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Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Verification of Asbestos Surveys

What is an Asbestos survey?

The Texas Department of Health mandates under Senate Bill 509 that asbestos surveys are required for the remodeling or demolition of public and commercial buildings. You can learn more from the Texas Department of Health Asbestos Program in Austin, Texas at 1-800-572-5548 or www.tdh.state.tx.us/beh/asbestos.

Why do we need Senate Bill 509?

Each year, many asbestos removal jobs in Texas are done in violation of state and federal safety laws that require protection of construction workers and the public from exposure to dangerous levels of asbestos fibers. You can learn more from the Austin-American Statesman special report on widespread illegal asbestos removal projects issued on January 7, 2001, entitled "Death in the Air".

After what year can a building be built when no asbestos survey is required?

Asbestos surveys are required on all buildings regardless of the year of construction. For newer buildings, there is an alternative to a survey.

Can I submit information other than an asbestos survey?

Yes, instead of a survey, the owner/operator can submit a certification from a Texas licensed engineer or architect or a statement from an asbestos inspector licensed by the Texas Department of Health stating that:

The material safety data sheets (MSDS) for the materials used in the original construction, the subsequent renovations or alterations of all parts of the building affected by the planned renovation or demolition have been reviewed; and in their professional opinion, all parts of the building affected by the planned renovation or demolition do not contain asbestos.

How do building owners or operators obtain these surveys?

The Texas Department of Health can provide you with a list of licensees in your area that conduct asbestos surveys.