



To: Asbestos Stakeholders

From: Montana Asbestos Control Program

Date: April 17, 2024

Subject: Overview of Significant Changes to Current Regulations

On April 13, 2024, changes to the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) impacting asbestos regulations will be effective. DEQ is providing a list of the significant changes to the ARM to assist stakeholders. Please contact the Asbestos Control Program if you have any questions.

Please refer to the [Administrative Rules of Montana](#) for the complete rule update. The changes to the ARM include:

17.74.351 INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

- Incorporated the Environmental Protection Agency's Model Accreditation Plan.

17.74.352 DEFINITIONS

- Changed several definitions to provide clarity and removed several because they are included in incorporated reference materials or because they are no longer needed.

17.74.353 APPLICABILITY—ASBESTOS PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Updated the process for requesting "alternate work practices".

17.74.354 INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

- Required that a supplemental amendment or full reinspection is needed prior to any demolition/renovation activities if the initial inspection date is greater than three years prior to initiating the Asbestos Project.
- Required that inspectors provide an estimation of quantities during the inspection.
- Eliminated the Thermal System Insulation exceptions of fiberglass, foam, glass, or rubber.
- Eliminated composite reporting for wallboard systems.
- Included language that provides an exception for sampling of glass, untreated wood, and metal.
- Required that two copies of a single page asbestos summary be on the cover of inspection reports, intended for landfill use.

17.74.355 ASBESTOS PROJECT PERMITS AND DEMOLITION NOTIFICATIONS

- Updated the process of requesting amendments to Project Permits and Demolition Acknowledgments.

17.74.357 STANDARDS AND METHODS FOR CLEARING ASBESTOS PROJECTS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS CLEARING ASBESTOS PROJECTS

- All work, including clearances, must be completed before the expiration date on the permit.
- The contractor/supervisor must do final visual and air clearance sampling.
- Clarified the meaning of continuous agitation of the air.
- Changes to this section impact analytical methods and reporting requirements.

17.74.358 EMERGENCY RENOVATION OPERATION PERMITS AND ORDERED DEMOLITIONS

- Required that emergency renovations must be submitted on a form provided by DEQ as soon as possible but no later than the next working day.
- A five-day window is provided to complete the permitting process for emergencies.
- Emergency renovation operations and ordered demolitions may start immediately after the notification and fee are submitted to DEQ.

17.74.362 ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ASBESTOS-RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Applicants seeking Montana accreditation who have been accredited in another state must complete a refresher course from a DEQ-approved training provider.

17.74.364 TRAINING PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS

- Training providers must hold a current Montana accreditation in the occupation being taught and have at least one trainer accredited in that discipline in Montana for a cumulative three years.
- Removed the requirement to have two approved instructors conducting classes.
- Updated to allow delivery of a refresher course through an online format.

17.74.366 TRAINING COURSE EXAMINATIONS

- Ten percent of examination questions must be based on Montana asbestos rules.

The following sections have been repealed:

- **17.74.370 ENCLOSURE OF ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIAL**
- **17.74.371 ENCAPSULATION OF ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIAL**
- **17.74.372 REPAIR OF ASBESTOS-CONTAINING MATERIAL**