
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5397

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Franklin and Pelz; by request of Department of Labor & Industries

Read first time 01/23/95. Referred to Committee on Labor, Commerce & Trade.

1 AN ACT Relating to asbestos certification; and amending RCW
2 49.26.013, 49.26.016, 49.26.100, 49.26.110, 49.26.115, and 49.26.120.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 49.26.013 and 1989 c 154 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Any owner or owner's agent who allows or authorizes any
7 construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance, repair, or
8 demolition project which has a reasonable possibility, as defined by
9 the department, of disturbing or releasing asbestos into the air, shall
10 perform or cause to be performed, using practices approved by the
11 department, a good faith inspection to determine whether the proposed
12 project will disturb or release any material containing asbestos into
13 the air.

14 Such inspections shall be conducted by persons meeting the
15 accreditation requirements of the federal toxics substances control
16 act, section 206(a) (1) and (3) (15 U.S.C. 2646(a) (1) and (3)).

17 An inspection under this section is not required if the owner or
18 owner's agent is reasonably certain that asbestos will not be disturbed
19 or assumes that asbestos will be disturbed by a project which involves

1 construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance, repair, or
2 demolition and takes the maximum precautions as specified by all
3 applicable federal and state requirements.

4 (2) Except as provided in RCW 49.26.125, the owner or owner's agent
5 shall prepare and maintain a written report describing each inspection,
6 or a statement of assumption of the presence or reasonable certainty of
7 the absence of asbestos, and shall ~~((make))~~ provide a copy of the
8 written report or statement ~~((available))~~ to all contractors before
9 they apply or bid on work. In addition, upon written or oral request,
10 the owner or owner's agent shall make a copy of the written report
11 available to: (1) The department of labor and industries; (2)
12 contractors; and (3) the collective bargaining representatives or
13 employee representatives, if any, of employees who may be exposed to
14 any asbestos or material containing asbestos. A copy shall be posted
15 as prescribed by the department in a place that is easily accessible
16 to such employees.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 49.26.016 and 1989 c 154 s 3 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 (1) Any owner or owner's agent who allows the start of any
20 construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance, repair, or
21 demolition without first (a) conducting the inspection and preparing
22 and maintaining the report of the inspection, or preparing and
23 maintaining a statement of assumption of the presence or reasonable
24 certainty of the absence of asbestos, as required under RCW 49.26.013;
25 and (b) preparing and maintaining the additional written description of
26 the project as required under RCW 49.26.120 shall be subject to a
27 mandatory fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars for each
28 violation. Each day the violation continues shall be considered a
29 separate violation. In addition, any construction, renovation,
30 remodeling, maintenance, repair, or demolition which was started
31 without meeting the requirements of RCW 49.26.013 and 49.26.120 shall
32 be halted immediately and cannot be resumed before meeting such
33 requirements.

34 (2) ~~((It is the responsibility of any contractor registered under~~
35 ~~chapter 18.27 RCW to request a copy of the written report or statement~~
36 ~~required under RCW 49.26.013 from the owner or the owner's agent.))~~ No
37 contractor may commence any construction, renovation, remodeling,
38 maintenance, repair or demolition project without receiving the copy of

1 the written report or statement from the owner or the owner's agent.
2 Any contractor who begins any project without the copy of the written
3 report or statement shall be subject to a mandatory fine of not less
4 than two hundred and fifty dollars per day. Each day the violation
5 continues shall be considered a separate violation.

6 ~~(3) ((Any partnership, firm, corporation or sole proprietorship
7 that begins any construction, renovation, remodeling, maintenance,
8 repair, or demolition without meeting the requirements of RCW 49.26.013
9 and the notification requirement under RCW 49.26.120 shall lose the
10 exemptions provided in RCW 49.26.110 and 49.26.120 for a period of not
11 less than six months.~~

12 ~~(4))~~ The certificate of any asbestos contractor who knowingly
13 violates any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted under this
14 chapter shall be revoked for a period of not less than six months.

15 ~~((5))~~ (4) The penalties imposed in this section are in addition
16 to any penalties under RCW 49.26.140.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 49.26.100 and 1989 c 154 s 4 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
20 this section apply throughout this chapter.

21 (1) "Asbestos abatement project" means an asbestos project
22 involving three square feet or three linear feet, or more, of asbestos-
23 containing material.

24 (2) "Asbestos project" means the construction, demolition, repair,
25 maintenance, remodeling, or renovation of any public or private
26 building or mechanical piping equipment or systems involving the
27 demolition, removal, encapsulation, salvage, or disposal of material,
28 or outdoor activity, releasing or likely to release asbestos fibers
29 into the air.

30 ~~((2))~~ (3) "Department" means the department of labor and
31 industries.

32 ~~((3))~~ (4) "Director" means the director of the department of
33 labor and industries or the director's designee.

34 ~~((4))~~ (5) "Person" means any individual, partnership, firm,
35 association, corporation, sole proprietorship, or the state of
36 Washington or its political subdivisions.

37 ~~((5))~~ (6) "Certified asbestos supervisor" means an individual who
38 is certified by the department to supervise an asbestos project. A

1 certified asbestos supervisor is not required for projects involving
2 less than three square feet or three linear feet of asbestos-containing
3 material.

4 ~~((+6))~~ (7) "Certified asbestos worker" means an individual who is
5 certified by the department to work on an asbestos project.

6 ~~((+7))~~ (8) "Certified asbestos contractor" means any partnership,
7 firm, association, corporation or sole proprietorship registered under
8 chapter 18.27 RCW that submits a bid or contracts to remove or
9 encapsulate asbestos for another and is certified by the department to
10 remove or encapsulate asbestos.

11 ~~((+8))~~ (9) "Owner" means the owner of any public or private
12 building, structure, facility or mechanical system, or the agent of
13 such owner, but does not include individuals who work on asbestos
14 projects on their own single-family residences no part of which is used
15 for any commercial purpose.

16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 49.26.110 and 1989 c 154 s 5 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) No employee or other individual is eligible to do work governed
19 by this chapter unless issued a certificate by the department ~~((except,~~
20 ~~in the case of an asbestos project undertaken by any partnership, firm,~~
21 ~~corporation or sole proprietorship which has not lost this exemption~~
22 ~~under RCW 49.26.016(3), and conducted in its own facility and by its~~
23 ~~own employees. In cases excepted under this section:~~

24 (a) ~~Direct, on-site supervision by a certified asbestos supervisor~~
25 ~~shall be required for asbestos projects performed at one project~~
26 ~~location by workers who are not certified.~~

27 (b) ~~If a project is conducted using only certified workers or if a~~
28 ~~certified worker functions as a foreman or lead person, supervision can~~
29 ~~be performed in the regular course of a supervisor's duties and need~~
30 ~~not be direct and on-site.~~

31 (c) ~~The partnership, firm, corporation or sole proprietorship shall~~
32 ~~submit a written description to the department of the kinds of~~
33 ~~asbestos projects expected to be undertaken and the procedures to be~~
34 ~~used in undertaking asbestos projects, which description shall~~
35 ~~demonstrate competence in performing the work in compliance with the~~
36 ~~requirements of this chapter, rules adopted under this chapter, and any~~
37 ~~other requirements of law for the safe demolition, removal,~~
38 ~~encapsulation, salvage, and disposal of asbestos)).~~

1 (2) To qualify for a certificate:

2 (a) Certified asbestos workers (~~(and supervisors)~~) must have
3 successfully completed a four-day training course (~~(of at least thirty~~
4 ~~hours)~~). Certified asbestos supervisors must have completed a five-
5 day training course. Training courses shall be provided or approved by
6 the department(~~(, on the))~~); shall cover such topics as the health and
7 safety aspects of the removal and encapsulation of asbestos, including
8 but not limited to the federal and state standards regarding protective
9 clothing, respirator use, disposal, air monitoring, cleaning, and
10 decontamination(~~(,)~~); and shall meet such additional qualifications as
11 may be established by the department by rule for the type of
12 certification sought; and

13 (b) All applicants for certification as asbestos workers or
14 supervisors must pass an examination in the type of certification
15 sought which shall be provided or approved by the department.

16 These requirements are intended to represent the minimum
17 requirements for certification and shall not preclude contractors or
18 employers from providing additional education or training. The
19 department may require the successful completion of annual refresher
20 courses provided or approved by the department for continued
21 certification as an asbestos worker or supervisor.

22 (3) The department shall provide for the reciprocal certification
23 of any individual trained to engage in asbestos projects in another
24 state when the prior training is shown to be substantially similar to
25 the training required by the department. Nothing shall prevent the
26 department from requiring such individuals to take an examination or
27 refresher course before certification.

28 (4) The department may deny, suspend, or revoke a certificate, as
29 provided under RCW 49.26.140, for failure of the holder to comply with
30 any requirement of this chapter or chapter 49.17 RCW, or any rule
31 adopted under those chapters, or applicable health and safety standards
32 and regulations. In addition to any penalty imposed under RCW
33 49.26.016, the department may suspend or revoke any certificate issued
34 under this chapter for a period of not less than six months upon the
35 following grounds:

36 (a) The certificate was obtained through error or fraud; or

37 (b) The holder thereof is judged to be incompetent to carry out the
38 work for which the certificate was issued.

1 Before any certificate may be denied, suspended, or revoked, the
2 holder thereof shall be given written notice of the department's
3 intention to do so, mailed by registered mail, return receipt
4 requested, to the holder's last known address. The notice shall
5 enumerate the allegations against such holder, and shall give him or
6 her the opportunity to request a hearing before the department. At
7 such hearing, the department and the holder shall have opportunity to
8 produce witnesses and give testimony.

9 (5) A denial, suspension, or revocation order may be appealed to
10 the board of industrial insurance appeals within fifteen working days
11 after the denial, suspension, or revocation order is entered. The
12 notice of appeal may be filed with the department or the board of
13 industrial insurance appeals. The board of industrial insurance
14 appeals shall hold the hearing in accordance with procedures
15 established in RCW 49.17.140. Any party aggrieved by an order of the
16 board of industrial insurance appeals may obtain superior court review
17 in the manner provided in RCW 49.17.150.

18 (6) Each person certified under this chapter shall display, upon
19 the request of an authorized representative of the department, valid
20 identification issued by the department.

21 **Sec. 5.** RCW 49.26.115 and 1989 c 154 s 6 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 Before working on an asbestos abatement project, a contractor shall
24 obtain an asbestos contractor's certificate from the department and
25 shall have in its employ at least one certified asbestos supervisor who
26 is responsible for supervising all asbestos abatement projects
27 undertaken by the contractor and for assuring compliance with all state
28 laws and regulations regarding asbestos. The contractor shall apply
29 for certification renewal every year. The department shall ensure that
30 the expiration of the contractor's registration and the expiration of
31 his or her asbestos contractor's certificate coincide.

32 **Sec. 6.** RCW 49.26.120 and 1989 c 154 s 7 are each amended to read
33 as follows:

34 (1) No person may assign any employee, contract with, or permit any
35 individual or person to remove or encapsulate asbestos in any facility
36 unless performed by a certified asbestos worker and under the direct,
37 on-site supervision of a certified asbestos supervisor (~~except, in the~~

1 ~~case of an asbestos project undertaken by any partnership, firm,~~
2 ~~corporation or sole proprietorship which has not lost this exemption~~
3 ~~under RCW 49.26.016(3), and conducted in its own facility and by its~~
4 ~~own employees. In cases excepted under this section:~~

5 (a) ~~Direct, on-site supervision by a certified asbestos supervisor~~
6 ~~shall be required for asbestos projects performed at one project~~
7 ~~location by workers who are not certified.~~

8 (b) ~~If a project is conducted using only certified workers or if a~~
9 ~~certified worker functions as a foreman or lead person, supervision can~~
10 ~~be performed in the regular course of a supervisor's duties and need~~
11 ~~not be direct and on-site.~~

12 (c) ~~The partnership, firm, corporation or sole proprietorship shall~~
13 ~~submit a written description to the department of the kinds of asbestos~~
14 ~~projects expected to be undertaken and the procedures to be used in~~
15 ~~undertaking asbestos projects, which description shall demonstrate~~
16 ~~competence in performing the work in compliance with the requirements~~
17 ~~of this chapter, rules adopted under this chapter, and any other~~
18 ~~requirements of law for the safe demolition, removal, encapsulation,~~
19 ~~salvage, and disposal of asbestos)). In cases in which an employer~~
20 ~~conducts an asbestos abatement project in its own facility and by its~~
21 ~~own employees, supervision can be performed in the regular course of a~~
22 ~~certified asbestos supervisor's duties. Asbestos workers must have~~
23 ~~access to certified asbestos supervisors throughout the duration of the~~
24 ~~project.~~

25 (2) The department shall require persons undertaking asbestos
26 projects to provide written notice to the department before the
27 commencement of the project except as provided in RCW 49.26.125. The
28 notice shall include a written description containing such information
29 as the department requires by rule. The department may by rule allow
30 a person to report multiple projects at one site in one report. The
31 department shall by rule establish the procedure and criteria by which
32 a person will be considered to have attempted to meet the
33 prenotification requirement.

34 (3) The department shall consult with the state fire protection
35 policy board, and may establish any additional policies and procedures
36 for municipal fire department and fire district personnel who clean up

1 sites after fires which have rendered it likely that asbestos has been
2 or will be disturbed or released into the air.

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