

ASBESTOS IN SCHOOLS – AN UPDATE AND SUMMARY

Union perseverance and pressure persuaded Congress to expand the **Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)** in 1987. Congress required the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a new regulation requiring inspections of schools for all asbestos containing material (ACBM) and a management plan to minimize the hazard. Schools were required to submit their plans to the state by May 9, 1989.

The regulation covers ACBM inside the school – within classrooms, libraries, laboratories, cafeterias, kitchens, dormitories, maintenance or storage facilities and the exterior portions of any mechanical system used to condition the building. Excluded are other exterior ACBM (roofing, siding, etc.) and non-building materials (i.e. gloves, fire blankets, vehicle brake shoes, etc.).

You are entitled to review the management plan. It must be kept in the administrative office and made available within 5 working days without cost to union representatives, school employees (teachers, custodians, paraprofessionals, etc.), the state and public.

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