



# SUSTAINABLE AGGREGATES

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## Management of asbestos in recycling C&D waste

Environmental Fact Sheet No. 5

### Introduction

The purpose of this Fact Sheet is to present information on the processes within the C&D recycling industry to manage the exclusion of asbestos material in all crushed pavement materials (eg. PM1, PM2 and aggregates).

In South Australia all C&D recycling operations are undertaken under strict legislative requirements detailed in EPA "Standard for the Production and use of Waste Derived Fill". In addition the Waste Management Association (WMAA) produced a national guideline for industry entitled "Asbestos Management Guideline for Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling Facilities".

### What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a generic term given to several naturally-occurring silicate minerals. The most common forms are; Chrysotile (white), Crocidolite (blue) and Amosite (brown). Asbestos-containing materials were used extensively in Australian buildings and structures, plants and equipment, ships, trains and motor vehicles circa 1950–1970, and some uses, including some friction materials and gaskets, were only discontinued on 31 December 2003.

The most commonly found household building materials that contain asbestos are asbestos-cement products (also called 'fibro' and 'AC sheeting') namely corrugated roofing sheets, roofing tiles, partition walls, flat sheets, infill panels, bath panels, gutters, water tanks, flue pipes, eaves soffits, fascia boards and flower boxes.



Figure 1. Asbestos sheeting in demolition concrete (rejected at receiving point)

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## Industry management

C&D recycling operations are not permitted or licensed to handle asbestos contaminated material, and advisory signs at the entrance to premises clearly state that such materials will not be received.

As part of the quality assurance accreditation an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) must be put in place and available for inspection by customers.

The AMP details strict surveillance of incoming materials and ensures continual inspection of material at various stages during product manufacture ie.

- Load inspection upon arrival at weighbridge
- Load inspection when unloading at stockpile
- Material Inspection when material is loaded into crushing plant
- Material Inspection when material is being processed crushing plant
- Testing of final product on delivery to stockpile

Employees are also required to achieve competency levels in

- Asbestos Product Identification
- Health Aspects of Asbestos
- Inspecting Loads
- Safe Work Procedures for Removing Asbestos
- Notification Procedures
- Record Keeping

In addition periodic monitoring of airborne dust at crushers and conveyors is undertaken to protect the worksite and its employees.

## Results

Historical data and the operating environment of the industry in SA (and other States) are such that asbestos has not been detected and is highly unlikely to be detected in crushed PM materials.

## Concerned?

If you have concerns regarding the potential for asbestos in purchasing PM materials it is recommend that you

- a. Request a copy of the manufacturer's EPA license
- b. Request details of third party quality assurance accreditation
- c. Request a copy of the Asbestos Management Plan
- d. Request to cite recent asbestos monitoring data pertaining to the product

## References

*EPA (SA) "Standard for the Production and use of Waste Derived Fill"*

*ISBN 978-1-921495-07-6 January 2010*

*Waste Management Association of Australia Feb 2009: Asbestos Management Guideline for Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling Facilities*

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