ON-SITE LABELLING/STENCILLING OF ASBESTOS

Existing asbestos guidelines and good practice dictates, that consideration be given to the development of a system of on-site identification whereby general work area signage, placards or stencilling is used to provide a final line of defense against the accidental disturbance of known asbestos-containing materials.

In many instances however, the physical labelling of known asbestos-containing materials represents a series of technical or logistical concerns. For example, the labelling of architectural finishes such as sheet flooring products, vinyl asbestos floor tile (VAT), ceiling tiles, sprayed texture coats, wall plasters or other similar material are almost always exempt from labelling. In addition, access to these materials and others is not always practical. The use of visually similar products or jacketing of mechanical systems often makes it impossible to readily distinguish between known asbestos-containing materials and newer, non-asbestos products.

In light of the above concerns, and others, the University will not be undertaking a program of wholesale labelling of all known asbestos-containing materials as a matter of corporate policy.

Notwithstanding the above, conditions within a specific service area or building may arise whereby the on-site labelling of asbestos maybe desirable. In such instances, workers shall, with the informed consent and knowledge of the Senior Asbestos Programs Officer, proceed with any labelling in a manner consistent with the following section.

1.0  MECHANICAL SYSTEMS & SERVICES

Individual mechanical systems or services insulated with asbestos shall be labelled (using bright red upper case “HELVETICA” lettering) as follows and in such a manner as to clearly define the extent and approximate location of known asbestos-containing materials.

1.1 At locations where asbestos-containing pipewrap is present on straight runs and fittings of mechanical services, label as follows with continuous runs labelled at maximum intervals of 12 feet (3.6 m):

← CAUTION: ASBESTOS →

1.2 At locations where asbestos-containing pipewrap is present on fittings of mechanical services alone, label as follows with continuous runs labelled at maximum intervals of 12 feet (3.6 m):

← CAUTION: ASBESTOS PRESENT AT FITTINGS →

1.3 At locations where asbestos-containing insulation is present on the surface of mechanical equipment label as follows and on each conversing side of the equipment exposed to view:

CAUTION: ASBESTOS
DO NOT DISTURB

1.4 At locations where existing asbestos-containing insulation has been removed and replaced with asbestos-free insulation, label mechanical services as follows at locations where the newly applied insulation butts up against the remaining asbestos:

← ASBESTOS FREE │ CAUTION: ASBESTOS →

2.0  MECHANICAL AND/OR OTHER SERVICE AREAS

2.1 At locations where known asbestos-containing debris or materials are present within existing crawlspaces, mechanical services areas, pipechases, shafts or within existing ceiling plenums, its presence shall be identified via the installation and use of general work area signage.
2.2 Such signage shall be posted in close proximity to all points of entry and must be clearly visible to all personnel upon entry.

2.3 In the case of most mechanical rooms, service shafts, ceiling plenums or crawlspaces, where access is controlled via a limited number of doorways, hatches, etc., it shall be permissible to post such signage on the backside of each doorway, hatch, etc..

2.4 The following is a listing of pre-approved signage for use within varying spaces. Alternative signage (wording) may only be used with the prior approval of the Senior Asbestos Programs Officer.

Example No. 1

CAUTION

INSULATION PRESENT ON MECHANICAL SERVICES THROUGHOUT THIS AREA IS KNOWN TO CONTAIN ASBESTOS

BREATHING ASBESTOS FIBRES IS KNOWN TO CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS, LUNG DISEASE AND CANCER

DO NOT DISTURB ANY INSULATION WITHOUT PROPER TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AND PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE ASBESTOS PROGRAMS OFFICER

Example No. 2

CAUTION

INSULATION PRESENT ON PIPING THROUGHOUT THIS AREA IS KNOWN TO CONTAIN ASBESTOS

BREATHING ASBESTOS FIBRES IS KNOWN TO CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS, LUNG DISEASE AND CANCER

DO NOT DISTURB ANY INSULATION WITHOUT PROPER TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AND PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE ASBESTOS PROGRAMS OFFICER

Example No. 3

CAUTION

SPRAYED FIREPROOFING MATERIAL PRESENT THROUGHOUT THIS AREA IS KNOWN TO CONTAIN ASBESTOS

BREATHING ASBESTOS FIBRES IS KNOWN TO CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS, LUNG DISEASE AND CANCER

DO NOT DISTURB THIS MATERIAL WITHOUT PROPER TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AND PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE ASBESTOS PROGRAMS OFFICER

Example No. 4

CAUTION

HARDBOARD PANELLING PRESENT THROUGHOUT THIS AREA IS KNOWN TO CONTAIN ASBESTOS

BREATHING ASBESTOS FIBRES IS KNOWN TO CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS, LUNG DISEASE AND CANCER

DO NOT DISTURB THIS MATERIAL WITHOUT PROPER TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AND PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE ASBESTOS PROGRAMS OFFICER
ON-SITE LABELLING/STENCILLING OF ASBESTOS

Example No. 5

CAUTION

ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS ARE KNOWN TO BE PRESENT IN THIS AREA

BREATHING ASBESTOS FIBRES IS KNOWN TO CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS, LUNG DISEASE AND CANCER

DO NOT DISTURB ANY SUSPECT MATERIAL WITHOUT PROPER TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AND PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL OF AN ASBESTOS PROGRAM OFFICER

Example No. 6

CAUTION

ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS ARE KNOWN TO BE PRESENT UPON ENTRY INTO THIS SPACE

BREATHING ASBESTOS FIBRES IS KNOWN TO CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS, LUNG DISEASE AND CANCER

DO NOT DISTURB ANY SUSPECT MATERIAL WITHOUT PROPER TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AND THE NECESSARY WORK PERMITS

CONTACT PHYSICAL PLANT AT 474-8911

2.5 Notwithstanding the above area signage, a system of “Coloured Dots”, placed in the upper right hand corner of all doorways, service hatches or openings, shall be used to identify the presence of any known or suspect asbestos-containing materials within the adjoining room, service area, shaft, etc.

The following is a summary of the individual colours that are to be used, and the conditions each is intended to reflect. Variations to the following colour scheme are not to be made without the informed consent and authorization of the Senior Asbestos Programs Officer.

Suggested Colour Scheme - Table No. 1

“Red” Dots
Known asbestos-containing materials are present within the room at locations accessible to workers without demolition.

“Yellow” Dots
Suspect asbestos-containing materials are known to be present within the room, at locations accessible without demolition and/or known asbestos-containing materials may also be present at a location ONLY accessible through selective demolition. i.e. Above a fix ceiling system or column enclosure, etc.

“Green” Dots
The room is free of any known or suspect asbestos-containing materials. This should only be used at locations where the Asbestos Programs Officer and/or Designated Inspection Agency have certified the space as being asbestos-free.

3.0 EXEMPTIONS

3.1 Architectural finishes (i.e. sheet flooring, vinyl composite floor tiles, ceiling tiles, wall or ceiling finishing plasters, texture coats, etc.) and/or mechanical insulation materials visible to the general public are exempt from labelling.