



Designation: E2356 – 26

Standard Practice for Comprehensive Building Asbestos Surveys¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice describes procedures for conducting comprehensive surveys of buildings and facilities for the purpose of locating, identifying, quantifying, and assessing asbestos-containing materials.

1.2 The results of a comprehensive building asbestos survey are intended to be used for ongoing management of asbestos-containing materials, including operations and maintenance (O&M), removal, and other response actions. This includes response actions associated with renovations. A comprehensive building asbestos survey is also intended to provide information required for removal of asbestos-containing materials prior to demolition of a building or facility.

1.3 This practice discusses three types of surveys: baseline surveys, project design surveys, and pre-construction surveys.

1.4 This practice discusses the following activities for each of the above types of surveys:

1.4.1 Planning the survey to meet defined objectives;

1.4.2 Obtaining and reviewing information on the building or facility including previous surveys and response actions;

1.4.3 Conducting the physical activities of inspecting the premises and collecting bulk samples of suspect materials;

1.4.4 Analyzing the bulk samples for asbestos type and content;

1.4.5 Assessing the current condition and potential for disturbance of asbestos-containing materials; and

1.4.6 Preparing a report that includes a narrative discussion of the findings, tabulations of inspection, sampling and analysis results, graphical depiction of the areas inspected, and the results of the assessment.

1.5 This practice does not include air sampling or surface (dust) sampling for purposes of evaluating a potential exposure hazard from airborne asbestos fibers. The reader may find assistance with exposure assessment determination by reviewing Practice [D7886](#).

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D22](#) on Air Quality and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D22.07](#) on Sampling, Analysis, Management of Asbestos, and Other Microscopic Particles.

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1.6 **Warning**—Asbestos fibers are acknowledged carcinogens. Breathing asbestos fibers can result in disease of the lungs including asbestosis, lung cancer, and mesothelioma. Precautions in this practice should be taken to avoid creating and breathing airborne asbestos particles from materials known or suspected to contain asbestos. See [2.2](#) for regulatory requirements addressing asbestos.

1.7 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to inch-pound units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.8 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.9 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D7521](#) Test Method for Determination of Asbestos in Soil

[D7886](#) Practice for Asbestos Exposure Assessments for Repetitive Maintenance and Installation Tasks

[E631](#) Terminology of Building Constructions

[E1368](#) Practice for Visual Inspection of Asbestos Abatement Projects

[E1494](#) Practice for Testing Physical Properties of Friable Surfacing Materials

[E2394](#) Practice for Maintenance, Renovation, and Repair of Installed Asbestos Cement Products

[MNL-23](#) Manual on Asbestos Control: Surveys, Assessment, Abatement, and Management – Third Edition, 2015

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at www.astm.org/contact. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

2.2 Other Documents:

- 29 CFR 1910.134 Respiratory Protection Standard³
- 29 CFR 1910.146 Permit-Required Confined Spaces³
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart AA Confined Spaces in Construction³
- 29 CFR 1926.1101 Occupational Exposure to Asbestos (OSHA Construction Standard)³
- 40 CFR Part 61 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Subpart M—Asbestos³
- 40 CFR Part 763, Appendix E to Subpart E Interim Method of the Determination of Asbestos in Bulk Insulation Samples (Section 1, Section 2 only as applicable), 1987⁴
- 40 CFR Part 763, Subpart E Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools (EPA AHERA Regulations)⁴
- 40 CFR Part 763, Subpart E, Appendix C (EPA Model Accreditation Plan)⁴
- EPA 560/5-85-030A Asbestos in Buildings: Simplified Sampling Scheme for Surfacing Materials (“Pink Book”), 1985⁴
- EPA 600/R-04/004 Research Method for Sampling and Analysis of Fibrous Amphibole in Vermiculite Attic Insulation, January 2004⁴
- EPA 600/R-93/116 Method for the Determination of Asbestos in Bulk Building Materials, June 1993⁴
- 2.3 ISO Standards:⁵
- ISO/IEC 17025 Testing and calibration laboratories
- ISO 22262 Air quality – Bulk materials

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of building terms, see Terminology E631.

3.2 *Terms Defined in Practice*—The user is referred to Practice E1368 for terms specifically related to asbestos abatement for purposes of a project design survey.

3.2.1 *asbestos-containing materials, n*—material containing more than 1 % asbestos.

3.2.2 *miscellaneous materials, n*—material, other than surfacing material and thermal system insulation, on interior and exterior structural, mechanical, electrical, or architectural components, and surfaces.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—Miscellaneous material includes but is not limited to ceiling tiles, gaskets, floor coverings and mastics, wallboard joint compound, roofing materials, and cementitious products.

3.2.3 *surfacing material, n*—material that is sprayed, troweled-on, or otherwise applied to interior and exterior structural and architectural surfaces.

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—Surfacing material includes acoustical plaster on ceilings, fireproofing on structural members, tex-

tured paint and exterior stucco, and other materials applied to surfaces for acoustical, decorative, fireproofing, and other purposes.

3.2.4 *thermal system insulation, n*—material which is applied to interior and exterior mechanical components to reduce heat gain or loss.

3.2.4.1 *Discussion*—Thermal system insulation includes insulation on pipes, fittings, boilers, breeching, tanks, ducts, and other mechanical components.

3.2.5 *crawl space, n*—an accessible area that may have a dirt floor, usually with low head room.

3.2.6 *dust and debris, n*—visible particles, fragments, or chunks of material, large enough to have settled in the work area by virtue of their weight, that are presumed to have originated from the material abated by the response action, or from a fiber release episode.

3.2.7 *fiber release episode, n*—uncontrolled or unintentional disturbance of asbestos-containing materials which results in the generation of dust and debris.

3.2.8 *friable material, n*—material easily crumbled or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry.

3.2.9 *high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, n*—the final stage filter on a negative pressure ventilation device (see 3.2.19 in Practice E1368) or on a vacuum cleaner, capable of trapping and retaining at least 99.97 % of all mono-dispersed particles of 0.3 µm in diameter.

3.2.10 *response action, n*—a method of abatement (such as removal, encapsulation, or enclosure) or operations and maintenance (such as repair, clean-up, or preventive measures) of asbestos-containing material in any form, for any purpose whatsoever.

3.2.11 *visual inspection process, n*—the activities before, during, and at the conclusion of a response action that are associated with detecting the presence of visible residue, dust and debris, or unremoved material and verifying the absence thereof at the completion of a response action.

3.3 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.3.1 *accessible location, n*—a functional space or part thereof that can be inspected without requiring destructive testing or presenting an unacceptable health or safety risk to the inspector, and where entry is not prohibited by security or other institutional restrictions.

3.3.2 *building asbestos survey, n*—an activity to determine the presence, location, condition, and quantity of asbestos-containing materials in a building or facility, or on the property containing the building or facility.

3.3.3 *bulk sample, n*—a sample of suspect asbestos-containing material collected for identification of asbestos and determination of the percent of the components in the sample.

3.3.4 *concealed space, n*—a location requiring destructive testing for penetration of a building or component surface for inspection and, if necessary, sampling of suspect material.

3.3.4.1 *Discussion*—Concealed spaces include, but are not limited to, cavities inside soffits, walls and chases, plenums

³ Available from Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210, <http://www.osha.gov>.

⁴ Available from United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), William Jefferson Clinton Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, <http://www.epa.gov>.

⁵ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO Central Secretariat, BIBC II, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.org>.