

OAR 437-003-1926.1101
Division 3/Z

Asbestos Training

Asbestos is the generic term for a group of naturally occurring fibrous minerals with high tensile strength, flexibility, and resistance to thermal, chemical, and electrical conditions. Exposure to asbestos can cause disabling or fatal diseases such as asbestosis, a scarring of the lung tissue; lung cancer; mesothelioma, a cancerous tumor that spreads rapidly in the cells of membranes covering the lungs and other organs; and gastrointestinal cancer. The symptoms of these diseases generally do not appear for 20 years or more after exposure. Asbestos fibers enter the body by inhalation or ingestion of airborne particles that become embedded in the tissues of the respiratory or digestive systems.



Because asbestos can be so hazardous, employees working with or around asbestos must be trained. The level of training depends on the type of work they perform.

Class I asbestos removal:

Employees removing asbestos-containing materials (ACM) or presumed asbestos containing materials (PACM) such as thermal system insulation must be trained in accordance with EPA's Model Accreditation Plan (MAP) for asbestos abatement worker. This training is outlined in **40 CFR 763**. This is a four-day training course that includes lectures, demonstrations, at least 14 hours of hands-on training, individual respirator fit testing, course review, and an examination.

This level requires eight-hour annual refresher training. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality accredits training providers to train and certify workers who perform friable-asbestos removal.

Class II asbestos removal:

Employees engaged in work involving ACM or PACM, such as roofing, flooring, siding materials, ceiling tiles, or transite panels, must be trained in the methods of recognizing asbestos, the health effects of asbestos, the relationship between smoking and asbestos in producing lung cancer, the nature of operations that could result in exposure to asbestos, and the importance of all protective controls to minimize exposure (including engineering, work practice, PPE, etc). Training must also include the use and limitations of these controls; medical surveillance program requirements; the content of the asbestos standard, including appendices, smoking cessation programs, and the requirements for posting signs and affixing labels; and the meaning of any legends on those signs and labels.



This training must last at least eight hours and include hands-on training, and employees must have an annual refresher, although there is no specific time duration for the refresher training.

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Asbestos Training continued



Class III asbestos work:

Maintenance and repair work where ACM or PACM may be disturbed requires training that includes information regarding asbestos and its various uses and forms; the health effects associated with asbestos exposure; the location of ACM and PACM identified throughout each building in which the employee works; recognition of damage, deterioration, and delamination of ACM and PACM; information on respiratory protection; information from **40 CFR 763.91**, **40 CFR 763.92**, **40 CFR 763.93**; and the Hazard Communication standard. This training must include hands-on training for work practices, control measures, and protective equipment. The **40 CFR 763** standards are available at [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations](#).

This training must be at least 16 hours, and employees must have an annual refresher, although there is no specific time duration for the refresher training.

The competent person can decide that this training is inappropriate for workers, in which case an alternative training can be used. This training must

include hands-on training, methods of recognizing asbestos, the health effects of asbestos, the relationship between smoking and asbestos in producing lung cancer, the nature of operations that could result in exposure to asbestos, and the importance of all protective controls to minimize exposure (including engineering, work practice, PPE, etc). Training must also include the use and limitations of these controls; medical surveillance program requirements; the content of the asbestos standard including appendices, smoking cessation programs, and the requirements for posting signs and affixing labels; and the meaning of any legends on those signs and labels.

Class IV asbestos work:

Maintenance and custodial work after Class I, II, or III work has been done requires training that focuses on locations of ACM or PACM and ways to recognize damage and avoid exposure. The course must be at least two hours long. Annual refresher training is required, but no duration is specified.

Competent person:

A competent person is someone who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.

For asbestos work, in addition to the above, the competent person is capable of identifying existing asbestos hazards in the workplace and selecting the appropriate control strategy for asbestos exposure, and has the authority to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.

Competent persons supervising Class I or Class II work must be trained in accordance with EPA's Model Accreditation Plan (MAP) for asbestos supervisors. This training is outlined in **40 CFR 763**. This is a five-day training course includes lectures, demonstrations, at least 14 hours of hands-on training, individual respirator fit testing, course review, and an examination. This also requires eight-hour annual refresher training. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality accredits training providers to train and certify workers who perform friable-asbestos removal.

Competent persons for Class III and Class IV work must be trained at the same level as a Class III worker.

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The Standards and Technical Resources Section of Oregon OSHA produced this fact sheet to highlight our programs, policies, or standards. The information is from the field staff, research by the technical resources staff, and published materials. We urge readers to consult the actual rules as this fact sheet information is not as detailed.