



ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIAL

Responsibility:	<i>Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services & Treasurer of the WRDSB</i>
Legal References:	<i>Ontario Regulation 278/05 – Designated Substance – Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Buildings and Repair Operations Occupational Health and Safety Act</i>
Related References:	<i>Board Policy 1002 – Occupational Health and Safety</i>
Revisions:	October 2018, May 2022
Reviewed:	March 2016, October 2018

1. Preamble

- 1.1 The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) owns and leases various sites to carry out the business. The following provides guidelines and expectations pertaining to the use of these sites as it relates to Asbestos Containing Material (ACM).
- 1.2 Under Ontario Regulation 278/05, asbestos is a designated substance. It is a fibrous mineral that was used legally in Ontario from early 1900 through 1986 in many building materials such as pipe and boiler insulation, texture finishes, floor and ceiling tiles, and sprayed fireproofing and prefabricated cement products.

2. General

- 2.1 Asbestos is present in many of the buildings that the WRDSB maintains and operates. The WRDSB has continued to retain a third party to conduct audits of all sites the WRDSB owns to identify ACMs at each site. The WRDSB has an Asbestos Management Program (AMP) to identify, manage, maintain, remediate if required, and control access where required to areas that contain asbestos.
- 2.2 While exposure to asbestos fibres can result in serious health effects, the presence of ACMs in a building does not necessarily constitute a health hazard. ACMs that are in good and fair condition, undisturbed and managed, are not likely to release fibres into the air and are therefore unlikely to pose a health hazard to building occupants.

3. Asbestos Audits and Inspections

- 3.1 As per Ontario Regulation 278/05, “building owners” are required to provide a record pertaining to ACMs within its buildings. WRDSB owned sites have retained a third party to complete Asbestos Audits and Inspections and the reports that can be found in the main office of our school sites and the Facility Services Department at the Education Centre. Facilities that are leased by WRDSB, it is the property owner’s responsibility under Ontario Regulation 278/05 to provide a record of ACMs at each location and make it available to the occupants.
- 3.2 The Board in consultation with asbestos consultants has surveyed and sampled buildings with original construction date prior to 1987 (excluding any additions dating 1987 onward). In

1986 legislation limiting the use of asbestos in consumer products was introduced. Therefore, friable ACMs are not anticipated to be present in buildings after 1987.

3.3 Documentation in the form of a letter for these sites is available in the main office. Sites constructed prior to 1987 are more likely to contain ACMs and are subject to a more rigorous survey and audit process including sampling of suspect ACMs.

3.4 These Asbestos Audit reports describe confirmed and/or suspected ACMs in the building. The Asbestos Audit report contains floor plans that identify ACMs within the facility for ease of reference.

4. Responsibilities

4.1 All WRDSB employees and contractors are required to review and become familiar with the Asbestos Audit for the site in which they work or will be conducting maintenance activities or other activities that may disturb ACMs.

4.2 Site administrators are responsible for the management of their site and in turn must make the Asbestos Audits readily available in the main office for WRDSB staff, contractors and school councils if requested.

5. Asbestos Management Plan (AMP)

5.1 An AMP has been developed specifically for the WRDSB. The AMP provides additional details concerning asbestos, how the WRDSB assesses and manages ACMs in its facilities, who can work with ACMs by controlling worker, contractor, occupant, and public activities which may disturb ACMs or be carried out in close proximity to ACMs. The AMP also prescribes the protective measures for working with ACMs. Should asbestos activities be undertaken at a site, the applicable sections of the AMP must be adhered to as the AMP complies with Ontario Regulation 278/05 as well as notification requirements of the WRDSB and the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

6. ACMs Record

6.1 Any work undertaken at a site that impacts ACMs must be documented and these documents maintained and incorporated into regular updates to the asbestos binder.