

MechSE WELLness

X02 Hazardous Material Abatement

Intent: Reduce or eliminate human exposure to hazardous material byproducts from renovation, repair, or demolition work.

Mesothelioma, a cancer of the lung lining, is almost exclusively linked to asbestos exposure. Non-cancer effects associated with asbestos exposure include asbestosis, which results in restricted lung function. Based on 2015 data, lead exposure was responsible for 12.4% decrease in global intellectual disability, 2.5% of ischemic heart disease, and 2.4% of stroke. Increased bone levels of lead are associated with increased blood pressure. Another harmful material, PCBs, used in caulking, sealants, and insulation, are linked to cancer of the liver and biliary tract.

Impact: Implementing protocols for the safe abatement or remediation of hazardous materials prior to renovation, demolition, or repair mitigate the risk of exposure and benefit health of workers and users.

What are the requirements to earn this credit?

1. Prior to any renovations, asbestos evaluation and abatement are undertaken per environmental standards.
2. Prior to any renovations, lead paint evaluation and abatement are undertaken per environmental standards.
3. Prior to any renovations, PCBs or polychlorinated biphenyl hazards are evaluated and abatement is undertaken per environmental standards.

How is MechSE accomplishing these requirements?

MechSE developed policies stating the clear objectives above and go beyond when possible to eliminate the use of asbestos, mercury, and lead. All materials, paints, furniture, etc. are thoroughly reviewed to ensure we do not introduce harmful materials into the facility. MechSE facilities is also seeking to benefit from the International Living Future's "Red List", a list that severely restricts use of known harmful materials to our health and encourages owners to send letters to manufacturers to seek alternative materials and change the building industry.



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