



GLOBAL ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

**A GLOBAL APPROACH TO
YOUR ASBESTOS ISSUE**

SGS

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ABOUT ASBESTOS

Asbestos is the collective name for a number of naturally occurring silicate minerals with a fibrous structure. Due to its long lifespan and heat-resistant properties, asbestos was widely used in the construction of buildings and (technical) installations in the 20th century. It was applied to, for example, cement, insulation materials, floorboards and roofing plates. In total, over 3500 asbestos-containing applications are found in our living and working environment.

When processing or removing asbestos and asbestos-containing applications or products, asbestos fibers are released. These fibers form a potential environmental and health risk. Exposure to asbestos fibers can cause serious diseases, such as the lung disease asbestosis, mesothelioma and other forms of cancer. Therefore, the processing of asbestos has been banned in the United States of America and many European countries since the 90's. However, even in these countries asbestos-containing applications are still widely present in the environment. Furthermore, asbestos is still being applied in many countries. Every year, almost 2 million tons of asbestos still finds its way into buildings and installations.

ASBESTOS, HOW DO YOU STAY IN CONTROL?

Based on these facts it's very likely that internationally operating firms are confronted with asbestos related issues.

- Laws and regulations vary considerably internationally. Workers safety is not guaranteed in all countries.
- There is a lack of centralized documentation of information about asbestos in company locations and buildings.
- Also, asbestos-related documents and reports come in various forms. For many global and local subcontractors, it is therefore not clear what requirements they must meet. Resulting in working according to their own safety standards.

THE SOLUTION? A GLOBAL APPROACH TO SET YOUR OWN STANDARDS REGARDING ASBESTOS.



INDUSTRY LEADERS SET THEIR OWN, HIGH STANDARDS

The international variation in laws and regulations causes industry leaders to be unsure about their workers safety. To achieve clarity and uniformity within their organization, they tend to set their own asbestos standards on a global level. Not only does this minimize the risk of Company's Brand discreditation, it also demonstrates proactiveness in terms of safety.

SGS can support you in any asbestos issue: at strategic, tactical, as well as operational levels. From developing your international asbestos policy to testing samples on the presence of asbestos with the latest techniques. We also advise and train your staff when working with asbestos-containing materials. Not only can we support you in determining your global standard, we will also help you with the application of that standard.

OPERATIONAL BENEFITS

Of course, all our services comply with local regulations and/or customers' standards. SGS has a worldwide range of asbestos samplers and auditors. The ability to deploy our local staff reduces travel, logistics and administrative costs in comparison to local players. You will have a single point of contact for all your asbestos related questions. Furthermore, SGS has an unrivalled laboratory footprint (under ISO17025 accreditation) and an extensive range of testing technologies. That allows us to follow an independent and impartial fact-based approach to your asbestos issue.

GLOBAL SOLUTIONS



SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. SGS is recognised as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. With more than 95,000 employees, SGS operates a network of over 2,400 offices and laboratories around the world.

SGS is experienced in working within the most stringent asbestos legislation in the world. Our centers of expertise have been working for decades on asbestos research, risk inventories and related standards e.g. ISO, NEN. By using and sharing the available knowledge as much as possible, we hope to contribute to global awareness, experience and innovation in asbestos-containing materials. With Centers of Excellences in the Netherlands and the UK and a global network of offices and laboratories, we are able to apply our knowledge worldwide.

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

For more information, please contact our team of dedicated Account Managers. They will be pleased to give you advice on your asbestos related issue, or to inform you about the asbestos laws and regulations that apply to your country.

[e asbestos@sgs.com](mailto:asbestos@sgs.com)
www.sgs.com

OUR SERVICES AT A GLANCE

POLICY-BASED SUPPORT

ASBESTOS POLICY:

we write an asbestos policy focused on your business practices. This policy is in line with existing quality systems, procedures and processes.

ONE GLOBAL STANDARD:

your asbestos policy is developed into one global standard that is locally applicable. For example, currently local legislation and regulations regarding asbestos may still contradict. The starting point is working via this global standard unless the country in which the work takes place has more stringent regulations.

CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND UPDATING:

both the policy and its translation to a global standard will be kept up to date. This may include the change of laws and regulations, but is also based on the industries' best practices.

PROJECT-BASED SUPPORT

PROJECT-BASED SUPPORT AND ADVICE:

in cross-border asbestos-related issues, following a risk-based approach.

DATA AND DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT:

management and analysis of asbestos data and training data in one centralised database.

REPORTS AND TREND ANALYSES:

periodic analyses and reports on the available asbestos data in the centralised database.

IMPROVEMENT ON MAINTENANCE MANUAL:

creating and maintaining manuals containing asbestos applications in the most commonly used installations or components as well as the best techniques and methods to safely

handle these components.

LEGISLATIVE MONITORING:

managing laws and regulations in all relevant countries in a central database.

SUPPORT CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATION:

audit and advice of contractors and subcontractors in asbestos-related activities.

TRAINING PLANS AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT:

keeping employees' asbestos-related knowledge up to date using a training plan.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

ASBESTOS RISK ASSESSMENT:

investigate presence of asbestos in buildings, equipment or soil and determine the associated risks.

- **Pre-diagnosis** – quick scan for presence of asbestos-containing materials and rough risk assessment.
- **Diagnosis** – comprehensive survey localising asbestos in materials, air, dust and soil and assess risks for day-to-day use and/or planned refurbishment. All according to local regulations.

- **Follow-up** – asbestos monitoring with air sampling, in case that risk of asbestos has been identified during diagnosis stage.
- **Clearance (sampling)** – visual inspections, air, dust and soil sampling during or after asbestos removal to see if the removal has been executed properly.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN:

safety plan for day-to-day activities in a building or plant with presence of asbestos-containing materials.

PROJECT METHOD STATEMENT:

Safety plan for specific activities that

involve asbestos-containing materials (for example, asbestos removal).

PREPARATION AND SUPERVISION

of work carried out during asbestos removal.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING on specific applications or situations.

ASBESTOS HELPDESK:

available at all times for asbestos-related issues and questions.

ASBESTOS RELATED EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

24/7 available and employable.

PROJECTS



SGS supported a specialist in rotating equipment in making a global asbestos policy. The company wanted to set one approach for all their sites around the world, so we created an executable plan to implement the policy worldwide. To do so, our experts carried out the following activities:

- Pre-mobility assessments
- Air monitoring
- Safety plans
- Field staff training

We provided over 65 site visits in countries as Finland, Russia and

Kazakhstan. Over 50 employees were trained: they learned more about asbestos and the new company policy. In no more than 48 hours, the staff at the site was mobilized and ready to work according to their policy.



In 2014, an international refinery commissioned a vessel for a pipeline project in the Caspian Sea. The vessel had undergone a major asbestos removal project some years before, but the information lacked clarity and was in places contradictory. It was difficult to discern the actual risk posed by the remaining materials.

SGS was asked to accurately assess the asbestos risk on the vessel and to re-assure stakeholders that issues could be managed economically and practically. The scope of the project:

- Desktop study of previous sample and air test data.

- A site visit to inspect the vessel and audit the operator's asbestos investigations.
- The production of a report and management plan.
- Subsequent site visits to carry out air sampling and a SEM analysis.

Our experts had 48 hours to secure the analysis. Even before the site analyst had left the country, our client received a clear report. The results? Air testing and risk assessment proved that the vessel was safe for normal occupation after some simple remedial works had been completed.



SGS worked for a large tire manufacturer that set their own standards regarding asbestos. The company is adhering to a strict asbestos removal program. That internal procedure is set to ensure that asbestos-related risks are eliminated and employees are able to work safely at their workplace.

In order to ensure that the workplaces comply with local regulations, and with their own stricter requirements, they asked SGS for help. Our experts carried out an asbestos survey in a tire factory in Vietnam. They applied the following activities:

- Potential sources identification
- Sampling survey and analysis (NIOSH 7400)
- Risk evaluation

In several days, our client received a concise report with a positive result: no non-compliance was detected.

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

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