



Respondent No: 1

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IP Address:

Q1. Title, first name and surname

Q2. Email

Q3. Contact number, including area code

Q4. This submission is written on behalf of an:

Organisation

Q5. Which of the following categories best describes you? Choose more than one if applicable.

PCBU - Asbestos removalists

Q6. Which jurisdiction is your workplace in? Choose more than one if applicable.

South Australia

Victoria

Q7. What industry do you operate in? Choose more than one if applicable.

Construction

Q8. Publication of submission (select one)

Publish my submission online (your organisation or individual name will be identified along with your submission)

Q9. Would you like to complete the submission online or upload a document?

I would like to complete an online submission

Q10. Do you have a clear understanding of the definitions of a competent person for asbestos-related tasks? How could any misunderstandings be addressed or clarified?

It is especially not clear to people in the building trade & some in the industry. 75% of builders I speak to seem to think they can remove <10m2 of asbestos a day (without any training, SWMS, correct PPE or equipment) because it is below the licensable amount. For a person to be deemed competent they should have a really good knowledge of asbestos. They have a duty of care & play an important role in ensuring no one is exposed to asbestos (within reason) They should be given an exam/test to ensure they know how to identify the difference between asbestos products & the recommended action required to treat them especially if they are in a poor condition (So not to give people to wrong information & potentially expose them) I have had employees that have worked for our company for a few years & then work for another company & have been made supervisor because they have done the VET training & been in the industry for over a year (But I would not be deeming them competent) Going back 10 or more years ago to become an asbestos supervisor there was a lot more involved, there was an exam & it was good because you had to study beforehand otherwise you would not have passed it. These days you just need to be in the industry for a year & show up to VET training (which everyone passes) & your pretty much handed a licence. I have met asbestos hygienist who know next to nothing about asbestos (All they know is to drop off monitors & look for debris after the job has been completed) Considering it is meant to be a highly regulated industry (But I feel it is not)

Q11. Do you see a benefit in aligning the training, qualification and experience requirements of competent persons, licensed asbestos assessors and asbestos removal supervisors for asbestos-related tasks? If so, what do you think the training, qualification and experience requirements should be? Please provide information and reasons to support your response.

Yes, it is a good idea, but the training should be a lot more thorough & require an exam/test at the end to ensure the person has learnt from it not just got handed a certificate for showing up. A licence should be granted & their work should be looked at every so often to ensure they are complying. (Comments to the last question are also relevant to this question) How can a B class removalist identify or look for different types of friable asbestos products if they do not remove it as part of their day-to-day scope of works. The ACT have a lot more channels to go through to become a competent person which I totally agree with.

Q12. Are there any other issues regarding the definition and requirements of competent persons for asbestos-related tasks that should be considered? Please provide information and reasons to support your response.

The removal of less than 10m2 regulation - This was brought in for tradesmen to carry out maintenance work e.g a builder removing an asbestos infill panel to fit an air con or a couple of eave sheets that need replacing due to rotted timbers, an electrician upgrading an asbestos powerboard backing or a plumber needing to run pipes through an asbestos wall etc. What I have noticed is most builders are reading the regulations like they can remove 10m2 a day (which is not the case) Most builders that are doing this do not have the correct SWMS, have not had the VET training nor do they have the correct PPE to carry out the works safely or the correct equipment to decontaminate e.g H rated asbestos vacuum etc. The BIGGEST problem with this regulation is the different types of asbestos, for example a builder removes 10m2 of asbestos cement sheet wall linings from a bathroom for a client & this product contains chrysotile asbestos (white) which can give you asbestosis compared to another bathroom that has tilux which contains crocidolite (blue) & sometimes Amosite (brown) which is much more dangerous & can give you mesothelioma if they do not have the correct PPE or the correct equipment to properly decontaminate they are then potentially exposing their workers & their client. The dust from white asbestos is just as bad as blue asbestos. This is why a licenced person should be carrying out these works or someone that has had extensive training & deemed competent.

Q13. Is there any other additional feedback you would like to provide?

I carry out asbestos inspections to commercial premise for the purpose of compiling asbestos registers & have been doing it now for approx 16 years. Even though I am an asbestos removal supervisor & have also carried out A class asbestos removal works & have studied asbestos containing products because I own the business I am making sure that the information I give my clients is as correct as possible as they will be exercising my recommended actions So I need to ensure I am not giving them the wrong information, But I class myself as still learning. I have seen asbestos registers compiled by B Class removalist where in there recommended actions they have written to vacuum dust to the bottom of the power box. Their clients go get there generic vacuum & do just that (thinking they are doing the right thing but will expose themselves & anyone else in the vicinity of the job) where the person compiling the asbestos register should have written vacuum dust with a H rated HEPA filtered asbestos vacuum.

Q14. Please upload your submission document or any supporting information to your submission here (optional)

not answered

Q15. Terms and conditions

I have read and understand the Engage terms and conditions (<https://engage.swa.gov.au/terms>) for making this submission.