Asbestos abatement training

Core competencies for Level S certification

Approved training providers for Level S: Surveyor Safety will be required to offer curriculum that covers the core competencies listed in the sections below.

Level S certification is designed for asbestos surveyors. Level 1 certification is a prerequisite for Level S.

For more information on becoming a WorkSafeBC-approved training provider for people performing asbestos abatement work, please see our Asbestos training, certification & licensing webpage or contact Certification Services at certification@worksafebc.com.

Please note: The requirements below are subject to change.

Section 1: Pre-job planning

- Describe the purpose and importance of asbestos surveys.
- Describe the different types of surveys.
- Review historical documents as provided by the building owners.
- Visit site and review construction, as appropriate. (Note: This should be done in conjunction with someone who knows the work being performed, not alone.)
- Review online sources on history of building.
- Develop an exposure control plan (ECP) for sampling.
- Identify hazards and conduct a risk assessment for sampling activities.
- Select personal protective equipment (PPE) and other precautions based on identified hazards and risk assessment for sampling.
- Communicate the ECP to the appropriate parties.
- Determine and document scope, intent, and limitations of survey in consultation with renovation or demolition contractor and/or building owner, as appropriate.
- Develop a sampling strategy to ensure asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) are identified and no potential ACMs within scope of planned survey are missed.
- Follow employer health and safety programs associated with asbestos surveys and sampling (e.g., policy and procedures for sampling, PPE, and decontamination as set by a qualified person).

- Review and apply acceptable industry best practices for safe sampling methods and survey strategy.
- Recognize when destructive testing is or is not required, and identify what to do in either situation.
- Apply safe work procedures to control exposure to identified risks.
- Recognize materials that may contain asbestos.
- Explain basic construction methods and materials, and the condition materials are in.
- Identify types of materials included in a building depending on the era in which it was built.
- Classify asbestos materials, including type and friability.
- Define the scope of asbestos-related work activities.
- Recognize skills and possible limitations within scope of practice.
- Distinguish between a pre-demolition or pre-renovation hazardous materials survey — per Part 20 of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation — and an asbestos inventory — per Part 6 of the OHS Regulation, and the required sampling for each.
- Define scope of survey — per section 20.112 of the OHS Regulation.
- Describe the asbestos inspection and reporting requirements of section 20.112.
- Interpret scope and/or plan drawings (for commercial or industrial sites).
- Identify appropriate tools and analytical methods for sampling activity.
- Determine whether others' safety is impacted on worksite (e.g., abatement, other trades).

Section 2: Start of survey work

- Perform a walkthrough survey.
- Determine homogenous areas of a given building material and the number of samples required for confirmation of ACM status, per pages 27–28 of **Safe Work Practices for Handling Asbestos**.
- Document the rationale when presuming a given material contains asbestos and not collecting samples (e.g., where removing putties, mastics, or roofing material may damage the structure).
- Describe any materials and/or building areas that are presumed not to contain asbestos, with supporting rationale for not collecting samples (e.g., recently renovated areas).
- Recognize retrofitting renovations and repairs, and account for this in the survey or sampling plan.
- Describe the precautions to reduce the spread of asbestos when sampling (e.g., use of drop sheets, partial containment).
- Determine control measures based on hazard assessment (e.g., potential of disturbed site).
- Identify the correct location to retrieve a sample for testing.
- Produce drawings of sample locations.

Section 3: Sampling

- Apply sampling procedures based on assessment of locations and planned activities.
- Collect bulk samples.
- Demonstrate proper use of tools and equipment.
- Use tools and equipment appropriate for the task.
- Maintain and clean tools and equipment (e.g., check for asbestos contamination).
- Follow safe work procedures for sampling activities.
- Determine sampling quality and quantity standards.
- Label sample locations.
- Apply professional judgment in methodology selection, considering safety of removal, other hazards, and presumptions about materials and risk level.
- Select appropriate methods of analysis based on standards, regulations, and other considerations.
- Explain different analytical methods.
- Explain how to sample vermiculite in accordance with acceptable methods.
- Collect field notes.
- Identify abnormal site conditions.
- Identify any suspected ACM debris and communicate to owner before report is issued.
- Describe the condition of a sample, including quantity and dimensions of building material accessibility (per section 20.112 of the OHS Regulation).
- Follow the sample quantity and quality guidelines in Safe Work Practices for Handling Asbestos.
- Record areas that are inaccessible (e.g., locked rooms, confined spaces) or not practicable to sample.
- Avoid cross-contamination of samples.
- Prevent the spread of fibres during sampling.
- Identify contamination risks.
- Identify the extent of pre-existing contamination.
- Follow decontamination procedures for self and tools.
- Follow acceptable sample-handling process.
- Follow the chain-of-custody process defined by the laboratory.
- Explain the process required for shipping of samples.
- Recognize the possibility of spillage associated with shipping and handling.
- Explain packaging requirements to mitigate asbestos exposure.
- Explain the importance of quality assurance and quality control specific to laboratory analysis.
- Encapsulate loose ends, repair damage (as applicable), and clean up after assessment.

Section 4: Final survey report

- Define scope of work and limitation of responsibility.
- Interpret bulk sample results.
- Recognize that materials with 0.5% asbestos or greater are considered asbestos containing and that vermiculite samples with any asbestos (even trace amounts) are considered asbestos containing.
- Identify additional analysis methods based on inconclusive results (e.g., “trace”).
- Recognize that previously used sampling and analysis methods may be different than current ones.
- Assess lab reports for false positives or negatives (e.g., determine if quantity of samples was sufficient).
- Write reports that are clear, thorough, factual, and concise, including clear delineation of the location, identity, and condition of ACMs.
- Define the scope of a report (e.g., what is the nature of work, the purpose, and the application).
- Communicate clearly, including written and oral, with drawings and schematics as appropriate to convey critical information.
- Interpret drawings.
- Demonstrate effective note-taking and documentation.
- Notify the employer of unsafe working conditions, where applicable.
- Report immediate hazards to the employer, prime contractor, or other person responsible for the worksite.
- Make appropriate recommendations based on survey results.