



URGENT SOLUTIONS TO URGENT PROBLEMS

# CONTROL ASBESTOS AIR MONITORING

## What is Control Asbestos Air Monitoring?

**Control Monitoring** (previously known as paraoccupational sampling) involves the taking of samples of air from **static** (fixed) locations to measure the concentration of airborne asbestos fibres. Asbestos fibres are defined as those conforming to specified geometric requirements. In general, static monitors are placed within an area immediately external to where removal of asbestos containing materials (ACM) is underway.

## When is Control Asbestos Air Monitoring required?

The NSW Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001 under the NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000, requires (**Clause 259**) that an **employer must ensure** that asbestos work is carried out..... **in accordance with NOHSC: 2002 (2005)**. It should be noted that NOHSC: 2002 (2005) is different from its predecessor NOHSC: 2002 (1988).<sup>1</sup>

**“Air Monitoring should be performed whenever ACM are being removed, to ensure the control measures are effective.”** [NOHSC: 2002 (2005)]

## The Difference between Air Monitoring and Written Air Monitoring Programs

NOHSC: 2002 (2005) distinguishes between **Air Monitoring** and **written Air Monitoring Programs**. Thus while **Air Monitoring** should be performed **whenever ACM** are being removed, a written Air Monitoring Program is **not always necessary** for the removal of non-friable ACM, **although it is still good practice**.

A **Written Air Monitoring Program** should be developed for **all indoor** removals of **friable ACM**, and also for **outdoor** removals of friable ACM where there **might be a risk** to persons **other** than the removal staff.



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**GETEX  
PTY LIMITED**

ABN 99 116 287 471  
Suite 2.02, Building 2,  
Waterloo Business Park  
35 Waterloo Road  
North Ryde NSW 2113  
Phone: (02) 9889 2488  
Fax: (02) 9889 2499  
Email: help@getex.com.au  
Web: www.getex.com.au

A **competent person**, who is **independent** from the person responsible for the removal work, should **determine all air monitoring requirements**. Among other things they should decide:

- The location, rate and frequency of sampling;
- Whether it is necessary to monitor air quality in areas adjacent to, above and below the asbestos work area, taking account of the potential exposures of occupants of these areas; and
- Whether additional routine air sampling is warranted in (for example) nearby high occupancy areas; and
- The requirements for Clearance Monitoring.

A Competent Person is defined as someone possessing adequate qualifications, such as suitable training and sufficient knowledge, experience and skill, for the safe performance of the specific work.

NOHSC: 2002 (2005) refers to NOHSC: 3003 (2005). **NOHSC: 3003 (2005)** states that “**Control Monitoring** in a regulatory environment now requires **formalisation** which will stand **legal scrutiny**” and the **OHS Regulation 2001** states that results obtained from such monitoring must be carried out in a laboratory accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (**N.A.T.A**) in accordance with NOHSC:2002 (2005).

## What is NATA?

NATA is Australia’s Government endorsed provider of accreditation for laboratories and similar testing facilities ([www.nata.asn.au](http://www.nata.asn.au)). To support its accreditation programs, NATA also operates **proficiency testing programs** (eg the National Asbestos Program NAP through Proficiency Testing Australia), **in which GETEX participates**. The benefit of NATA accreditation and proficiency testing is to **enable the client to select reliable testing and measurement services**.

## What Can Getex Do To Help?

**Act as a Competent Person** in accordance with the NOHSC: 3003 (2005) and NOHSC: 2002 (2005) documents and the OH&S Regulation 2001.

**GETEX is NATA Accredited for Airborne Asbestos Fibre Counting and Volume Measurement** (which enable us to issue reports in fibres/mL).

**Our accreditation Number is 15404.**

The staff at GETEX have many **years of experience** involving the **monitoring and management of asbestos**. GETEX is ready to recommend and implement **cost-effective monitoring programs** in any part of Australia and overseas.

***GETEX operates 24 hours/day, 7 days per week  
(02) 9889 2488***

***[www.getex.com.au](http://www.getex.com.au)***

***[help@getex.com.au](mailto:help@getex.com.au)***

(Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> The National Occupational Health & Safety Commission (NOHSC) is now referred to as the Australian Safety & Compensation Council, 20 October 2005.

**Note:**

The information in this document is provided for general information purposes only and must not be relied upon for application in practical situations. Specific and detailed advice must be obtained from GETEX before any information in this document is applied in a real life situation.