polyethylene sheeting (at least .15 mm (.0006 inch, or 6 mil) thickness and duct tape, or similar impermeable materials. b) All floors, walls, and other surfaces in the work area covered with polyethylene sheeting of the same thickness sealed with tape. c) The work area containment inspected and repaired as necessary on at least a daily basis, and otherwise as required, to ensure that an airtight seal is maintained during asbestos abatement work.
Full shower decontamination facility	The facility will include a physical connection to the containment, a shower facility and provision for the safe entry and exit of workers. It will also meet the applicable requirements of section 5.82(2) & (3) of the <i>OHS Regulation</i> .
HEPA filter	High Efficiency Particulate Aerosol filter that is at least 99.97% efficient at collecting an aerosol particle 0.3 micrometer in size.
HEPA-equipped local exhaust ventilation	Local exhaust ventilation with HEPA filter used for the control of contaminants at the source; for example, a HEPA-equipped vacuum mounted on a power tool. Note the requirements of section 6.19 of the <i>OHS Regulation</i> to assess and maintain filters.
HEPA-equipped vacuum	HEPA filter-equipped vacuum used for cleanup and decontamination procedures or for local exhaust ventilation where appropriate. Note the requirements of section 6.19 of the <i>OHS Regulation</i> to assess and maintain filters.
HEPA-equipped ventilation cabinet	Portable ventilation cabinet equipped with HEPA filtration used to ventilate a containment and create a slight negative air pressure differential that ensures net air movement from outside the containment into it. This air movement reduces the risk of asbestos-contaminated air moving out of the containment. Note the requirements of section 6.19 of the <i>OHS Regulation</i> to assess and maintain filters.
Impervious waste container	Any container designed and made of a material which will contain all asbestos waste and will prevent the release of asbestos wastes and fibre during transport to and disposal at an approved disposal site.

Examples include double 6 mil polyethylene disposal bags, and fibre barrels.

The outside of the waste container must be labeled as asbestos-containing waste, as required by section [6.25](#) of the *OHS Regulation*. Tight-fitting lids or other covers that seal the container must be used with rigid containers such as barrels and bins.

Disposal site operators may require specific types of containers or may have restrictions on the type of containers they will accept.

Laceless rubber boots or other appropriate footwear

Appropriate footwear will be in compliance with section [8.22](#) of the *OHS Regulation*, which requires among other things that footwear be of a design, construction and material appropriate to the protection required. Typically, wherever asbestos-containing dusts or debris are present, footwear is expected to be of a design that permits it to be easily decontaminated. Laceless rubber boots are an example of such a design.

If other risks are present, such as slipping, uneven terrain, crushing potential or puncture hazards then the footwear must address those issues. Footwear must not create hazards greater than those it is intended to protect against.

Material saturation procedures

Procedures that involve the sufficient wetting of asbestos-containing material before and during removal to eliminate or substantially control airborne dust. Note that amended water containing surfactants (wetting agents) increases the capability for effective dust control, and is to be used particularly in high risk operations. The obligation to wet materials is found in section [6.22](#) of the *OHS Regulation*, and applies whenever such procedures are practicable

Mechanical demolition

Demolition methods and practices in which heavy machinery and equipment is used to tear down buildings and structures safely by use of a systematic plan of demolition.

Non-friable

A material whose composition or form creates a solid matrix which is not easily broken down. This term is used to describe any asbestos-containing material that binds the fibre into the composition matrix in a manner that prevents the release of the fibre under normal daily usage conditions.

Normal daily usage conditions do not include situations such as installation, alteration, maintenance or removal practices. For example, floor tile can be walked on without changing its classification as non-friable, but removal may generate friable asbestos wastes.

Partial containment

Involves all of the requirements of the "Designated Work Area," as well as isolation of the work area using polyethylene sheeting and duct tape or other impermeable materials to seal openings such as windows, doorways, stairways, elevators, heating ducts and vents.

A partial containment will create an airtight work area that prevents the escape of asbestos fibres, without the complete draping of walls, floors, and ceilings as required by a full containment.

Presoaking of non-friable ACM

Presoaking of all non-friable ACM prior to mechanical demolition being done which may disturb the ACM, for example, by flooding asbestos-containing flooring material or other ACM.

Protective clothing

Clothing which is made of a material resistant to penetration by asbestos fibres, fits snugly at the neck, wrists and ankles, and as necessary to protect against the risk covers the head and feet as well as the body.

Disposable protective clothing is recommended. Reusable coveralls are to be cleaned and laundered as required by sections [6.30](#) and [6.31](#) of the *OHS Regulation*. Protective clothing is to be immediately repaired or replaced if torn. Street clothes are not to be worn under protective clothing if work is conducted inside a containment or in circumstances that require the use of full shower decontamination facilities. Heat stress potential must be considered and properly addressed.

Re-occupancy

A circumstance where one or more workers or other building occupants will be returning into the abatement area following the abatement work.

Stationary drop sheets

Drop sheets taped in place to prevent lifting.

Wash-up decontamination facilities

Facilities for wash-up and decontamination, with provision for soap and water, changed regularly after use to ensure cleanliness.

Water dust suppression

Use of water for dust suppression, for example, area water spraying to suppress dust during mechanical demolition procedures.