Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

May 2012

What Asbestos Removal Contractors Need to Know About Ohio's Asbestos Removal Rules

Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control (DAPC) recently finalized changes to the regulations governing asbestos emission control; these changes became effective on March 2, 2012.

The new rules change the definition of friable asbestos material to include regulated asbestos containing material (RACM) if it is reduced to less than four square inches in size during asbestos abatement and removal. Note: the definition for RACM remains the same during demolition activities. Demolition can still be performed in compliance with the amended rules and the asbestos containing material will be evaluated according to its overall condition and not only size.

This change was made to clarify for the owner/ operator and the regulator when the asbestos-containing waste material (ACWM) becomes RACM during removal, and thereby (for example) making the degradation of floor tile into RACM clearly defined.

Specifically, if a contractor is removing asbestos-containing floor tile and that tile is broken into pieces that are four square inches or smaller, it is considered RACM.

In addition, changes were made to where asbestos-containing material can be disposed. Before March 2, some landfill facilities may have been permitted to accept certain asbestos-containing materials including Category I and Category II nonfriable asbestos.

Now all category II nonfriable asbestos-containing material may only be disposed at a landfill with a NESHAP condition in the facility's air permit that allows acceptance of RACM (regulated asbestos containing material).

These rule changes were enacted to make Ohio's asbestos regulations consistent with the federal asbestos regulation in the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP).

In addition, all facilities are required to complete a thorough asbestos survey before demolition or renovation.

If you have any questions regarding the asbestos rules, please contact the Division of Air Pollution Control at (614) 644-2270, or visit our website: ***www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/atu/asbestos/asbestos.aspx***.

Questions related to the disposal of asbestos-containing materials can be directed to the Division of Materials and Waste Management at (614) 644-2621.

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