

Key requirements under the WSH (Asbestos) Regulations

Key requirements	Requirements under Factories (Asbestos) Regulations	Requirements under WSH (Asbestos) Regulations (From 30 May 2014)
Presence of asbestos to be ascertained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer, contractor or occupier to take reasonable steps to ascertain whether any process or article contains asbestos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer or principal must appoint competent person to conduct an asbestos survey to ascertain the presence of asbestos-containing material. An asbestos survey must be conducted for any work involving a specified material⁶. • An asbestos survey must be conducted for buildings⁷ before building works such as demolition, alteration, addition or repair. • Identified asbestos-containing materials must be removed before any demolition work starts.
Technical requirements for asbestos work specified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer, contractor or occupier to provide exhaust ventilation for work involving asbestos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer or contractor to take measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ wetting asbestos-containing material or providing local exhaust ventilation to minimise the release of asbestos during work ○ enclosing the work area to prevent the spread of asbestos beyond the work area

⁶ Specified material refers to any material, substance, product or article specified in the Schedule

⁷ For buildings built before 1 January 1991.

Workers carrying out asbestos work must be trained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements were not specified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employer or contractor to ensure that workers are aware of the hazards associated with asbestos and the precautions to take
Asbestos- removal work to be carried out by licensed contractors and competent persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employer or contractor to take reasonably practicable measures to ensure asbestos-removal work is carried out safely and without risk to any person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building occupier must appoint an Approved Asbestos-Removal Contractor to carry out Asbestos-removal work. AARC to appoint a competent person to establish an asbestos-removal plan of work and supervise the asbestos- removal work AARC to implement the asbestos-removal plan of work
Notification period shortened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons undertaking work involving asbestos to notify MOM of work involving asbestos at least 28 days before the work starts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AARC to notify MOM of asbestos-removal work at least 7 days before the work starts
Competent persons required for asbestos survey and removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements were not specified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent persons are to carry out an asbestos survey, prepare an asbestos-removal plan of work and supervise asbestos-removal work. Duties and liabilities of competent persons are specified in the regulations.