

## Asbestos

A group of impure magnesium silicate minerals which occur in fibrous form. Asbestos has been used in a variety of building construction materials for insulation and as a fire-retardant. However, long term exposure or big amounts of asbestos can have severe health impacts, such as chest and abdominal cancers and lung diseases. Therefore the use of asbestos products has been restricted in many countries.

## ASHRAE

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

## Balancing (Air System)

To ensure that correct volumes of air are supplied by adjusting airflow rates through air distribution system devices (such as fans and diffusers) by manually adjusting the position of dampers, splitter vanes, extractors, etc. or by using automatic control devices, such as constant air volume or variable air volume boxes.

## Brightness Contrast Ratio

The ratio of illuminance between the highest and lowest illuminance value in a room.

## Building Commissioning

The process of ensuring that all building systems are designed, installed, tested and operated in conformity with design intent.

## Building Completion Certificate

Certificate issued by Dubai Municipality, upon completion of entire construction work, on inspection and approval.

## Building Envelope

The exterior elements of a building which form a barrier between the internal and exterior spaces. For an air conditioned building, the building envelope is defined as the elements of a building that separate conditioned spaces from the exterior.

## Building Fabric

Refers to the ceiling, walls, windows, floors and doors of a building, which play a major role in the energy efficiency of a structure.

## Building Management System (BMS)

A computer based control system installed in buildings that controls and monitors the building's mechanical and electrical equipment, such as ventilation, lighting, power systems, fire systems and security systems.

## Building Metering

The use of meters in a building to track the use of utilities (such as water and electricity).