



Unexpected Contamination Procedure

Young High School

Unexpected Contamination Procedure

1.0 Purpose & Scope

This procedure describes the process to be followed on a Joss construction project where there is the possibility that contaminated material may be present.

Should site workers identify any material that could potentially be contaminated, this process should be followed to reduce risk to themselves and others, and to minimise any further contamination from occurring.

2.0 Definition of Unexpected Contamination

Many different types of contamination could be present on a construction site. Contamination may be present from existing buildings (existing or removed), from existing land usages (such as petrol stations) or from materials that have been brought to site (such as fill soil). Some forms of contamination may include:

- Asbestos
- Lead Paint
- Heavy Metals
- Fuels or Oils
- Chemicals
- Sewage
- Pesticides

3.0 Identification Procedure

Should any unexpected contamination be identified on site the following process should be immediately followed:

- Stop all works within the vicinity of the actual or suspected contamination
- Notify the immediate supervisor or site manager and describe the suspected contamination.
- Site Manager to notify all parties relevant to the activity (HSEQ Manager, Project Manager, Project Director)
- HSEQ Manager to then notify relevant Authorities (EPA, Worksafe, Emergency Services)
- HSEQ Manager / Site Manager to then notify a Hygienist or Competent Person for contamination identification / testing
- Barricade and isolate the area.
- Move at least 10m away from the actual or suspected contamination but continue to supervise the area.
- Continue supervision of the actual or suspected contamination area until directed to leave by management.
- As soon as practical after the actual or suspected contamination area has been secured and relevant parties have been notified, a site toolbox talk shall be held to explain to all site workers what is happening, why its happening and explain that if any one has any questions relating to the removal of the contaminated material, that they raise it with either their direct supervisor or the Joss site manager.

4.0 Remediation

All contamination investigation/ management and remediation must only be undertaken by a suitably competent person, this means a person who has acquired, through training, qualification or experience, the knowledge and skills of relevant industry practice and holds a certification in relation to the specified work or a tertiary qualification in occupational health and safety, occupational hygiene, science, building, construction or environmental

health. For all other purposes, competent person means a person who has acquired through training, qualification or experience, the knowledge and skills to carry out the task.

All required documentation, including Control Plans, Council/ Government Approvals, SWMS, MSDS, licences etc must be current, approved and in place before any remediation works commence.

Once the contaminated material has been identified, the disposal location and test results shall be submitted to the Planning Secretary in accordance with Condition B7 of the SSD Consent. When the material is removed from the site, it shall be transported as per EPA guidelines, to a certified and licensed disposal facility for remediation or disposal. Receipts for all disposal shall be collected and form part of the final sign off.

Monitoring and Clearance certificates shall be collected during the remediation process and shall be provided to local Council or Governments as required.

All material identified as contaminated is to be disposed off-site, the disposal location and results of testing submitted to the Planning Secretary prior to its removal from site.

5.0 Documentation on Completion.

Following completion of the remediation works all documentation including sign offs and clearances shall also be forwarded to the Joss HSEQ Manager / Coordinator for final sign off.

As per SSD9671 CoC B7, where any contaminated material is identified and requiring disposal of off-site, the approved EPA disposal location needs to first confirm acceptance of the contaminated material. Test results confirming the material is contaminated are to be submitted to the Planning Secretary prior to its removal from the site. The Planning Secretary must provide written approval before any contaminated material is to be transported off site.

A cohesive report post removal will be generated to combine the extent of the contaminated material removed and all relevant clearance certificates, disposal receipts and approvals.

6.0 References and Guidelines

- WHS Act 2011
- WHS Regulation 2017
- Code of Practice – How to Safely Remove Asbestos 2019
- Code of Practice – How to Manage and Control Asbestos in the Workplace 2019
- WHS Act and Regulations 2011
- How to Safely Remove Asbestos - Code of Practice
- Guidelines for Consultants Reporting on Contaminated Sites (OEH 2011)
- Waste Classification Guidelines (EPA 2014)
- Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (NSW)
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)
- Environmental Planning and Assessment regulation 200
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act)
- Water Management Act 2000
- Water Act 1912
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation (2014)
- Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation (2016)
- National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure (1999) (NEPM)

- http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/329171/Managing-asbestos-in-soil-guide.pdf