

nhulunbuy corporation

RC03 ASBESTOS POLICY

Title	Asbestos Disposal Policy
Policy number	RC03
Type	Community
Owner	Chief Executive Officer
Responsible Officer	Manager, Town Operations
Approval date	27 May 2015
Review date	27 May 2017

1. Purpose

To provide guidance on the disposal of asbestos waste at the Nhulunbuy Corporation's Waste Management Facility.

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral which was extensively used by the building and construction industry in the Northern Territory until the 1980s. Asbestos fibres are capable of being caught in lung tissue leading to respiratory disease and death.

The Nhulunbuy Corporation maintains an approved and licensed area for the disposal of asbestos at its Waste Management Facility on the Gove Peninsula.

2. Scope

This policy provides guidance for Nhulunbuy Corporation employees and the public regarding the safe and compliant disposal of asbestos waste originating from within the Gove Peninsula.

3. Definitions

Asbestos means the asbestiform varieties of mineral silicates belonging to the serpentine or amphibole groups of rock forming minerals including the following:

- a. actinolite asbestos
- b. grunerite (or amosite) asbestos (brown)
- c. anthophyllite asbestos
- d. chrysotile asbestos (white)
- e. crocidolite asbestos (blue)
- f. tremolite asbestos
- g. a mixture that contains 1 or more of the minerals referred to in paragraphs (a) to (f).

Asbestos waste means any waste that contains asbestos. This includes asbestos or asbestos containing material removed and disposable items used during asbestos removal work including plastic sheeting and disposable tools.

CEO means Chief Executive Officer of the Nhulunbuy Corporation which is interchangeable with the title Town Administrator

Nhulunbuy Corporation means the Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited

4. Policy

Weight and cubic metres

Where this policy and fee schedule refers to the weight of asbestos and it is not possible to reasonably measure the weight, it will be assumed that each cubic metre of a load or bundle of sheet asbestos will weigh 500kg. This will be calculated by measuring the overall length by the overall width by the overall height of the bundle or load.

For example, a 1.8 x 1.2 x 0.4 trailer loaded flush measures 0.86m³ and will be assumed to be carrying 432kg of asbestos.

Blue wool will be calculated on a case by case basis.

Preparation

All asbestos products are to be collected, packed, transported, and disposed of in accordance with Northern Territory legislation and regulations. This includes the *Code of practice for the safe removal of asbestos (2nd edition)* and the *NT Worksafe Regulations*.

Asbestos products which are not correctly packaged for delivery and disposal will be refused entry at the Waste Management Facility in accordance with the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act*.

Asbestos must be double wrapped in 200 micron heavy duty builders' plastic and taped to seal the fibres completely. Failure to comply with this basic requirement will see the products refused entry.

Origination

Only asbestos originating within the Gove Peninsula will be accepted at the the Nhulunbuy Corporation's Waste Management Facility.

Each individual/company/community must provide written confirmation of where the asbestos originated from.

Limitations

The Nhulunbuy Corporation's Waste Management Facility will only accept 60 tonnes in total of asbestos per calendar year.

No individual/company/community will be permitted to dispose of more than 15 tonnes of asbestos in total per calendar year.

Where the Chief Executive Officer receives a request in writing and is satisfied that:

1. the annual limit will not be met, and
2. there is a specific or special need to increase the weight allowance for an individual contractor or community

the Chief Executive Officer may increase an individual/company/community limit in one particular calendar year.

Disposal times

To ensure that the Nhulunbuy Corporation's Waste Management Facility is able to effectively undertake disposal, the facility will accept asbestos during a dedicated one week period in May and October of each year. These periods will be advertised in the local newspaper, on social media and on the Nhulunbuy Corporation's web site.

Once the annual disposal limit is reached, any further asbestos disposals will only be accepted by prior written agreement with the Chief Executive Officer. Alternatively, the

individual/company/community will be required to store the asbestos within secure containers until the next opening period.

Where asbestos waste is collected outside designated disposal times, it must be stored or disposed of at an alternative licensed facility.

If an individual/company/community needs to store their asbestos waste prior to disposal, they must apply to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment the Arts and Sport for a Temporary Asbestos Storage Facility licence in the approved form.

Further information can be found at:

- <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/licences/guides.html>
- <http://www.nt.gov.au/nreta/environment/waste/guidelines/index.html>

The Nhulunbuy Corporation will assist with the temporary storage of asbestos at the Waste Management Facility when the Chief Executive Officer is satisfied that the asbestos disposal was delayed due to:

- a mechanical breakdown
- changed and adverse road conditions
- the asbestos disposal period (May and October) closing before the advertised date, or
- a written agreement has been reached between the individual/company/community and the Nhulunbuy Corporation's Chief Executive Officer under extenuating circumstances.

All requests for the temporary storage or out-of-period disposal of asbestos must be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer.

Payment is required prior to temporary storage of asbestos at the Waste Management Facility. Any temporarily stored asbestos will included in that year's allocation amount for the individual/company/community and the Waste Management Facility overall.

Transport of asbestos

The safety of Nhulunbuy Corporation employees/contractors and the public is paramount. As such, asbestos delivered to the Waste Management Facility must be properly wrapped and capable of being:

- lifted by hand (the wrapped bundle shall not exceed 20kg) or
- lifted by sling or forklift (the wrapped bundle shall not exceed 750kg) with each bundle placed on not less than 75 x 75 timber gluts (or dunnage).

Due to the potential for the plastic wrapping to be damaged in transit, quantities greater than 100kgs may be required to be transported in a sealed container from place of removal to place of disposal

The Waste Management Facility will not accept the disposal if asbestos is brought to site in what the Nhulunbuy Corporation deems to be an unsafe manner.

Cleaning of containers

Once the container has been emptied, the individual/company/community must have the container cleaned at their cost to ensure that others are not exposed to the fibres.

This is not to be done at the Nhulunbuy Corporation Waste Management Facility.

Fees

The disposal of asbestos incurs fees as outlined in the Nhulunbuy Corporation's Fees and Charges Schedule.

All fees must be paid in advance of the asbestos being disposed of at the Waste Management Facility. Fees must be paid directly to the Nhulunbuy Corporation.

5. Review process

This policy will be reviewed two years from the date of adoption.

Date 27/5/15	Director (Name) Kyle Murray	Signature 
Chief Executive Officer (Name) ANGELA MacMILLAN		Signature 