

FSGA/HAAF GARRISON
FT. STEWART, GA 31314

GARRISON SAFETY SOP – ANNEX O

ASBESTOS SAFETY



FSGA/HAAF Safety Program SOP
23 September 2024

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1. Purpose:

This Annex to the FSGA/HAAF Garrison Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) SOP prescribes procedures and establishes responsibilities necessary to establish the means of control and minimization of personnel exposure to airborne asbestos fibers, a known carcinogen and dangerous health hazard. This Annex implements the asbestos control program for the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield (FSGA/HAAF) Garrison.

2. Scope

This Annex to the Garrison SOH SOP applies to all military and civilian personnel assigned to the FSGA/HAAF Garrison. It is intended to provide adequate information so all levels of leadership, SMS, and civilian workforce can properly implement the Garrison SOH Program.

3. References

29 CFR 1910.1001 – OSHA Toxic and Hazardous Substances, Asbestos

29 CFR 1960 - Basic Program Elements for Federal Employee Occupational Safety and Health Programs

DoDI 6055.01 - Department of Defense Instruction (DODI), DOD Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Program

AR 385-10 - The Army Safety Program

DA Pam 40-21 Ergonomics Program

4. Records Management:

Records created throughout the processes prescribed by this Annex will be identified, maintained, and disposed of according to AR 25-400-2 (The Army Records Information Management System (ARIMS) and DA Pam 25-403 (Guide to Recordkeeping in the Army). The primary means of recordkeeping for the Garrison Safety Office (GSO) will be the Army Safety Management Information System (ASMIS) located at <https://mishap.safety.army.mil> . Record titles and descriptions are available on the ARIMS website <https://www.arims.army.mil>

5. Responsibilities

Directors and Managers will:

- Ensure all employees who encounter asbestos follow regulations and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Ensure applicable employees are provided respirators and other appropriate PPE.
- Ensure asbestos contaminated clothing is collected in appropriate containers at the end of the shift.
- Identify potential exposure to asbestos for a work site. If asbestos is found to exist, the supervisor will determine maintenance methods and PPE required prior to assigning employees to the asbestos related work site.
- Ensure employees working with asbestos containing materials receive appropriate training regarding potential exposure and appropriate hygiene measures.

- Notify the Industrial Hygienist (IH), Garrison Safety Office (GSO), Asbestos Management Team (AMT), and Environmental Office of work on asbestos present areas.
- Maintain accurate daily employee asbestos exposure records and contact the APM when requesting additional engineering controls prior to assigning employees to asbestos related work.

Directorate of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for:

- The Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) at FSGA/HAAF and technical surveys of all facilities to determine the presence of asbestos.
- Listing all locations of (ACM) asbestos containing materials
- Preparing local doctrine covering asbestos remediation, encapsulation, and control.
- Ensuring asbestos warning signs are posted.
- Arranging required safety training for personnel working with asbestos including on-site training and instruction and practice of all equipment and procedures.

Asbestos Management Team (AMT) will:

- Be certified Asbestos Inspectors and/or Asbestos Management Planners.
- Completes surveys to identify asbestos containing materials (ACM) and creates plans for operation, maintenance, and abatement.
- Identify required Asbestos Training for FSGA/HAAF construction, maintenance, and automotive maintenance repair personnel.
- Maintain historical records, provide guidance on engineering controls for asbestos work or abatement projects concerning asbestos sampling and analysis.
- Provide annual asbestos training for all janitorial and automotive personnel (OSHA requires a 2 Hour annual refresher course).
- Act as a point of contact (POC) for asbestos related questions, methods, or procedures.
- Provide appropriate solutions and policies to govern asbestos maintenance and operational work at FSGA/HAAF Garrison.
- Maintain copies of EPA certifications for asbestos workers, supervisors, inspectors and management planners.
- Manage the Asbestos program at FSGA/HAAF Garrison.

Garrison Safety Office (GSO) is responsible for:

- Monitoring the Asbestos Program and providing assistance.
- Final approval of all SOPs or work plans involving asbestos.
- Concur or non-concur requests for waivers.
- Evaluating safety and health hazards concerning asbestos use and respirator fit testing.

Industrial Hygienist (IH) in conjunction with AMT is responsible for:

- Performing exposure monitoring of employees during asbestos containing operations, i.e., brake change operations, etc.
- Advising Directorates and the GSO on general safe work practices.
- Providing Directorate of Public Works (DPW) with technical expertise and advice.

Environmental Office will:

- Ensure proper accumulation and disposal of asbestos containing material (ACM) at approved disposal facilities IAW applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

Employees will:

- Follow SOPs and written procedures.
- Ensure hygiene and PPE requirements are followed when working with asbestos.
- Turn-in and appropriately dispose of contaminated equipment and clothing.
- Be provided a reasonable opportunity to observe monitoring and shall have access to the records.
- Notify the immediate supervisor or leader of any additional unforeseen hazards uncovered during asbestos maintenance operations.
- Properly collect, container, label, and turn in ACM.
- Records of medical examination will be provided upon request to employees or their designated representatives.

6. Policy

Asbestos is a broad term applied to a group of fibrous minerals (amosite, chrysotile, and crocidolite), composed of silicates of iron, sodium, calcium, or magnesium. Inhalation of asbestos fibers has been found to cause severe health problems.

Permissible Exposures

- The OSHA exposure and excursion limit standard will be adhered to.
- No employee will be exposed to an airborne concentration of asbestos in excess of 0.1 fiber per cubic centimeter of air as an eight (8)-hour time-weighted average.
- No employee will be exposed to an airborne concentration of asbestos in excess of 1.0 fiber per cubic centimeter of air (1 f/cc) as averaged over a sampling period of thirty (30) minutes.
- Employees shall not be exposed above the exposure limits without the use of respirators and other applicable PPE.

General

- (ACM) asbestos containing material in any form (cloth, brake shoes, clutch plates, brake bands, etc.) is covered by this Annex.
- Approval of the GSO shall be required prior to using asbestos in any operation where it was not in use as of 15 January 1992.

Control Methods

- Substitution. Whenever possible, asbestos-free materials will be substituted for materials containing asbestos.
- Engineering Controls. Engineering methods will be used to control asbestos exposures whenever possible. Interim protection such as respirators will be used until engineering controls can be implemented.
- Wet Methods (amended water is preferred). Asbestos will be handled, mixed, cut, applied, removed, scored, swept, or otherwise worked in a wet state sufficient to prevent the emission of airborne fibers in excess of the OSHA exposure limits. Not applicable if other hazards will be augmented by the use of water i.e., electrical hazards.
- Cutting. Asbestos cloth will always be cut with scissors or shears, never with a knife. The cut will be made to hold the generation of airborne fiber to a minimum.
- Vacuum Cleaning. Asbestos dust shall be vacuumed using a HEPA vacuum cleaner ONLY, not swept. Dust covered asbestos will never be blown with compressed air. All cleaning activities will be planned to minimize the generation of airborne concentrations.
- PPE. All openings shall be closed with tape and fit snugly about the neck, wrist, and ankles.
 - Coveralls. Whole body if available, worn over cloth coveralls, not street clothes.
 - Head covering (when hooded whole body coveralls are not used).
 - Foot covering (when full body coveralls are not used).
 - Appropriate gloves.
 - Safety glasses or goggles as appropriate.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Personnel engaged in sawing, cutting, machining, or other activity which produces airborne concentrations of asbestos shall wear NIOSH approved respirators specifically designated for asbestos exposures.
- Disposable clothing shall be used. When contaminated by asbestos, disposable clothing shall be handled IAW paragraph 13-10 of this regulation and discarded after each use.

Hygiene Practice

- Personnel shall not eat, drink, smoke, apply makeup, and chew gum or tobacco in the work area.
- All contaminated clothing shall be removed, confined, and cleaned before leaving area.
- A vacuum with a highly efficient particulate air filter (HEPA) shall be used to clean clothing before workers leave the work area.
- Hands, face, and arms shall be washed when taking breaks and at the end of the workday.
- Personal hygiene is important. HEPA vacuum all clothing often to keep dust to a minimum.
- Training will be provided.

Safe Collection Precautions

- Wetting and packaging.
 - Dry exposed asbestos waste shall be adequately moistened, preferred with amended water, prior to cleanup to reduce or eliminate breathing hazards. A heavy misting with a water hose should suffice. Excessive and overly aggressive wetting is undesirable.
 - After misting, small debris shall be double bagged in heavy-duty plastic bags (minimum 6 mil thick) or other impervious containers. Asbestos debris too large for bagging shall be kept moist, placed in 6 mil thick double lined boxes or bins, liners wrapped over the material and taped until transport to an appropriate disposal facility can be arranged.
 - All containers of waste asbestos will be labeled.
- Handling or transporting. When handling or transporting bagged containerized asbestos waste, care should be exercised to prevent the container from rupturing.
- Personal Protection. The Safety Office in conjunction with the Industrial Hygienist will make specific recommendations on personal protective equipment and work practices used during removal/collection operations.

7. Hazardous Waste Disposal

Environmental Division shall be contacted for proper disposal instructions.

Appendix A – Abbreviations

ACM	Asbestos Containing Material
AMP	Asbestos Management Plan
AMT	Asbestos Management Team
AR	Army Regulation
ARIMS	Army Records Information Management System
ASMIS	Army Safety Management Information System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DA Pam	Department of the Army Pamphlet
DoDI	Department of Defense Instruction
DPW	Directorate of Public Works
FSGA	Fort Stewart Garrison
GSO	Garrison Safety Office
HAAF	Hunter Army Airfield
IH	Industrial Hygiene
OHC	Occupational Health Clinic
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SM	Service Member
SOH	Safety and Occupational Health
SOHMS	Safety and Occupational Health Management Systems
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
USO	Unit Safety Officer

APPENDIX B

ANNUAL GSO REVIEWS

DATE	REVIEWED BY	CHANGES Y/N	SUMMARY OF CHANGES