

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Air Quality Division
Asbestos Abatement Program**

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November 21, 2003

RE: CLARIFICATION OF FINAL AIR CLEARANCE STANDARDS FOR ASBESTOS
ABATEMENT PROJECTS

Pursuant to the authority set forth in the District of Columbia Asbestos Licensing and Control Act of 1990 and the District of Columbia Air Pollution Control Act of 1984 as amended, Section 800 (Control of Asbestos) of Title 20 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (20 DCMR 800) was amended on April 4, 1997.

The amended regulations contain two conflicting provisions regarding final air clearance standards that have caused confusion within the regulated community. Currently, the regulations state:

800.7 To control emissions from an asbestos abatement subject to the requirements of §800.1, a business entity or person shall:

- (i) Clean all surfaces in the work area until no residue is visible and the measured airborne concentration of asbestos fibers longer than five (5) microns is less than one hundredth (0.01) fiber per cubic centimeter using the methods specified in 40 CFR 763, Subpart E, Appendix A (July 1, 1994 Edition);
- (j) Within twenty-four (24) hours after receiving final written monitoring results of at least two (2) samples per two thousand five hundred (2,500) square feet of floor area, submit to the Administrator the data indicating asbestos concentration in the work area after cleaning and before barriers are removed;

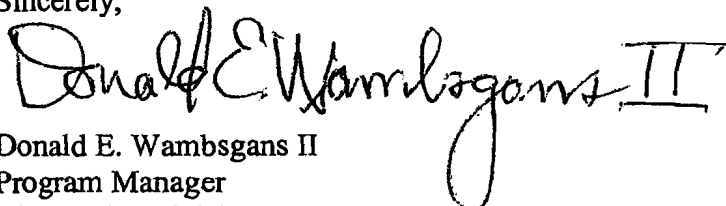
This clarification is being issued because the above-mentioned standards contain conflicting information. Effective immediately, the final clearance requirements for NESHAP-sized projects must meet the following standards:

1. All surfaces in the work area must be cleaned until no residue is visible.
2. Aggressive, TEM (transmission electron microscopy) air sampling using the methods specified in 40 CFR 763 Subpart E Appendix A must be used for final clearance in schools and all occupied areas.
3. PCM (phase contrast microscopy) air sampling may be used for final clearance only in demolitions, confined spaces, unoccupied areas and outdoor abatements. The clearance level requires that the measured airborne concentration of asbestos fibers longer than five (5) microns must be less than one hundredth (0.01) fiber per cubic centimeter (< 0.01 f/cc) using the methods specified in NIOSH 7400. At least two (2) samples per 2,500 square feet of floor area are required.
4. Within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of final written monitoring results, submit to this office data indicating the asbestos concentration in the work area after cleaning and before barriers are removed. Results may be faxed to the attention of the Air Quality Division, Compliance & Enforcement Branch on (202) 535-1371.

This clarification shall remain in effect until the regulations are properly amended. In addition, this clarification supersedes the letters issued by this office on April 10, 2000 and November 5, 2003, regarding final clearance air sampling requirements.

Please remember that asbestos notifications must be submitted to this office at least ten (10) working days before the abatement work begins and that a signed permit must be posted onsite before asbestos abatement activity begins. If you have any questions about these or any other asbestos issues, please contact the Air Quality Division, Compliance & Enforcement Branch on (202) 535-2991.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Wambsgans II
Program Manager
Air Quality Division