



Asbestos Containing Material (ACM)

Introduction and background

Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring fibrous silicate minerals that have been mined for their useful properties such as incombustibility, thermal and acoustical insulating properties, chemical stability, as well as high tensile strength. Asbestos was used in more than 4,000 different products.

The mere presence of asbestos-containing material (ACM) does not necessarily present a health hazard. ACM can present a potential health risk when the materials are damaged or disturbed, resulting in breathable airborne asbestos fibers. The inhalation of asbestos fibers can cause serious diseases of the lungs and other organs. Asbestos-related illnesses have average latency periods of 10 – 30 years. Specific diseases associated with exposure to asbestos include:

- asbestosis (scarring of lung tissue)
- mesothelioma (cancer of the lining of the chest (the pleura), the lining of the abdomi cavity (the peritoneum) or the membrane surrounding the heart (the pericardium)) and
- lung cancer.

Up to date, no safe level of asbestos exposure has been determined, and it is generally assumed that "zero" exposure is the level most protective of human health. Because of the small size of asbestos fibers, it is possible for the smallest to remain airborne for weeks.

Even though an asbestos release may have occurred in the past, the fibers may remain airborne, presenting a continuing hazard. The Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) has been developed and updated based on U.S. and HN asbestos laws and regulations which lead to the Final Governing Standards for Germany (FGS). The AMP has been developed to protect building occupant, employees and workers from exposure to asbestos fibers.

Purpose of management plan

This AMP update has been prepared to establish standard operating procedures for handling ACM within U.S. Army structures located at the USAG Ansbach, Germany. The Army's goal is to reduce the potential for releasing asbestos into the environment and the exposure of humans to asbestos in compliance with the FGS and applicable U.S. and Host Nation standards. It must be updated at least every 5 years and includes all installation facilities constructed prior to 1990, units, activities, and organizations within the USAG Ansbach. Visual inspections and surveys of school facilities which contain, or are suspected to contain, ACM will be conducted a minimum of every three years. The provisions of this plan apply to and should be followed by all personnel responsible for conducting or overseeing activities involving asbestos. The purpose of the management plan is to minimize building occupant and employee exposure to asbestos fibers. To meet these objectives, the asbestos management plan includes the following:

- ACM inventory
- Asbestos Management Program responsibilities maintenance workers and contractors about the location of ACM and how to avoid disturbing ACM
- periodic surveillance and re-inspection of ACM by trained inspectors to observe, assess, and document any changes of the ACM's condition
- procedures to assess and prioritize identified hazards for abatement
- operation and maintenance (O & M) work practices to avoid or minimize fiber release during activities affecting ACM
- recordkeeping to document all asbestos-related management and operational activities
- a work control / permit system to administer activities which might disturb ACM and to prevent the use of ACM in new construction
- a worker protection and medical surveillance program which indicates personal protective equipment and medical protection programs
- asbestos-containing waste collection and disposal requirements
- training requirements for the Asbestos Management Team (AMT) members and maintenance staff. The visual resurvey did not comprise the sampling and analyzing of substances.

The detection of ACM requires sampling and analyzing. During the ACM inspection/survey, the gathering of bulk samples of various types of suspect ACM may be necessary. The identified ACM were assessed according to the German Asbestos -Guidelines. This assessment is performed using a scoring table (Assessment of the Urgency of Abatement of Asbestos Products), which provides seven assessment groups. Criteria are asbestos type, surface structure and conditions, location of the asbestos product, and use of the area/room. Samples will be delivered to the analytical laboratory meeting the requirements below, in such a manner as to prevent the release of any asbestos fibers and to allow the samples to arrive at the laboratory in suitable condition for analysis. Classification points are assigned to each criterion. Seven single scores are added and indicate the urgency of abatement. The scoring system was designed for the assessment of friable ACM inside of buildings, and is summarized below. The sum of these classification points yields the urgency of abatement as follows:

• **Risk Score > 79 (Urgency Level I):**

Requires immediate response by abatement and/or evacuation of the respective area and/or implementation of temporary measures to reduce airborne asbestos concentrations. Abatement of damaged pipe insulation at Katterbach bldg 5809 and 5817 is ongoing (Mar-Sep12).

• **Risk Score 70 - 79 (Urgency Level II):**

A new assessment is required in the medium term; Reassessment at least once every 2 years. Such as: flange gaskets, fiber cement ducts, floor tiles and mastic, cementitious ceiling panels, and pipe insulations.

• **Risk Score < 70 (Urgency Level III):**

A new assessment is required in the long term: Reassessment at least once every 5 years.

If the urgency of abatement determination yields Urgency Level I, immediate abatement is required, because a significant hazard is present. In case the immediate and complete abatement is not possible, immediate measures to reduce the release of asbestos fibers must be taken. If the Urgency of Abatement determination yields Urgency Levels II or III, the abatement will only be required when subsequent reassessments result in Urgency Level I.



Last asbestos visual re-assessment: December 2011 thru February 2012



Next visual ACM inspection scheduled:

✓ **in FY 13, TBD**

Asbestos training opportunity:

9 - 13 July 2012