



# Health and safety snapshot

## Asbestos 2022-23

Issued October 2023

**444** asbestos inspections were carried out

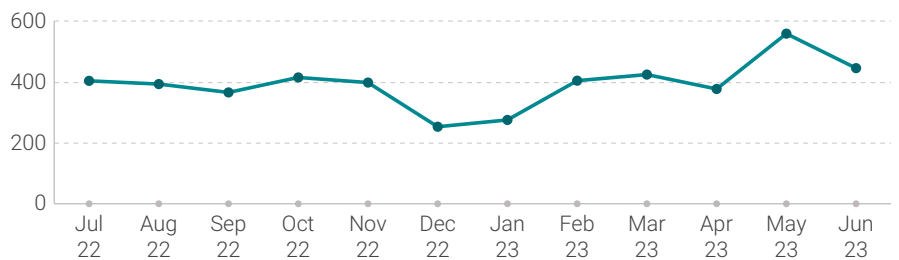
WorkSafe received **269** asbestos complaints

The most common complaints were:


1. non-compliant asbestos removal work practices
2. public health risk concerns
3. asbestos management concerns
4. unlicensed work.

**4,700+** asbestos removal notifications were submitted to the regulator

### Notifications of asbestos removals 2022-23



WorkSafe received **19** notified exposures

 Section 38 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* requires the person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) to [notify the regulator](#) immediately after becoming aware of an asbestos incident that exposes a worker or any other person to a serious risk to that person's health.

WorkSafe now requires all licensed asbestos removal to be notified to the regulator via the [online portal](#)



### Dust strategy

WorkSafe's [Dust strategy 2023-24](#) aims to continue to drive improvements in the management of hazardous dusts and to protect workers from harm.



The dust strategy supports the [National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management](#).



### Enforcement actions taken

- 248** notices were issued
- 2** asbestos licences were suspended
- 11** asbestos licences were refused or not renewed
- 1** potential prosecution for unlicensed work



### Transitional arrangements

From 31 March 2024 the following will apply to asbestos removal work:

- asbestos removal workers must be trained in the specified VET course
- a licensed asbestos assessor (LAA) must conduct a clearance inspection for Class A removal work.

WorkSafe's website contains further information on [transitional arrangements](#).



### WorkSafe inspectors

WorkSafe's asbestos team includes **6 inspectors** with specialisations in asbestos, occupational hygiene and environmental health.



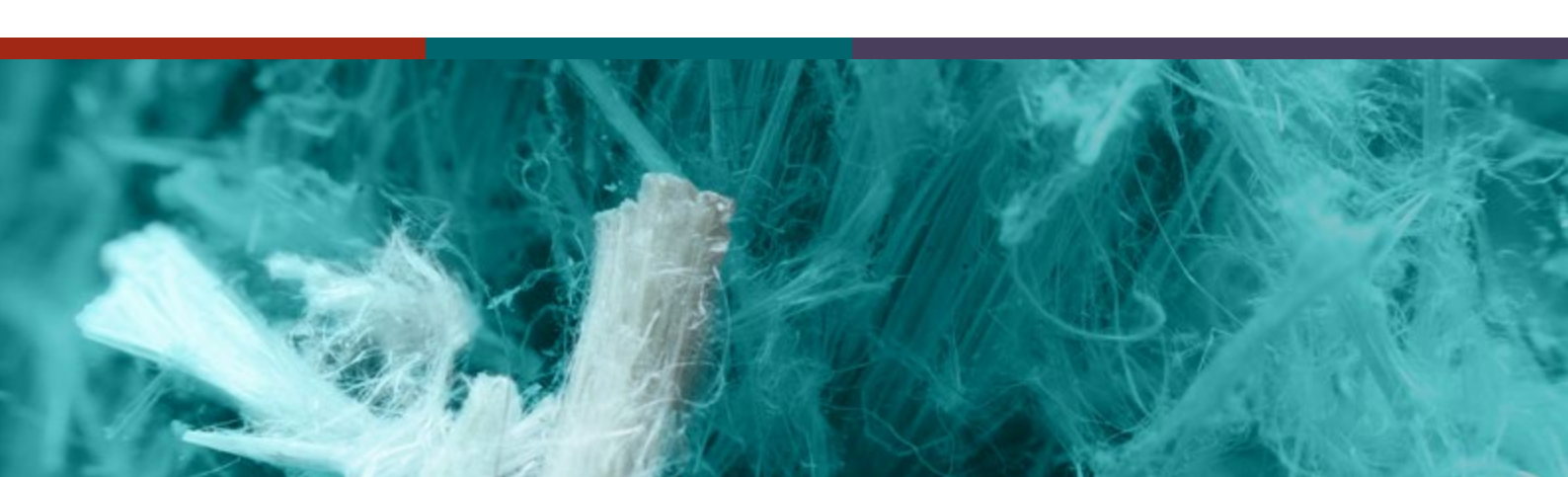
### Top 5 reasons for issuing notices

1. asbestos register issues
2. workers not clean shaven or fit tested
3. inadequate safe work method statement (SWMS) or asbestos removal control plan (ARCP)
4. non-compliant asbestos removal
5. unlicensed asbestos removal.



Scan for more information





Asbestos is the cause of **4,000 deaths** per year in Australia

### National strategy

The Western Australian Government is a signatory to the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency's [National strategic plan for asbestos awareness and management](#) (the plan).

The plan aims to eliminate asbestos-related diseases by preventing exposure to asbestos and ensuring a coordinated approach to asbestos awareness, management and removal.



The plan actions all levels of government and recognises that governments and regulatory agencies, along with businesses, unions, individual organisations, advocacy groups, researchers and members of the community require a coordinated approach for more effective asbestos management.

### Licensed asbestos assessors

From 31 March 2024 for Class A removal work, the independent competent person must be a licensed asbestos assessor (LAA).



The WorkSafe website contains a [list of LAAs](#) currently working in Western Australia, and [application guides and forms for asbestos assessor licences](#).

### Clearance inspections

Clearance inspections are required for all licensed asbestos removal work. After asbestos is removed, the adequacy of the work will need to be assessed and inspected by an independent competent person (ICP) who:

- has knowledge, training and experience in asbestos removal
- holds a certification for asbestos assessor work or a relevant tertiary qualification.

Independent means the ICP must not be involved in the removal of asbestos for that specific job or be involved with the asbestos licence holder removing the asbestos for that specific job.



A [template for clearance certificates](#) can be found on WorkSafe's website.

A [class exemption](#) has been granted from the requirement to use an ICP to conduct a clearance inspection following the removal of more than 10m<sup>2</sup> of non-friable asbestos. This exemption is only applicable to a Class A or Class B asbestos removal licence holder, or the person that commissions the asbestos removal work, and only if the following criteria are met:



only non-friable asbestos containing material is removed



there have been reasonable efforts to identify an ICP and an ICP is not identified within a 150 km radius of the removal site



a clearance is conducted by a licensed asbestos removalist, who may be the asbestos removalist for the job



the person conducting the clearance takes photographs during the clearance to show that the asbestos containing materials have been removed and that no remaining asbestos containing material is visible



the person conducting the clearance produces a clearance certificate



the person who commissioned the asbestos removal work accompanies the asbestos removalist to inspect the removal area after the clearance, where practicable.

The clearance certificate and photographs **must** be retained by the person who conducted the clearance for two years after the conclusion of the removal work, for the purpose of licence compliance assessments conducted by WorkSafe.

