

SECTION 9 - ACCREDITATION

Note: This section describes only AHERA accreditation training. Accreditation certificates for personnel involved in District 91 asbestos activities are located in the Environmental Safety and Health Specialist's office. Training requirements for maintenance and custodial workers is location in the Operations and Maintenance Plan.

AHERA requires that LEAs employ accredited persons to perform most of the activities associated with asbestos management, as fully described in Appendix C to Subpart E of 40 CFR 763. Building inspectors, management planners, project designers, contractors/supervisors, and asbestos workers must all complete EPA or State-approved courses that result in accreditation. Under AHERA, LEAs may employ individuals to perform asbestos work only if they have completed EPA or State-approved training courses, passed the exams, and received accreditation.

Training requirement for each of the five accredited disciplines are outlined below. Persons in each discipline perform a different job function and distinct role. Inspectors identify and assess the condition of ACBM, or suspect ACBM. Management planners use data gathered by Inspectors to assess the degree of hazard posed by ACBM in schools to determine the scope and timing of appropriate response actions needed for schools. Project designers determine how asbestos abatement work should be conducted. Lastly, workers and contractor/supervisors carry out and oversee abatement work.

BUILDING INSPECTORS – All persons who inspect for ACBM in schools or public and commercial buildings must be accredited. All persons seeking accreditation as an inspector shall complete at least a three day training course. The course shall include lectures, demonstrations, four hours of hands-on training, course review, and a written exam.

MANAGEMENT PLANNERS – All persons who prepare or revise asbestos management plans for schools must be accredited. Management planners must complete a two-day (16 hour) course after they have completed and passed the exam for the building inspector training described above. This course is an extension of the building inspector training and teaches how to develop a schedule (or plan) for implementation of response actions for hazards or potential hazards identified in the inspection report, how to develop an O&M Plan, and how to prepare and update a management plan.

PROJECT DESIGNERS – A person must be accredited as a project designer to design any of the following activities with respect to friable ACBM in a school or public and commercial building: (1) A response action other than a SSSD maintenance activity, (2) a maintenance activity

that disturbs friable ACBM other than a SSSD maintenance activity, or (3) a response action for a major fiber release episode. All persons seeking accreditation as a project designer must complete at least a minimum three day training course. The project designer course teaches how to design response actions and abatement projects. It also covers basic concepts of architectural design, engineering controls and proper work practices as required by regulation.

ASBESTOS WORKERS – A person must be accredited as a worker to carry out any of the following activities with respect to friable ACBM in a school or public and commercial building: (1) A response action other than a SSSD activity, (2) a maintenance activity that disturbs friable ACBM other than a SSSD activity, or (3) a response action for a major fiber release episode. All persons seeking accreditation as asbestos abatement workers shall complete at least a four day training course. The four days worker training course shall include lectures, demonstrations, at least fourteen hours of hands-on training, course review, and an examination. Hands-on training must permit workers to have actual experience performing tasks associated with asbestos abatement. A person who is otherwise accredited as a contractor /supervisor may perform in the role of a worker without possessing separate accreditation as a worker.

CONTRACTORS/SUPERVISORS – Asbestos abatement supervisors include those persons who provide supervision and direction to workers performing response actions. Supervisors may include those individuals with the position title of foreman, working foreman, or lead man pursuant to collective bargaining agreements. At least one supervisor is required to be at the worksite at all times while response actions are being conducted. Asbestos workers must have access to accredited supervisors throughout the duration of the project. All persons seeking accreditation as asbestos abatement contractor/supervisors shall complete at least a five day training course. The training course must include lectures, demonstrations, at least fourteen hours of hands-on training, course review, and a written examination. The course fulfills the OSHA “competent person” training requirement and the NESHAP “trained representative” requirement.

DESIGNATED PERSON TRAINING– Due to the differing needs of school districts based on the size of the district and the amount and condition of the ACBM, AHERA does not list a specific training course or specific number of hours of training for the DP. Further, AHERA does not require the DP to be accredited. AHERA requires that the AHERA Designated Person be *adequately* trained to carry out his or her responsibilities, and that the training must be documented by course name, dates, and hours of training. This documentation must be kept as a permanent part of the management plan. Designated Person training must include the following topics:

- Health effects of asbestos;
- Detection, identification and assessment of asbestos-containing building materials;
- Options for controlling asbestos-containing building materials;
- Asbestos management programs; and

- Relevant Federal and State regulations concerning asbestos, including AHERA, OSHA, DOT and EPA

REFRESHER TRAINING – All project designers, contractors/supervisor, and asbestos workers must complete a one day annual refresher training course for reaccreditation. Building inspectors must complete a half-day refresher course. Management planners must attend the half-day building inspector refresher course as well as a half-day management planner refresher course.