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Reviewed for Code Compliance
Inspections Division
Approved with Conditions
Date: 10/08/15

- Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Regulations include the Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule (AHERA - 40 CFR Part 763), the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP - 40 CFR Part 61), and the Worker Protection Rule (Subpart G to 40 CFR Part 763). The Maine DEP is delegated to implement the AHERA and NESHAP rules in Maine. EPA telephone numbers are available from the DEP.

- Federal OSHA: responsibilities include regulating employee exposure to asbestos in the workplace through the asbestos construction and industry standards (29 CFR Parts 1926 and 1910). Telephone number: (207) 780-3178.

Asbestos Inspections Required Prior to Demolitions and Renovations

In Maine, improper demolition activities may be the greatest single source of asbestos exposure to the general public and to trades people working on the project. Prior to demolition or renovation of a building, the owner must ensure that the work will not disturb more than 3 square feet or 3 linear feet of asbestos-containing material (ACM). Owners of buildings, other than residential buildings with less than 5 units, must have a DEP-licensed Asbestos Consultant inspect the building (or area) for asbestos. Residential buildings with 2-5 units can be surveyed for likely asbestos-containing materials by knowledgeable non-licensed people (e.g. building inspectors and CEO's who have asbestos-awareness training); any materials likely to contain asbestos must be tested by a DEP-certified inspector or assumed to be ACM.

If ACM is identified in a building that will be demolished, or any building materials are assumed to be ACM, these materials must be removed by a DEP-licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor before the demolition. Similarly, if any ACM is identified or assumed in areas of a building that will undergo renovation, the ACM must be removed by a DEP-licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor before the renovation occurs. Intact asbestos-containing flooring and roofing may be left in place during demolition of a building if the demolition is performed by a DEP-licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor using large equipment in accordance with the Maine "Asbestos Management Regulations".

Demolition Notification

State and federal regulations require that building owners notify the DEP at least 5 working days prior to demolition of a building (other than single-family residences). This notification is required **even if no asbestos is identified in the building**. Forms are available from DEP and your local code enforcement office.

Please note: OSHA regulates asbestos anytime an employer/employee relationship exists. OSHA worker protection rules exist and must be followed for abatement activities. Contact the local OSHA office with questions.

What if I have additional questions about asbestos?

The DEP regulates most asbestos activities in Maine and acts as an asbestos information clearinghouse. For more information about asbestos, contact the Asbestos Hazard Prevention Program in the Bureau of Remediation & Waste Management at 207/287-2651 or visit the web site at www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/asbestos/index.htm

Written correspondence should be sent to:
Lead & Asbestos Hazard Prevention Program
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017