

# HAZARD ALERT

## Asbestos Awareness



### Background

There has been an increase in the number of incidents involving Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM's) at the University recently. Many of these incidents have resulted in the uncontrolled release of ACM's in to the work environment, potentially exposing workers in the vicinity. These incidents involved both ACM's within building structures and also appliances and equipment. As a result, it is important all workers are aware of:

- Current measures in place to eliminate and control ACM's at the University;
- How to manage a potential ACM exposure; and
- The process to follow if you suspect ACM's are present in your workplace.

### Recommendations

- Building Hazardous Materials Registers (HMR's) are available via the [University website](#) and all local areas should remind workers where to find HMR's for their workplace;
- Local areas must maintain an up to date HMR for their equipment and have it accessible to all workers who may need to review it;
- The HMR must be reviewed prior to commencing **ANY** works – this includes maintenance work; new construction work; and re-purposing of rooms etc.
- If you suspect or are unsure whether something contains ACM's, isolate the equipment or area, notify your supervisor immediately and assume it contains ACM's until it can be confirmed by an expert. You should then:
  1. Raise a Service Request to Facilities and Services via the maintenance system Maximo Maintenance team. If it is confirmed and needs to be removed, Facilities and Services will engage a licensed asbestos removalist to undertake the necessary works.
  2. Report all potential exposures and hazards involving ACM's via [Figtree](#), the University's workplace safety incident and hazard reporting tool, as soon as possible.

For further information regarding Asbestos refer to the [Safe Work Australia](#) or [Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agencies](#) webpages.

**Take down:** 31/11/2017

**Contact:** [whs@anu.edu.au](mailto:whs@anu.edu.au) for additional information

**Intended Audience:** All ANU

**Authorised by:** Work Environment Group

*Workers are reminded to report all hazards and incidents to their supervisor and through [Figtree](#), the University's Workplace safety incident and hazard reporting tool.*