

CHAPTER 1 - MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

700

701.03 ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS



INTENT

Restricting the usage of asbestos containing materials in new buildings and protecting occupants from asbestos exposure during maintenance or modification in existing buildings.

REQUIREMENT

For all new buildings and for the maintenance, addition or alteration of existing buildings, asbestos containing materials must not be used.

SIGNIFICANCE

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral silicate fibre. As the asbestos fibres are strong and resistant to fire and heat, it was commonly used in older buildings, in insulation materials for roofing, textured paints, coating materials, and resilient floor tiles, among other products. Major forms of asbestos used commercially are chrysotile, amosite and crocidolite. Asbestos containing materials (ACM) are mixtures of individual asbestos fibres and binding material.

Asbestos containing material can be crushed easily, which releases asbestos fibre into the air. Improper attempts to disturb or remove these materials can also release asbestos fibres into the air, increasing airborne asbestos levels and exposing building occupants to the inherent risks. Asbestos fibre once enters human body, does not get dissolved due to its composition. Prolonged exposure to asbestos can have severe health impacts, such as chest and abdominal cancers and lung diseases often leading to death.

The use of asbestos products has been restricted or banned in several countries. UAE has also completely banned the import, production and use of Asbestos Boards within the UAE, through Cabinet Resolution No. 39 of 2006.

APPLICABILITY

This regulation is applicable to all building types. Refer to Table 101.07(1) in Section One - Administration for detailed applicability levels.