




University of Connecticut  
*Administration and Operations Services*

Environmental  
Health and Safety

TO: Deans, Directors, Department Heads, and Administrative Assistants  
FROM: Terri Dominguez, Occupational Health & Safety Manager   
DATE: September 30, 2004  
RE: Impact of Federal and State Asbestos and Lead Regulations on Purchasing and Project Requests

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR DEPARTMENT  
RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION**

Departments planning renovation or installation projects, or equipment maintenance or repair work that will involve the disturbance of building materials (see below), are advised that federal and state (OSHA, EPA, DEP, DPH) regulations **require inspection or testing of the material for asbestos and lead content** prior to proceeding. The law places the onus on the University to presume a material contains asbestos or lead (unless testing proves otherwise), and deal with it accordingly. If the material is found to contain either asbestos or lead, abatement by licensed firms will be required.

**Departments should bear in mind that the presence of asbestos or lead can cause delays in project completion and may considerably increase the cost of a project to the requesting department.** Improper removals can result in a potential health risk to contractors, employees, students, and visitors. It also represents a financial risk of fines by regulatory agencies.

Examples of building materials that would require asbestos or lead testing include, but are not limited to:

Asbestos

- Pipe insulation, boiler insulation, and pipe-fitting mud and cements
- Plasters, sprayed-on materials, and textured paints on walls, ceilings, or other structural members
- Vinyl and asphalt floor tiles and floor sheeting (linoleum), as well as underlayments and adhesives
- Ceiling tiles and panels and associated adhesives
- Wallboard, corrugated roofs, and building siding
- Stage and welding curtains, lab bench tops, fume hood walls
- Roof shingles, felt, tar, tar paper, and flashing

Lead

- Painted or stained surfaces
- Window glazings and putties
- Rubber cove base moldings

Examples of activities that would typically require asbestos or lead testing before building materials may be disturbed include, but are not limited to:

- Equipment installation that requires penetration into walls, floors, or ceilings.
- Carpet installations where an older carpet or floor covering must first be removed.
- Service or repair work that could potentially disturb building materials listed above.
- Painting operations involving sanding, scraping, or other disturbance of previously painted surfaces, plasters, or other surfacing materials on walls or ceilings.

Questions related to health and safety information and the regulatory requirements regarding asbestos and lead should be directed to the Department of Environmental Health and Safety at 486-3613. All requests for asbestos or lead testing and removal should go through Work Order Control at 6-3113 or online at <http://www.fas.uconn.edu/>.

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