



Australian  
**BORDER FORCE**

# **Sampling goods for testing for the presence of asbestos**

A guide for meeting Australian border requirements

August 2022

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# Introduction

The Australian Border Force (ABF) has produced this guide to assist owners (importers/exporters) who are intending to move goods which might be at risk of containing asbestos across the Australian border. **The ABF must be assured that goods crossing the border do not unlawfully contain asbestos.**

For goods considered at risk, solely providing a declaration or statement that the goods do not contain asbestos, without supporting evidence, will not be considered adequate assurance. The ABF website's asbestos information page contains a non-exhaustive list of risk goods, for use as a guide.

Owners should understand that sampling for testing is part of a process that must adhere to scientific principles, and that often the testing result is only as good as the samples collected. The owner's preparation for the sampling process is key to achieving an accurate testing result, which this guide will support.

This guide is not intended to provide technical advice to asbestos professionals on the sampling process and does not seek to replicate information that is openly available. Although particular examples are included to provide context, this guide is not a procedure for certain categories of goods. Existing procedural documents that detail the sampling process for different conditions and for specific goods are available, published by various international government and industry standards organisations.

Asbestos professionals (refer to Section 2: *Who should read this guide*) understand the reasons for a planned and careful approach to the collection of samples, in compliance with Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws, for the purposes of laboratory testing. That knowledge, combined with this guide, will assist in a best practice approach to sampling before shipping to Australia, or at the border.

The owner of the goods, in most cases, is responsible for choosing the asbestos professional to undertake the sampling process. This guide provides the owner with an overview of the information required to enable the asbestos professional to make informed decisions.

The owner should ensure they engage the most appropriate asbestos professional, and technical experts where required, for their particular circumstances. They should also talk with the asbestos professional to seek explanation of any requirements within the sampling process that they don't understand.

This guide is for information purposes only and does not represent legal advice. Goods owners should seek further advice from an appropriate, qualified professional.

## The border control for asbestos


In recognition of the significant risk to human health, Australia imposed a nation-wide ban on the use of all types of asbestos on 31 December 2003. WHS and environmental laws in all states and territories prohibit the unauthorised supply, transport, use (including manufacturing), or handling of asbestos.

To support the domestic ban:

- The importation of asbestos, or goods containing asbestos, is prohibited under regulation 4C of the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*.
- The exportation of asbestos, or certain goods containing asbestos, is prohibited under regulation 4 and Schedule 1 of the *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958*.

Testing for asbestos is one part of a broader approach to support the ban on asbestos in Australia. While asbestos testing is not mandatory for all goods at the border, the ABF can require testing on any goods as part of its assurance process.

When it is determined that testing should be undertaken, sampling forms a core component of the assurance process. The samples must be collected in a manner that ensures they are representative of the goods, as far as practicable, to enable a testing result that is reflective of the goods' composition. For this reason, and



to provide sufficient assurance as to the sampling process, the ABF requires that the *competent person*<sup>1</sup> collecting the samples is a professional with the necessary training, qualifications or experience with asbestos to carry out the task.

## 1 Why should this guide be used

This guide is intended to assist owners of goods to meet their obligations under Australian law by:

- providing information that can be used to prepare themselves for the sampling process
- supporting a conversation with an asbestos professional about relevant considerations when approaching the sampling process to achieve best practice
- assisting with the collation of information to demonstrate to the ABF that the goods being imported/exported do not contain asbestos, and
- assisting the owner to be compliant with Australian border requirements.

## 2 Who should read this guide

- An owner of goods intended for importation that are at-risk of containing asbestos.
- Agents, acting on behalf of owners, who will deal with the asbestos professional.
- Appropriate competent persons, occupational hygienists, asbestos removalists, asbestos inspectors or inspection bodies intending to carry out the sampling process, whether in Australia or overseas (within this document, such personnel are generally referred to as an 'asbestos professional').
- Overseas manufacturers and suppliers of goods that are made with mineral raw materials, or contain parts/components that might be at risk of containing asbestos, and who intend to export to the Australian market.
- Exporters in Australia of certain goods at risk of containing asbestos, whether the goods originated in Australia or were imported previously.


## 3 What key factors to consider

### 3.1 Effects of the supply chain

The diverse and fluid nature of international trade means that importers must have sound knowledge and control of their supply chain. The risk of asbestos being present in manufactured goods is greater in complex or varying supply chains. Such a supply chain requires continuous monitoring for change, and is relevant when considering whether the sampling focus should be on raw materials, the finished product, or both.

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<sup>1</sup> *Competent person* – as defined within the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011* (Cth). This definition may also vary between state and territory jurisdictions, where the sampling takes place.



Vulnerable points of the supply chain may include:

- Raw material supply to a manufacturer, particularly from irregular sources.
- Manufacturing processes where local standards or tolerances allow asbestos content.
- Multiple part/component manufacturers supplying to a point of assembly.
- A supplier which sub-contracts third party suppliers, which are not disclosed.
- Multiple manufacturers supplying to centrally consolidated shipments of an identical finished product.

## 3.2 Homogeneity

Homogeneity, or uniformity, of asbestos in goods can affect the representative accuracy of the sampling process, and so affect the test result. The uniformity of asbestos in a good will indicate whether the asbestos was intentionally added or whether raw materials with naturally occurring asbestos were used in the manufacturing process. If strict quality controls do not exist or formulas are not closely adhered to at the point of manufacture, asbestos might be introduced and unintentionally distributed in production in an uneven manner.

For example, a cement fibre board with asbestos purposely incorporated would be expected to have homogeneous asbestos content throughout its structure. However, if the manufacturer used raw materials with a naturally occurring level of asbestos in production, whether inadvertently or under a low level tolerance, the result may be a production cycle with some boards containing asbestos and some without.

This type of consideration is critical for the owner's supply chain risk management, and when undertaking a representative sampling process.

## 3.3 Integrity and transparency

Owners should ensure that sampling is undertaken in an independent and impartial manner to ensure the credibility and integrity of the testing outcome. Providing verifiable evidence about the sampling process will help to demonstrate this and establish transparency.

Additionally, whether in Australia or in another country, the physical integrity of the samples must be maintained from collection to testing. The asbestos professional must follow appropriate protocols for secure packaging, storage and transport to prevent any cross-contamination, interference or loss, and to assist laboratories in determining and recording accurate results from the correct sample.

A goods owner who wishes to rely on sampling and testing undertaken outside Australia will need to demonstrate the integrity of that process to the ABF. When testing is carried out in another country where relevant Australian laws do not apply, samples selected for testing by the manufacturer or the wholesale supplier might be interpreted by the ABF as intentionally influencing the testing result. This is a particular risk in countries where local manufacturing is known to use asbestos, and when the manufacturer of the goods being sampled also produces goods that contain asbestos.

When a manufacturer/supplier has end-to-end control of goods through the supply chain to market, and has demonstrated it is addressing the risk of asbestos contamination in that supply chain, the manufacturer should be able to provide documentary evidence of that risk management. Detailed evidence of the manufacturing process can help an owner provide greater assurance to the ABF. If the ABF doubts the integrity of the overseas sampling and/or testing undertaken, the owner will be directed to have the goods sampled at the border.

When the process is undertaken at the Australian border while the goods are under customs control, the competent person is required under Australian WHS law to be appropriately trained, qualified or experienced. State or territory laws might require the asbestos professional to be licensed to carry out the work in that jurisdiction. Adherence to local laws is necessary for the ABF to verify the integrity of the sampling process.



**Figure 1:** The physical integrity of the samples must be maintained from collection to testing. These samples were collected under ABF supervision.

Refer to Section 11 (page 16) for flow charts which summarise factors to consider in the sampling process.

## 4 Where the sampling takes place

Whether carried out in the country of origin or at the Australian border, there are important considerations to be made when collecting samples for testing. Samples must be collected within a process that is:

- accurate and safe, and
- representative of all identified risk areas (for asbestos) across the entire shipment.

### 4.1 In Australia

#### **Owners need to know**

Sampling for the purposes of testing for asbestos is required to be carried out in line with applicable Commonwealth, state or territory WHS laws. The jurisdiction in which the sampling takes place will determine what qualifications, licencing requirements, or experience is required of the asbestos professional who is to carry out the process. These requirements may vary slightly between states and territories.

The nature of the goods to be sampled may also determine whether specialists are needed to assist the asbestos professional. For example, an automotive mechanic might be required to advise on specific risk parts/components within a motor vehicle that might contain asbestos, and assist with the manner in which the samples are collected. When sourcing an asbestos professional, the owner should make enquiries to determine if technical assistance is required.

## Goods held at the border

When at-risk goods arrive at the Australian border without adequate assurance provided to demonstrate that no asbestos is present, the ABF will direct that the goods be sampled and tested while under customs control.

The owner of the goods is usually responsible for sourcing and contracting an appropriate asbestos professional to assess the risk and collect samples suitable for accurate analysis while ensuring that any workers will not be exposed to asbestos.

ABF officers are not qualified asbestos professionals and will supervise the collection of samples while the goods are under customs control. This does not limit an ABF officer's ability to identify a potential prohibited import (asbestos) to the asbestos professional in attendance. If an ABF officer has reason to believe there are risk goods in a consignment they may direct that samples be taken of particular components.

The costs for this process and any other associated costs, including storage of the goods while the testing occurs, are the responsibility of the owner. The test results must be reported directly to the ABF by the asbestos professional or testing laboratory, whether as a first step, or simultaneously to the owner.



**Figure 2:** At the Australian border, a qualified asbestos professional collects samples under the supervision of the ABF.

## Engaging a competent person

Under Australian WHS laws, sampling must be undertaken by a *competent person* (as defined in law) who has the knowledge, skills, training, qualification or experience to carry out the task. The owner may wish to contract an occupational hygienist or licensed asbestos removalist with appropriate skills, or discuss the process with the laboratory they are engaging. The laboratory may be able to provide a competent person able to carry out the sampling, or may refer the owner to an independent asbestos professional they have worked with in the past.


## Practices and requirements

The practices to be used during the actual inspection, identification and sampling process will be determined and communicated by the asbestos professional, who will be qualified and/or licensed for the task. For goods at the Australian border under customs control, the ABF will supervise this process to ensure border requirements are met.

Owners should refer to the Code of Practice published by the WHS regulator in the state or territory in which the sampling process is to occur, to gain an understanding of the sampling procedure.

Safe Work Australia publishes the Model Code of Practice: *How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace*, which contains relevant information regarding the sampling process. This document is free to download from the [Safe Work Australia website](#). Its content has been adopted by most states and all





territories, and adapted to local WHS (or Occupational Health and Safety) legislation. Local WHS requirements will apply to who can collect samples and how they do it. These requirements may differ slightly between state and territory jurisdictions.

Refer to Section 9 for website links to publications about the sampling procedures.

## 4.2 In a country outside Australia

When sampling goods outside Australia, the samples must be collected from the batch or shipment that is being shipped to Australia. Written evidence of the sampling process, photographs and accurate records of decisions (what was/was not sampled and why) will enhance the owner's assurance provided to the ABF that the goods do not contain asbestos.

Sampling and testing documents that are not current (for example, laboratory reports over 12 months old) are unlikely to be directly attributable to the batch of goods being imported, and will not be accepted by the ABF. When owners are offered such documents by manufacturers or suppliers, they are advised to request evidence that the documents are for the actual goods being supplied.

The asbestos professional **needs to be mindful of Australian requirements**, even where these requirements might exceed local standards. Owners are advised to research and understand the requirements of the country where the sampling is to occur. The person carrying out the sampling may be working to local standards, or a recognised international standard (for example, Clause 5 of ISO 22262-1). The owner should discuss accreditation, experience and local legislated requirements with the asbestos professional at the point of hiring the person and/or laboratory, to inform the owner's evidence that will be provided to the ABF. When there is no recognised code of practice or standard being adhered to, the testing result might be inaccurate or not provide assurance to the ABF that no asbestos is present. If this is apparent, the owner should consider seeking an alternative service provider.

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (Cth) (ASEA) publishes a list of laboratories in Australia that have current permits to import asbestos samples for testing purposes. This list can be accessed at the [ASEA website](#).

# 5 Background information to help the asbestos professional

The owner, or the owner's agent, should provide the asbestos professional with as much information about the goods as possible, starting with a full manifest, to ensure the sampling process is well informed and planned. This will likely lessen the time, and possibly the cost, of the sampling process.

Knowing the supply chain and any risk points will make it easier for the owner to identify parts/components that might require further investigation. It will also assist to demonstrate if no asbestos is present through evidence gathered, and so possibly avoid the sampling and testing process.

## 5.1 Bulk shipments of raw materials (ores)

- Know which minerals are a risk for asbestos contamination.
- Seek relevant mining organisation risk management information about asbestos at the site.
- Indicate the state of the material - crude, aggregate, or if it has gone through a mechanical or physical process to filter impurities.



## 5.2 Manufacturing details

The owner should seek to familiarise themselves with their supply chain so they can provide information to the contracted asbestos professional for the following:

### **Raw materials used by the manufacturer**

- Some raw materials that are, or include, mineral based components are a risk for asbestos contamination. For example, talc (various grades) or vermiculite, which might occur naturally underground with asbestos.
- Identifying at-risk minerals can help assess raw materials used by the manufacturer.
- Material data sheets sourced from the manufacturer or mineral supplier may provide valuable information to the asbestos professional for their assessment.

### **Goods construction/structure**

- The asbestos professional will determine how the sampling is to be carried out.
- Structural information will inform a plan of access to identified risk areas or parts.
- This will also inform the asbestos professional as to what sampling techniques and associated equipment are required. For example, the use of core sampling tools.

### **Entire shipment or just certain parts/components manufactured with materials of risk**

- Shipments containing several of the same type of good are often easier to assess as the approach can be uniform throughout, achieving good representative sampling.
- Shipments with a range of goods, or goods with multiple parts/components, might require additional resources and time to achieve representative sampling.

### **Likely asbestos homogeneity** (refer to subsection 3.2)

- Manufacturer's process information, such as mixing methods (human labour or automated), will inform the asbestos professional in situations where goods are constructed to a formula (for example, fibre cement products).

### **Fireproofing/moisture proofing/friction materials within the goods**

- Components designed to contact with electricity, or resist heat or moisture, might be a risk for containing asbestos. Examples include small gaskets within electrical circuits, insulation, or a structural fire protection such as a firewall/bulkhead within assembled plant, hydraulic and mechanical machinery, heaters, boilers and temporary gaskets for transport purposes.

### **Likelihood of asbestos content depending on manufacturer location/industry**

- Countries with asbestos-using industries, or lawful tolerances for low levels of asbestos, pose a risk.
- Pre-assembled goods may contain parts/components from multiple countries of manufacture. The origin of the parts/components may determine the level of apparent risk.

## 5.3 At the border: shipment packing details

The asbestos professional needs to know how the goods have been shipped so they can plan their physical approach to the sampling process. This may take into account access, time, space, specialist assistance and/or equipment required to collect samples.

Discuss factors such as:

- Cargo stream – sea freight or air freight?
    - a. If sea freight: are the goods a full container load (FCL), or less-than-full container load (LCL)?
  - Are multiple containers present?
  - Was the container clean before being packed?
    - a. If the container was previously used to transport goods containing asbestos, cross contamination might impact the outcome of testing for the current goods.
  - What is the level of accessibility to the goods, including to the specific parts/components identified?
    - a. Any need for disassembling of machinery requiring specialist personnel and/or tools?
    - b. Are the identified goods in specific boxes among other goods – what are the marks and numbers of those boxes?
    - c. Is full unpacking of a sea freight container required, and is there a risk of cross-contamination to other goods not being sampled?
  - The method chosen to ensure best representative sampling for the whole shipment, is achieved.
    - a. Are there multiple pallets of the same product? (tiles, fibre cement sheeting or panels)
      - i. What evidence exists to show they are of the same production batch and are homogeneous in construction?
      - ii. Do they need a full unpack to achieve representative sampling?
    - b. Is the same risk part or component installed in all goods, and is it from the same manufacturer?
- Examples:
- i. Brake pads and gaskets in a motor vehicle or motor cycle
  - ii. Heat resistant gaskets in a large switch board
  - iii. Chemical cylinders with internal heat resistant diaphragms

Once the asbestos professional has made their assessment, they should inform the owner of their intended approach and method to collect the samples.



**Figure 3:** How the goods are packed for shipment will affect the plan of approach to sampling

## 6 ABF expectations of the asbestos professional at the border

### **The asbestos professional will have responsibility for:**

- Direct oversight of the goods at all times during the examination, including from the time the container is opened, through to the time the sample is collected.
- An initial risk assessment of the condition of the goods, and if in a sea freight container, providing ongoing advice on the way the container should be unpacked (manually or forklift etc.), inclusive of identifying what, if any, extra WHS controls might be required.
- Handling and inspecting the goods.
- Determining the representative sample size, if testing is required.
- Collecting the samples, if testing is required.
- Placing the samples in a safe storage container with ABF seals for transportation to the laboratory.
- Accurate and appropriate labelling and recording of samples collected.
- Arranging for the lawful removal and disposal of any confirmed asbestos, or parts/components that contain asbestos, that do not need testing (if the professional is a licensed asbestos removalist).
- Advising on WHS-appropriate storage and security, of the remaining goods pending the outcome of the testing process.
- Supervising any searches to identify other goods in the shipment that may contain asbestos, if required.

### 6.1 Documenting the process

#### **The need for keeping records**

Accurate and detailed records will enhance the assurance provided to the ABF. The asbestos professional will document the samples taken, where they came from, weight, and the number of samples and should assign unique identification references to each sample. This will be critical to later match samples against goods, should the testing process detect asbestos. The chain of custody for this process must also be recorded accurately – incorporating sample collection, transport and receipt by the laboratory.

### 6.2 Scrutiny

The process must be able to withstand scrutiny as being compliant with legislated requirements, whether in Australia or overseas, but also to dispel any doubt as to the integrity and accuracy of those records. Should further testing (or a confirmation process) be required, accurate records of the samples taken will be required to facilitate sub-sampling. Procedures regarding the chain of custody must account for the location and handling of the samples to dispel concerns of interference or loss, and assist where results are disputed.



**Figure 4:** Accurate and detailed records of procedures and decisions will demonstrate integrity and enhance the assurance required by the ABF.

## 7 ABF expectations of the owner of the goods

### **The owner of the goods has responsibility for:**

- Acquiring and applying knowledge of asbestos-related laws in the country where the goods are manufactured.
- Researching and risk managing the supply chain of the goods to ensure asbestos is not incorporated.
- Collecting and collating sufficient documentary evidence to provide assurance of no asbestos content.
- Providing the documentary evidence to the licensed customs broker or freight forwarder.
- Following the lawful directions of the ABF.
- Contracting an appropriate asbestos professional to undertake the sampling.
- Contracting specialist/technical expertise to assist the asbestos professional, where required.
- Providing sufficient information to the asbestos professional to assist in planning the sampling process.
- Contracting an accredited laboratory to undertake the testing of the samples.
- Ensuring they understand the process and potential outcomes for their goods, before the process begins.
- Meeting all costs associated with sampling, testing and storage.

These actions will help the owner to ensure that their goods do not contain asbestos prior to arrival in Australia, as well as addressing the need to sample if directed by the ABF.

### 7.1 Other considerations

Owners or their representative should discuss the following with the asbestos professional, especially when sampling is undertaken outside Australia:

- Safety conditions at the site - for example, shelter, coverings, weather, emergency procedures, etc.
- Access by unauthorised personnel.
- Collecting enough of each sample to enable sub-sampling where required.

- a. Such as in the case of a confirming technique being required (a second round of testing using a more complex laboratory analysis method, requiring a sub-sample of the collected samples to be prepared).
- b. Note: this will add time to the finalisation of the subsequent testing process.
- Prevention of cross contamination of surrounding goods, packing or container, during the sampling process – a significant consideration, if asbestos is detected during testing.

### Compositing of samples

The ABF will not accept laboratory testing results presented at the border where compositing of samples (mixing samples together) has been used, due to the risk of inaccurate results. This method might be permissible in some countries to reduce the number of samples taken. When this method is offered, it should be refused.

## 8 Disposal requirements

Goods held at the Australian border are classified as being under customs control. Therefore, samples from those goods are also classified as under customs control. The disposal of leftover samples must be at the authorisation of the ABF, and should be coordinated in consultation with the asbestos professional and the laboratory (refer to Section 6).

## 9 Published technical information and reference documents

For additional technical guidance to support the sampling of goods for asbestos, goods owners may wish to refer to the following publicly available resources.

### Australian

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)

- Industry User Guide No.7: [\*Working with accredited asbestos facilities for import/export\*](#) (free to download)

Safe Work Australia (SWA)

- Code of Practice: [\*How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace\*](#) (free to download)
  - a. Refer to state and territory codes of practice that have adopted the SWA code of practice.

### International

UK Health and Safety Executive

- [\*Asbestos: The analysts' guide for sampling, analysis and clearance procedures\*](#) (free to download)

International Organisation for Standardisation

- ISO 22262-1 *Sampling and qualitative determination of asbestos in commercial bulk materials* (This document is subject to purchase/licensing requirements)

## 10 Points of contact

### Australian Border Force

Website: [www.abf.gov.au](http://www.abf.gov.au)  
Website asbestos information page: [www.abf.gov.au/asbestos](http://www.abf.gov.au/asbestos)  
Telephone: 13 18 81  
Report unlawful asbestos importations to: [www.abf.gov.au/borderwatch](http://www.abf.gov.au/borderwatch)

### Safe Work Australia

Website asbestos information page: [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/safety-topic/hazards/asbestos](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/safety-topic/hazards/asbestos)  
Website portal: [www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/contact-us](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/contact-us)

### Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (Cth)

Website: [www.asbestossafety.gov.au](http://www.asbestossafety.gov.au)  
Telephone: 1300 326 148  
email: [enquiries@asbestossafety.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@asbestossafety.gov.au)

### WorkSafe ACT

Website: [www.worksafe.act.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.act.gov.au)  
Telephone: 13 22 81  
Contact options: [www.worksafe.act.gov.au/contact-us](http://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/contact-us)

### SafeWork NSW

Website: [www.safework.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/)  
Telephone: 13 10 50  
email: [contact@safework.nsw.gov.au](mailto:contact@safework.nsw.gov.au)

### WorkSafe Victoria

Website: [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/)  
Telephone: 1800 136 089  
email: [info@worksafe.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@worksafe.vic.gov.au)

**Asbestos.vic.gov.au** [www.asbestos.vic.gov.au/](http://www.asbestos.vic.gov.au/)

### Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Website: [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/)  
Telephone: 1300 362 128  
Website portal: [fswgap.worksafe.qld.gov.au/whsq-enquiry/](http://fswgap.worksafe.qld.gov.au/whsq-enquiry/)



## WorkSafe Tasmania

Website: [www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/](http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/)

Telephone: 1300 366 322 (within Tasmania) 03 6166 4600 (outside Tasmania)

email: [wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au)

## SafeWork SA

Website: [www.safework.sa.gov.au/](http://www.safework.sa.gov.au/)

Telephone: 1800 365 255

email: [help.safework@sa.gov.au](mailto:help.safework@sa.gov.au)

**Asbestos.sa.gov.au** [www.asbestos.sa.gov.au/](http://www.asbestos.sa.gov.au/)

## NT WorkSafe

Website: [www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/](http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/)

Telephone: 1800 019 115

email: [ntworksafe@nt.gov.au](mailto:ntworksafe@nt.gov.au)

**Asbestos in the NT website:** [www.asbestos.nt.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.nt.gov.au)

## WorkSafe Western Australia

Website: [www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe)

Telephone: 1300 307 877

email: [safety@dmirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@dmirs.wa.gov.au)



# 11 Quick reference summaries

## 11.1 Sampling goods for testing for asbestos – in a country outside Australia

### 1. Before the sampling takes place

#### a. *Gather background information about the goods*

- Manufacturing details
- Supply chain (materials/entities)
- History (if a previous owner)
- Location

#### b. *Source an asbestos professional*

- Through the locally accredited laboratory engaged for testing
- Through an independent service provider
- Ensure qualifications/licence to operate if required under local law
- Question experience with the particular type of goods

#### c. *Discuss the process with the asbestos professional*

- Provide details collated about the goods
- Question the local standard under which the process is being carried out
- Ensure the independence of the selection of samples (not selected by manufacturer)
- Question what records will be made and then provided to the owner
- Question the security requirements for the samples
- Assess need for technical expertise to assist
- Environmental factors that might impede the process (site, personnel, restrictions)

#### d. *Asbestos professional plans the sampling process*

### 2. Samples collected by asbestos professional in line with local requirements

*Samples secured in sealed containers*

### 3. After the samples are collected

#### a. *Samples delivered in secure manner to laboratory by asbestos professional*

- If a local accredited laboratory:
  - Testing takes place in accordance with recognised standard
  - Test result are reported in accordance with Australian requirements
- If imported to Australia for testing by a NATA accredited laboratory
  - Import permission must be granted before shipment to Australia

#### b. *Full records of sampling process provided to owner*

- Collate with goods details for package of information to be provided to ABF

This diagram is a short summary of information. *Read the guidance material first.* It is intended as a guide, and not as a strict procedure or legal advice. Discussion with an appropriate asbestos professional will inform this process.

## 11.2 Sampling goods for testing for asbestos – in Australia

### 1. Before the sampling takes place

#### a. *Gather background information about the goods*

- Manufacturing details
- Supply chain (materials/entities)
- History (if previously owned/used/maintained)
- Other risk factors for asbestos (such as parts/components)
- Packing
- Location:
  - import - goods held by ABF under customs control
  - before export

#### b. *Source an asbestos professional*

- Through a NATA accredited laboratory engaged for testing
- Through an independent service provider
- Ensure qualification/licence if required under state/territory law
- Question experience with the particular type of goods

#### c. *Discuss the process with the asbestos professional*

- Provide details collated about the goods
- Question what records will be made and then provided to the owner
- Ensure the security requirements for the samples
- Assess need for technical expertise to assist

#### d. *Asbestos professional plans the sampling process*

### 2. Samples collected by asbestos professional in line with WHS requirements

*Samples secured in sealed containers*

### 3. After the samples are collected

*a. Samples delivered in secure manner to NATA accredited laboratory by the asbestos professional*

#### b. *Full records of sampling process provided to owner*

- Collate with goods details for package of information to be provided to ABF

This diagram is a short summary of information. *Read the guidance material first.* It is intended as a guide, and not as a strict procedure or legal advice. Discussion with an appropriate asbestos professional will inform this process.