



Fire Doors containing Asbestos Materials

Fire doors are a suspect asbestos-containing building material. There may be occasion to work on fire doors that could contain asbestos. This memo is provided as a guideline for this work.

Compliance with OSHA, Massachusetts, and EPA regulations require comprehensive asbestos inspections be conducted prior to any renovation or demolition activities in order to protect worker health. Any service to a fire door that disturbs the core (e.g. drilling into the core, cutting, abrading, etc.) qualifies as renovation under the law and requires characterization for the presence of asbestos.

As a matter of compliance with the regulations, University locksmiths will not conduct any work on fire doors that involves drilling, sanding, cutting, abrading, or otherwise generates dust until the presence or absence of asbestos has been verified. Locksmiths, custodians, and most other vendors who may work with fire doors are not typically trained or licensed to conduct asbestos work, and should not be hired to perform intrusive work on fire doors that contain asbestos. The presence of asbestos cannot be verified by the appearance of the door, nor does the age of the door necessarily indicate whether the door contains asbestos. In the event that a suspect fire door must be serviced in a manner that may disturb the core of the door (where no building records exists to verify the contents of the door), you may do one of the following:

1. Presume that the door contains asbestos. (See below for instructions for working on asbestos-containing fire doors.)
2. Examine the plate or label on the door spine. The door core material may be listed on this plate. The information on the plate may be used to *confirm* the presence of asbestos, but the plate alone is not sufficient to determine that asbestos is **not** present.
3. Contact the manufacturer for information on materials of construction.
4. Have a consultant sample the door core material for asbestos content.

If a door is presumed or found to contain asbestos, all service must be conducted by a qualified asbestos abatement contractor or the door must be replaced with a non-asbestos door. Doors containing asbestos must be disposed of in an appropriate EPA and University approved landfill, and cannot be placed with normal trash. Asbestos abatement contractors can dispose of doors in a proper manner. A list of qualified asbestos abatement contractors is available on our web http://www.uos.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/ehs/ehs-bin/ind_pro_asb_contractors.pl. Or by calling Anne Reynolds 6-7152 or Mary Streeto 6-0991