



DUBAI AVIATION CITY CORPORATION OHSE CODE OF PRACTICES



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DACC CODE OF PRACTICE – SAFETY IN HANDLING
ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY
DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice
Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

1.0	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Objectives	4
1.2	Definition of Terms	4
2.0	TRAINING AND AWARENESS	5
3.0	REQUIREMENTS	6
3.1	Legal Requirements	6
3.2	Permits and Licensing	6
3.3	Roles and Responsibilities	7
3.4	Testing and Sampling	7
3.5	Risk Assessment	8
4.0	ASBESTOS HANDLING	9
4.1	Removal of Existing Asbestos	9
4.2	Use of Asbestos Products	9
4.3	Asbestos Waste Handling	10
4.4	Workplace Isolation and Confinement	11
4.5	Personal Protective Equipment	11
5.0	RECORD KEEPING	13
6.0	REFERENCES	13



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY
DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice
Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

1. INTRODUCTION

This Code of Practice (COP) is mandatory to all operational facilities within Dubai South jurisdiction. This Code of Practice is to provide all persons who work with asbestos or have a duty to manage premises where Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) have been identified or presumed to be present the technical information they require to meet Dubai South and local regulation requirements.

- (i) Operational facilities means the business operating in Dubai South such as Offices, Educational Institutions, Medical Facilities, Logistics and Warehouse Facilities, Factories, Recreational Facilities, Multi Store Apartments, Retail Facilities, etc. and all other facilities which are registered under Dubai South License.
- (ii) A duty Holder is defined as;
 - a) the person(s) who owns or is in control, through contact or tenancy, of non-domestic premises;
 - b) With regard to multiple tenanted premises, the duty holder shall be the person who owns or is in control of the building, including access and egress
 - c) All other persons shall cooperate with the with the duty holder to allow them to comply with their duties requirements under this COP.

Asbestos handling in the UAE has been identified as critical environment issue in the 1999 of Federal Legislation, it has only been since the passing of regulatory decision of the Cabinet No. 39 of 2006 (Cabinet Resolution), that the UAE has completely banned the import, production and use of asbestos containing materials.

Asbestos is naturally occurring minerals. It can be amphibole asbestos which includes crocidolite (blue) and amosite (brown) asbestos, or serpentine asbestos which is chrysotile (white) asbestos. These are the main types of asbestos used in building and construction materials. Exposure to airborne asbestos dust or fiber by inhalation during the course of production, construction related works using asbestos containing materials, storage, handling, removal, transportation and disposal of wastes containing asbestos poses a great health hazard and may result in asbestosis, lung cancers and asbestos related diseases.

Asbestos containing materials have been widely used in buildings as construction materials, fireproofing, thermal insulation, electrical insulation, sound insulation, decorative plasters, and roofing products, flooring products, heat resistant materials and gaskets. When asbestos is disturbed or damaged, the fibers are released into the air and people inhale them, which creates a risks to human health. The types of works that release fibers includes drilling holes with power tools, sawing/sanding and demolitions works. Accidental damaged, wear and tear or vandalism can release fibers. Therefore where exposure to asbestos cannot be prevented entirely, exposures need to be controlled.



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY
DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice
Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

1.1 Objectives

Dubai Aviation City Corporation (DACC) OHSERF require individual and companies removing asbestos to take all the necessary steps to:

- a) Control and prevent exposures to airborne asbestos fibers above 0.1 f/cc (8hr TWA) in the working environment.
- b) Prevent any harm to community and nearby operational establishments
- c) Eliminate risk to workmen as well as the public
- d) Provide clear guidelines on asbestos handling, storage and disposal.

1.2 Definition of Terms

- a) ACM – Asbestos Containing Materials
- b) Asbestos fiber – means a particulate from of asbestos 5 micrometers or longer, with a length to diameter ratio of at least 3 to 1
- c) Asbestos sheet – sheets being manufactured from cement after mixing
- d) COP – Code of Practice
- e) DACC - OHSERF – Dubai Aviation City Corporation Occupational Health, Safety and Environment Regulatory Framework
- f) DM – Dubai Municipality
- g) RSP – Registered Service Providers
- h) ESMA – Emirates Standardization Metrology Authority
- i) TWA – Time Weight Averaged
- j) PEL – Permissible Exposure Limit
- k) f/cc – Fiber per cubic centimeter

2.0 TRAINING AND AWARENESS

- a) Duty Holder shall ensure that OHSE training complies with the requirements of:
 - (i) *Dubai Aviation City Corporation (DACC) OHSERF - Regulations 6 – Competence Management, Training and Awareness;*



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY
DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice
Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

- b) Duty Holder shall ensure that the person conducting a business or undertaking must ensure that information, training and instruction provided to a worker is suitable and adequate having regard to;
 - (I) The person must, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure the information training and instruction is provided in a way that it is readily understandable by any person to whom that it is provided.
- c) The training may include the following topics;
 - (i) Purpose of the training
 - (ii) Health risk of asbestos
 - (iii) Types, uses and likely presence of asbestos in the workplace
 - (iv) Persons conducting a business or undertaking and the workers roles and responsibilities under the asbestos management plan.
 - (v) Where the asbestos register is located, how it can be assessed and how to understand the information contained on it.
 - (vi) Processes and safe work procedures to be followed to prevent exposure, including exposure from any accidental release of airborne asbestos.
 - (vii) Where applicable, the correct use of PPE including respiratory protective equipment.
 - (viii) The implementation of control measures and safe work methods to eliminate and minimize the risk associated with asbestos to limit the exposure to workers and other persons.
 - (ix) Exposure standards and control levels for asbestos
 - (x) Purpose of exposure monitoring or health surveillance that might occur.

3.0 REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Legal Requirements

Listed below are the main legislative requirements related to asbestos within the United Arab Emirates. All the requirements listed within this document shall be adhered to, however compliance with this document and those referenced within, shall ensure compliance with the requirements stated within the legal standard listed below;

- a) Federal Cabinet Resolution No. (39) of 2006 on banning the import and production of asbestos;
- b) Federal Ministerial Decision No. (32) of 1982 on Protecting Employees from Hazards at Work;



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY
DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice
Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

- c) Federal Ministerial Decision (4/1) of 1981 Determination of Hazardous Work;
- d) Federal Labour Law (8) of 1981 concerning labor regulations (schedule 1);
- e) Federal Law No. 24 of 1999 for the Protection and Development of the Environment Regulation for Handling Hazardous Materials, Hazardous Materials and Medical Waste.
- f) Federal Law No. 28 of 2001 regarding the Establishment of the Emirates Authority for Standards and Meteorology.

3.2 Permits and Licensing

The Duty Holder is required to ensure that all licensing and permitting requirements have been complied prior with commencing any work related to Asbestos Waste Removal and Handling

- a) **Testing Facilities;**
 - (I) All testing facilities shall be approved by Emirates Standardization and Metrology Authority (ESMA)
- b) **Asbestos Removal Contractor;**
 - (II) Registered Service Provider (RSP) with valid Registration Certificate issued by Dubai Municipality for the removal and disposal of Asbestos
- c) **Asbestos Waste Carriers / Transporters;**
 - (I) Registered Service Provider (RSP) with valid Registration Certificate issued by Dubai Municipality for the removal and disposal of Asbestos
- d) **Asbestos Waste Facilities;**
 - (II) Approved by Dubai Municipality Waste Management Department.

3.3 Roles and Responsibilities

Duty Holder Shall:

- a) Ensure to control and prevent exposures of workers to airborne asbestos fibers above 0.1 f/cc in the working environment; during transport and disposal of asbestos materials/waste
- b) Ensure that no employee is exposed to an airborne an airborne concentration of asbestos in excess of 0.1 f/cc of air as an eight hour time weighted average (TWA) as determined by the method approved by competent authority.
- c) Ensure that no employee is exposed to an airborne concentration of asbestos in excess of 1.0 f/cc of air (1 f/cc) as averaged over a sampling period of thirty (30) minutes as determined using the method approved by competent authority.
- d) Is responsible in providing all workers and ensuring them to wear protective equipment's and protective clothing required for work, and ensuring the isolation of the contaminated clothes and clean it separately. This protective equipment's and clothes shall include; safety shoes, protective eye glasses, hand gloves, earmuffs, dust mask and especial mask for asbestos.
- e) Ensure that all buildings under their control have been surveyed by a licensed Asbestos Supervising consultant to identify any potential asbestos containing materials
- f) Ensure that the findings of any such surveys are communicated to all relevant parties;



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY
DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice
Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

- g) Ensure that each building, where ACM have been identified or is assumed to be present, has a competent person in place to managed the requirements of this COP;
- h) Have the ability, through contractual arrangements, to delegate the responsibility of managing the requirements of this COP to their building managers or relevant person(s), however the duty holder take reasonable steps to ensure that the requirements of this COP have been implemented and managed;
- i) Ensure that where ACM is present or is assumed to be present, an Management Plan is developed to ensure that the risk from exposure is managed and controlled;
- j) Ensure that for any works that may involve ACM or bring employees or other persons into possible contact with ACM, an independent competent licensed asbestos supervising consultant is engaged directly by the duty holder to manage or oversee any such works; and
- k) Ensure that any works that may involve ACM or bring employees or other persons into contact with ACM are undertaken by a Licensed Asbestos Contractor.

3.4 Testing and Sampling

- a. If this is required, only licensed laboratories can be used to undertake this sample tests. The ASC will normally provide this service as part of the survey they are undertaking, however the duty holder shall ensure that the requirements of this guide are implemented.

3.5 Risk Assessment

- a) Following the completion of a survey and an asbestos register, a risk assessment shall be undertaken to identify control measures and prioritize actions. The ASC will undertake the risk assessment, using the information identified within the asbestos survey. If air sampling or dust sampling has not already been undertaken as part of the survey, the ASC may require this to be completed at this point. The analysis of dust or air in the location may provide information on previous damage or exposure.
- b) The purpose of the risk assessment is to identify the areas where exposure to asbestos is more likely and then introduce control measure(s) to prevent exposure.
- c) The risk assessment process will consider the following issues as a minimum:
 - (i) The condition of ACM:
 - 1. Indicates the level of damage to the materials
 - (ii) Surface treatment;
 - 1. How the ACM is protected from damage and by what material?
- d) The type of asbestos present;
 - (i) Material Type:
 - 1. The material that is presumed or confirmed to contain asbestos, e.g. floor tile adhesive, cement board etc.
 - (ii) Accessibility:
 - 1. How accessible is the material.
 - (iii) Surrounding environment:
 - 1. What factors, such as the nature or type of work, in the surrounding environment is likely to disturb the asbestos.



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY
DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice
Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

- e) Based upon the findings of the assessment, each materials with presumed or identified asbestos fibers shall be given a control measures. The purpose of the control measures shall be reduce the risk exposure to asbestos to the lowest reasonable level.
- f) When assigning control measures the following criteria shall be considered;
 - (i) If the ACM is friable and not in stable condition, and there is a risk to health from exposure, they shall be removed by a licensed Asbestos Removal Contractor as soon reasonably practicable;
 - (ii) If the ACM is friable but in a stable condition and is accessible, serious consideration shall be given to their removal. If removal is not immediately reasonably practicable, short-term control measures, such as sealing and enclosure, shall be used until removal is reasonably practicable;
 - (iii) If the ACM is not friable and in good, stable condition, minimizing disturbance and encapsulation may be appropriate controls;
- (iv) Any remaining ACM shall be clearly labelled and regularly inspected to ensure that they are not deteriorating or otherwise contributing to an acceptable health risk;
- (v) ACM shall be removed before demolition, partial demolition, renovation or refurbishment.
- g) It shall be noted that the control measure listed above, only relate to actions directly related to ACM's and do not include secondary control measures such as training, communication, PPE etc. these would be specific to the building or facility. The ASC shall consider relevant control measures when undertaking the risk assessment.
- h) An action plan shall be developed for each material that is known or presumed to contain asbestos. The action plan shall include;
 - (i) Location
 - (ii) Product
 - (iii) Immediate actions;
 - (iv) Timescales;
 - (v) On-going / future actions, including monitoring or removal; and
 - (vi) Owner.

4.0 ASBESTOS HANDLING

4.1 Removal of Existing Asbestos

- a) The Duty Holder shall institute engineering controls and safe work practices to reduce employee exposure to the ACM using a negative pressure enclosure/HEPA vacuum system method or low pressure/wet cleaning method.
- b) Duty Holder to ensure that Removal of Existing Asbestos is done by an Approved Contractor by Dubai Aviation City Corporation (DACC) OHSE and Dubai Municipality Specialized Department.
- c) All power-sawing, drilling, sanding or milling machines engaged in finishing operations, should be fitted with efficient dust extraction equipment.
- d) Dust should be removed from the workplace by vacuum cleaning.
- e) Dropping and dragging of finished asbestos – cement products should be avoided.



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY
DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice
Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

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- f) The bags should be placed as closed as possible to the hopper or feed chamber

4.2 Use of Asbestos Products:

- a) Duty Holder shall ensure that Asbestos **should not be used for cladding; lagging and insulation** unless there is no variable alternative and approval is obtained from Dubai South and Specialized Department of Dubai Municipality.

4.3 Asbestos Waste Handling

- a) Demolition Work Waste.
- (i) During demolition work, fixed or removable structures containing asbestos material should be collected in plastics sheeting which can be folded to form sealed containers.
 - (ii) Where practicable, the waste material should be wetted in order to minimize asbestos dust emission.
- b) Collection and Transport of Asbestos Waste.
- (i) All waste containing asbestos should be collected in bags of semi-transparent material such as polyethylene.
 - (ii) The wastes collected in bags should be sealed to prevent escape of dust during subsequent handling.
 - (iii) Label specification;
 - 1.Danger Contains Asbestos Fibers / Avoid Creating Dust / Cancer and Lung Disease Hazard
 - (iv) Waste material from fixing or removing insulation;
 - 1.Where fixing or stripping operations are being carried on, floors should covered with plastic sheeting which can be folded to form sealed containers.
 - 2.Where practicable, the use of automatic removal of cut off and collection in disposable receptacle should be followed.
 - (v) Asbestos cement sheeting/ pipes, jointing etc., should be stored in such a manner as to ensure that it will not be abraded or crushed while awaiting for disposal.
 - (vi) Sacks or bags which have been contained loose asbestos fiber should be disposed of by grinding, melting or bagged.
 - (vii) Wet waste: Asbestos sludge or slurry. Asbestos waste in the form of sludge or slurry should in transported in carries without any spillage.
 - (viii) Transport of asbestos waste (double pack for road transport with packaging material approved for asbestos) should be transported to the disposal site in such a way that no dust is emitted into air during transport.
- c) Disposal of Asbestos Waste.
- (i) Waste Transporter must have the latest **Valid Hazardous Waste Transporter Permit issued by Dubai Municipality Specialized Department**
 - (ii) The other asbestos waste shall be disposed by submitting the “Application for disposal of Hazardous Waste” to Environmental Protection and Safety Section at the appropriate disposal site designated by the Dubai Municipality.



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY
DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice
Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

- (iii) Asbestos cement sheets or dry solids are to be disposed of as land fill material at solid waste building materials disposal sites. (Refer to Dubai Municipality-Waste Management Department)
- (iv) The waste should wherever practicable, be deposited at the foot of the working face of the landfill or at the bottom of an excavation dug for it.
- (v) No asbestos waste in the landfill site shall be left uncovered at the end of a working day
- (vi) If wet waste is deposited, it should be covered in the same way as dry waste to prevent escape of asbestos dust on dry out.
- (vii) Workers occupied in the collection, transport or disposal of asbestos waste should be provided with suitable protective clothing and respiratory equipment.
- (viii) Contaminated protective clothing shall be segregated and cleaned separately.

4.4 Workplace Isolation and Confinement

Duty Holder shall ensure during the removal/disposal of asbestos wastes in workplace the following shall be observed;

- a. Whatever the method of stripping/removal is, workplace shall be isolated and secluded with tight plastics enclosures to avoid dispersion of dust or air pressure inside the workplace shall be changed to negative.
- b. Cautionary signage shall be provided to prevent any unauthorized person to enter the workplace.
- c. Warning signs shall be provided and displayed at each regulated area. In addition, warning signs shall be posted at all approaches to restrict and warn employees and can take necessary precautionary steps before entering the area.
- d. In some cases where the process is controlled by good wetting and the workplace is not adjacent to other places occupied by workers, confinement can be done using barriers/cordons.
- e. It is preferred to place the washing and changing are adjacent to the workplace.

4.5 Personal Protective Equipment

Duty Holder shall ensure that all workers engaged in handling, use, transportation, disposal of asbestos fiber or any product containing asbestos in manufacturing, use, demolition, construction, and disposal activities shall be provided with and use appropriate personal protective equipment.

- a. All asbestos workers shall be provided with the following personal protective equipment:
 - (i) Protective Clothing
 - 1. Protective clothing shall be provided and worn at all times during all work in the asbestos work area prior to the final clearance inspection.
 - 2. Protective clothing shall be made from materials which provide appropriate protection against fiber penetration. Coveralls shall not have external pockets or



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY

DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice

Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

Velcro fastenings because these features are easily contaminated and difficult to decontaminate.

3. Disposable coveralls are preferred. They shall never be used, and shall be disposed of as asbestos waste.
4. Clothing made from wool or other materials that attract fibrous dust shall not be worn in the in the asbestos removal site.
5. Regardless of whether gloves are used, asbestos removal employees shall clean their hands and fingernails thoroughly after work.

(ii) Protective Footwear

1. Appropriate safety footwear (e.g. steel capped rubber-soled work shoes or gumboots) shall be provided for all asbestos removal employees. This footwear shall be lace less and shall remain inside the asbestos work area or dirty decontamination area for the duration of asbestos removal work. When not in use, the safety footwear shall be stored upside down to minimize asbestos-contamination inside the footwear. Storage facilities shall be provided to allow this.
2. Protective footwear shall be decontaminated at the end of the job and upon leaving the work area, or sealed in double bags for use on the next asbestos removal site (but not for any other type of work). Work boots cannot be effectively decontaminated and shall be disposed of as asbestos waste.

(iii) Respiratory protection

1. Respirators shall be used to individuals for their exclusive use. A system of regular cleaning, inspection and maintenance shall be provided for respirators on extended personal issue, and records of all respirators issues and uses shall be established and maintained.
2. The level of respiratory protection required shall be determined by a competent person in accordance with the asbestos removal task to be undertaken.
3. Respirator defects shall be reported immediately to the supervisor of the removal job for repair or replacement.
4. Employees shall receive instruction and training in the correct method on how to use their respective respirators and the importance of correct facial fit and the requirements of the system of regular cleaning, inspection and maintenance.
5. Persons requiring the use of prescription spectacles may not be able to use full face respirators, because of loss of seal around the spectacles arms. If their spectacles cannot be modified so that they do not need the support of the ears, these people shall not use full face respirators and shall wear air supply hoods instead. It is important, however to be sure these hoods will provide an appropriate level of protection.
6. RPE should be selected, manufactured, fitted, tested and maintained according to AS/NZS 1715. Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment and AS/NZS 1716. Respiratory protective devices.



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY
DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice
Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

5.0 RECORD KEEPING

- (a) Duty Holder shall ensure record keeping in accordance with the requirements of *Dubai Aviation City Corporation (DACC) OHSERF – Regulation 8 – Document Control and Record Management* for the purpose of performance review in accordance with the requirements of *Dubai Aviation City Corporation (DACC) OHSERF – Regulation 14– Performance Management* and *Dubai Aviation City Corporation (DACC) OHSERF – Regulation 19 – Management Review*.
- (b) Duty Holder shall ensure records of the below but not limited to:
- (i) Disposal Manifest from approved Hazardous waste transporter
 - (ii) Licensed/NOC from the approved Asbestos Contractor
 - (iii) Risk assessment
 - (iv) Trainings and Certificates from the workers involved in Removal of asbestos.

6.0 REFERENCES

NO.	DOCUMENT NAME	DOCUMENT NO.
1	Risk Management	DACC OHSERF – Regulation 2
2	Leadership, Roles, Responsibility and Self-Regulation	DACC OHSERF – Regulation 5
3	Competence Management, Training and Awareness	DACC OHSERF – Regulation 6
4	Communication, Consultation and Participation	DACC OHSERF – Regulation 7
5	Document Control and Record management	DACC OHSERF – Regulation 8
6	Emergency Management	DACC OHSERF – Regulation 13
7	Incident Management	DACC OHSERF – Regulation 15
8	Personal Protective Equipment	COP – DACC.DS.OPS.OHSSE.OST.10.PP
9	Emergency Preparedness	COP – DACC.DS.OPS.OHSSE.OST.03.EP
10	Safety and Health Requirements for Warehouse	COP – DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OPS.11.WA
11	Permit to Work Systems	COP – DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.09.WS
12	Safety Signage and Signals	COP – DACC.DS.PROJ.OHSE.CST.45.SS
13	Waste Management	COP – DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.ENV.03.WM
14	Protection / Protection and Development of the Environment	Federal Law No. (24) of 1999
15	Labor Law and its Amendments	Federal Law No. (8) of 1980
16	Environment Protection Regulations in Dubai	Local Order No. 61/1991
17	Concerning Regulation of Construction Works in the Emirate of Dubai	Local Order No. 3 of 1999
18	Regarding the Level of Medical Attention the Duty Holder is Obligated to Provide to his Workers	Ministerial Decision No. 37/2 of 1982
19	Defining Works that are Hazardous or in which it is Permissible to Reduce the Legally Decided Working Hours	Ministerial Resolution No. 4/1 of 1981
20	Concerning Public Health and Safety of the Society in the Emirate of Dubai	Local Order No. 11 of 2003
21	Defining Works that are Hazardous or in which it is Permissible to Reduce the Legally Decided Working Hours	Ministerial Resolution No. 4/1 of 1981



SAFETY IN HANDLING ASBESTOS IN OPERATIONS SAFETY

DACC (DUBAI SOUTH) Code of Practice

Document Reference No.: DACC.DS.OPS.OHSE.OST.12.HA

22	Federal Regulation for Handling Hazardous Materials, Hazardous Wastes and Medical Wastes	Issued by Cabinet Decree No. 37 of 2001
23	Dubai Code of Construction Safety Practice	Dubai Municipality Public Health & Safety Codes
24	Dubai Municipality Technical Guidelines	2011
25	UAE Life and Safety Code of Practice 2018	2018
26	DACC OHSE Regulatory Framework	2019
27	Industrial Vacuum Cleaners for Particulates Hazardous to Health	AS 3544-1988
28	High Efficiency Particulate Air filters (HEPA) – Classification, Construction and Performance	AS 4260-1997
29	Equipment used in the controlled removal of Asbestos containing materials	BS 8520
30	Asbestos Convention 1986	ILO – C162
31	Asbestos Recommendation 1986	ILO – R172
32	Approved Code of Practice The Management of Asbestos in Non-Domestic Premises, L127	ISBN 9780 7176 6209 8
33	Approved Code of practice work with materials containing asbestos , L143	ISBN 9780 7176 6206 7
34	Asbestos: the licensed contractors guide, HSG247	ISBN 978 0 7176 2874 2
35	Asbestos: The analysts guide for sampling, analysis and clearance procedures, HSG248,	ISBN 978 0 7176 2875 9
36	Asbestos Essentials, HSG 210	ISBN 978 0 7176 6263 0