GLOSSARY

Actinolite - One of six naturally-occurring asbestos minerals. It is not normally used commercially.

Action Level - A level of airborne fibers specified by OSHA as a warning or alert level. It is 0.1 fibers per cubic centimeter of air, 8-hour time-weighted average, as measured by phase contrast microscopy.


Amended Water - Water to which surfactant has been added.

Amosite - An asbestiform mineral of the amphibole group. It is the second most commonly used form of asbestos in the U.S. (brown asbestos).

Amphibole - One of the two major groups of minerals from which the asbestiform minerals are derived; distinguished by their chain-like crystal structure and chemical composition. Amosite and crocidolite are examples of amphibole minerals.

Anthophyllite - One of six naturally-occurring asbestos minerals. It is of limited commercial value.

Asbestos - A generic name given to a number of naturally-occurring hydrated mineral silicates that possess a unique crystalline structure, are incombustible in air, and are separable into fibers. Asbestos includes the asbestiform varieties of chrysatile (serpentine), crocidolite (riebeckite), amosite (cummingtonite-grunerite), anthophyllite, actinolite, and tremolite.

Asbestos Bodies - Coated asbestos fibers often seen in the lungs of asbestos-exposure victims.

Asbestos-Containing Building Material (ACBM) - Surfacing ACM, thermal system insulation ACM, or miscellaneous ACM that is found in or on interior structural members or other parts of a school building (AHERA definition).

Asbestos-Containing Material (ACM) - Any material or product which contains more than 1 percent asbestos (AHERA definition).

Asbestosis - A scarring of the lungs caused by exposure to asbestos. Continued exposure may lead to degeneration of lung function and death.
Breeching - A duct which transports combustion gases from a boiler or heater to a chimney or stack. Also called a flue.

Bulk Samples - Samples of bulk material, in the case of asbestos, suspect material

Competent Person - A person capable of identifying asbestos hazards and who has authority to eliminate hazards (OSHA definition).

Crocidolite - Strongest of asbestos minerals. An asbestiform mineral of the amphibole group. It is of minor commercial value in the U.S. (blue asbestos).

Chrysotile - The only asbestiform mineral of the serpentine group, it is the most common form of asbestos used in buildings (white asbestos).

Damaged Friable Surfacing Miscellaneous) Material - Friable surfacing (miscellaneous) ACM which has deteriorated or sustained physical injury such that the internal structure (cohesion) of the material is inadequate or, if applicable, which has delaminated such that the bond to the substrate (adhesion) is inadequate or which for any other reason lacks fiber cohesion or adhesion qualities. Such damage or deterioration may be illustrated by the separation of ACM into layers; separation of ACM from the substrate; flaking, blistering, or crumbling of ACM surface; water damage; significant or repeated water stains, scrapes, gauges, mars or other signs of physical injury on the ACM. Asbestos debris originating from the ACBM in question may also indicate damage (AHERA definition).

Damaged or Significantly Damaged Thermal System Insulation - Thermal system insulation on pipes, boilers, tanks, ducts, and other thermal system insulation equipment which the insulation has lost its structural integrity, or its covering, in whole or in part, is crushed, water-stained, gouged, punctured, missing, or not intact such that it is not able to contain fibers. Damage may be further illustrated by occasional punctures, gouges, or other signs of physical injury to ACM; occasional water damage on the protective coverings/jackets; or exposed ACM ends or joints. Asbestos debris, originating from the ACBM in question may also indicate damage (AHERA definition).

Dose-Response Effect - The relationship between the amount of pollutant a person is exposed to (dose) and the increase risk of disease (effect). Usually the greater the dose, the greater the effect.

Electrical Systems - The system of wires, lights, power generation equipment, and related facilities to produce, convey, and utilize electrical power in a building.

Encapsulation - The use of an agent to seal the surface (budging encapsulant) or penetrate the bulk (penetrating encapsulant) of ACM.
Enclosure - A resilient structure, built (or sprayed) around ACM designed to prevent disturbance and contain released fibers.

Fireproofing - Spray- or trowel-applied resistant materials.

Friable - Material that can be crumbled or reduced to powder by hand pressure.

Heating, Ventilating, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC- System) - The system of pipes, ducts, and equipment (air conditioners, chillers, heaters, boilers, pumps, fans) used to heat, cool, move, and filter air in a building. HVAC systems are also known as mechanical systems.

High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) - A type of filter which is 99.97% efficient at filtering particles of 0.3 micro meters in diameter.

Latency Period - The time between first exposure to a disease-causing agent and the appearance of the disease.

Lung Cancer - A malignant growth of tissue in the lungs, specifically of the bronchi covering.

Medical Surveillance - Periodically examining all employees exposed above the OSHA permissible exposure limit or who wears a respirator during work.

Mesothelioma - A rare cancer of the lining around the lungs (pleura) or the abdomen (peritoneum). It is almost always caused by exposure to asbestos.

Miscellaneous Material - Interior building material on structural components, structural members or fixtures, such as floor and ceiling tiles, and does not include surfacing material or thermal system insulation (AHERA definition).

MSHA - Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Negative Pressure Respirators - Respirators which function by the wearer breathing in air through a filter.

Negative Pressure Respirator Check - A form of qualitative fit testing in which the wearer covers the filters of a negative pressure, air-purifying respirator to check for leaks around the face seal.

NIOSH - National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.
Occurrence Insurance - A form of insurance in which a claim is allowed regardless of when the claim is filed. For asbestos insurance, the "occurrence" could be the time of first exposure.

Operations and Maintenance (O & M) Plan - A plan for an O & M program, which is designed to clean up asbestos contamination, minimize future fiber release, and maintain ACM in good condition.

Permissible Exposure Level (PEL) - A level of airborne fibers specified by OSHA as an occupation exposure standard for asbestos. It is 0.1 fibers per cubic centimeter of air, 8-hour time-weighted average, as measured by phase contrast microscopy.

Phase Contrast Microscopy (PCM) - A method of analyzing air samples for fibers using a light microscope.

Physical Assessment - Assessing suspect material to determine the current condition of the material and the potential for future disturbance.

Plenum - A horizontal space designed to transport air in a building. Plenum are commonly the space between a dropped ceiling and the floor above.

Pleura - The membrane encasing each lung.

Plumbing System - The system of pipes, valves, fittings and related components designed to convey liquid or gas fluids throughout a building. Some piping may also be part of the HVAC system.

Polarized Light Microscopy (PLM) - A method of analyzing bulk samples for asbestos in which the sample is illuminated with polarized light (light which vibrates in only one plane) and viewed under a light microscope.

Positive Pressure Respirators - Respirators which function by blowing air or providing pressurized air to the wearer.

Positive Pressure Respirator Check - A form of qualitative fit testing in which the wearer covers the exhalation valve of a negative pressure, air-purifying respirator to check for leaks around the face seal.

Preventive Measures - Response actions taken to reduce the potential for ACM disturbance, usually within the context of the O & M program.

Pulmonary Function Test - A test of breathing ability given as part of a medical surveillance program.
Qualitative Fit Testing - Testing the fit of a respirator by a subjective evaluation for leaks around the face seal.

Quantitative Fit Testing - Testing the fit of a respirator by calculating concentrations of contaminants inside and outside the mask. This requires the use of instruments.

Regulated Areas - Areas where fiber levels exceed OSHA’s permissible exposure limit.

Removal - Scraping, vacuuming, or otherwise taking ACM out of a building and discarding it.

Repair - Restoration of damaged or deteriorated ACM to intact condition.

Respiratory Protection Program - A set of procedures and equipment required by OSHA if employees wear negative pressure respirators or if fiber levels are above the PEL.

Response Actions - Actions specified in the management plan to control ACM; includes repair, O & M, and the various methods of abatement.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) - Supplied air respirators in which a tank worn on one’s back contains the air.

Serpentine - One of the two major groups of minerals from which the asbestiform minerals are derived; distinguished by their tubular structure and chemical composition. Chrysotile is a serpentine mineral.

Significantly Damaged Friable Surfacing (Miscellaneous) Material - Friable surfacing (miscellaneous) ACM in a functional space where damage is extensive and severe (AHERA definition).

Small-Scale, Short-Duration Activities - Maintenance or abatement activities which may contact ACBM but do not represent a major ACBM disturbance.

Surfactant - An agent added to water to decrease surface tension and thus increase water’s ability to “wet” or penetrate bulk material.

Surfacing Material - Material in a school building that is sprayed on, troweled on, or otherwise applied to surfaces, such as acoustical plaster on ceilings and fireproofing materials on structural members, or other materials on surfaces for acoustical, fireproofing, or other purposes (AHERA definition).

Synergistic - The combination of two effects which is greater than the sum of the two independent effects.
Thermal System Insulation (TSI) - Material applied to pipes, fittings, boilers, breeching, tanks, ducts, or other interior structural components to prevent heat loss or gain, or water condensation, or for other purposes.

Transite - A trade name for asbestos cement wallboard and pipe.


Tremolite - One of six naturally-occurring asbestos minerals. Tremolite has few commercial uses.

Type C Respirators - Supplied air, airline respirator in which outside air is compressed, purified, and delivered to the wearer.