

Raising London Circuit

Asbestos Management Factsheet

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FOR
CBR**

As the Raising London Circuit project delivery progresses, the construction activities, including excavating, clearing works, and configuring underground utilities may result in the discovery of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM).

The ACM, particularly in the case of the existing utilities, are usually from historical infrastructure such as irrigation pipes or uncontrolled fill material.

Discovering ACM is not an unusual occurrence across Canberra, especially in the city, as it was commonly used in construction between the 1940s and 1980s. Asbestos was banned in Australia on 31 December 2003.

What are Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM)?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fibre. ACM can be dangerous to health if not properly maintained or removed carefully.

There are two main types of ACM:

- > Non-friable asbestos (also known as bonded asbestos) is a product containing asbestos fibres that have been mixed with other materials, such as cement. Non-friable asbestos is commonly found in buildings in Australia that pre-date the 2003 ban. If non-friable asbestos is damaged or broken, it may release asbestos fibres into the air. Examples include roofing material, ceiling tiles, floor tiles, cement sheeting and pipes. This type of ACM is most regularly encountered in construction activities.
- > Friable asbestos (also known as non-bonded asbestos) is a material that contains asbestos that can be easily crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry. This type of asbestos is more likely to become airborne. Examples include insulation around pipes, electrical equipment and concrete formwork. This type of ACM is rarely encountered in construction activities.

How do we manage Asbestos Containing Material?

The Raising London Circuit project has processes in place to manage any ACM found on site to ensure the safety of workers, the broader community and the environment.

These processes include training for all staff, compliance with Legislation, Codes of Practice and guidelines outlined by WorkSafe ACT, and detailed Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) endorsed management plans.

In addition, an independent auditor is engaged to ensure project compliance with all relevant legislation, guidelines, and management plans regarding contaminated material.

If suspected ACM is found on site, work is stopped immediately and suitably licensed and certified asbestos assessors and removalists are engaged to support the assessment and, where necessary, removal of ACM. This is in accordance with the project management plan and guidelines outlined by WorkSafe ACT, with appropriate controls in place to ensure safety of workers and the public.

What safety measures are in place?

Working within the relevant legislation, guidelines outlined by WorkSafe ACT and the EPA, we will use the following safety procedures to manage ACM:

- > Stop works where suspected ACM is encountered
- > Licensed asbestos assessors sample and analyse suspected ACM encountered during the works
- > Using licensed asbestos removalists who are responsible for transporting and disposing any ACM to a licensed asbestos waste facility
- > Protective clothing including gloves, coveralls and respirator
- > a hygienist on site to monitor and control the asbestos removal
- > air monitoring prior, during and after the removal of friable asbestos
- > water sprays will be used to suppress dust during all dust-generating construction works
- > signs, barriers, and exclusion zones will separate areas containing ACM
- > Independent contamination auditor certification at completion of project.

More information on asbestos in the ACT can be found at: [worksafe.act.gov.au](https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au)

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