

TEST ANSWERS: ASBESTOS

The *BSO Plus Safety Topic* is a review designed from the BSO Plus agenda. This safety topic is your way to stay current on the safety information over the 3 years between BSO Plus and BSR.

1. Friable asbestos fibres may stay airborne for 24 hours or longer.

- a. True
- b. False

RATIONALE: Friable asbestos can be crumbled, crushed, or pulverized by hand pressure and easily released into the environment. Friable asbestos poses a greater risk to human health than non-friable asbestos because friable fibres can be easily disturbed and released into the air we breathe.

2. By cutting into a vinyl floor tile that contains non-friable asbestos, the asbestos can be released as friable asbestos and inhaled.

- a. True
- b. False

RATIONALE: Non-friable asbestos fibres are locked or bound into the material itself but may be released through cutting or sanding activities.

3. Signs and coloured metal banding are two methods for identifying asbestos in the workplace. What should you do if you're not sure whether or not something contains asbestos?

- a. Try to crush a piece of material by hand to see if it crumbles
- b. Try to ignite it
- c. Assume it is asbestos, do not disturb it, and contact your supervisor
- d. Ask your co-workers if they know

RATIONALE: The Asbestos Regulation 278/05 describes the activities and preparation required to work with this hazardous material. You must be specifically trained to work with asbestos. In the field, all known asbestos containing material (ACM) will be clearly identified, however, unknown ACM may still be present. If you are not sure whether or not something contains asbestos, assume it does and contact your supervisor. All plants that have ACM must maintain an Asbestos Management plan that documents the known ACM locations. These plans are available for your review.

4. If you are exposed to asbestos, you may begin to experience symptoms of illness:

- a. Immediately
- b. Within 3 months of exposure
- c. 1 to 2 years after the first exposure
- d. 5 to 30 years (or more) after the first exposure

RATIONALE: The risk of developing any illness or disease from exposure to asbestos depends on a variety of factors such as the level and duration of the exposure; the age of the person at the time of exposure; whether or not the person smokes or has smoked tobacco products; and the type and size of the asbestos fibers. Asbestos has a latency period of 5 to 30 years or more.

5. Indicators of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) are: (Circle all that apply)

a. Newer buildings or equipment

b. Older buildings or equipment

c. Structural steel frame buildings

d. Equipment exposed to extreme temperatures

RATIONALE: ACM may be found in asbestos-insulated towers, sprayed on fireproofing for structural beams, multiple types of insulations (including insulating cement used on pipe elbows), transite used for siding, gaskets and packing, plaster and fire doors.