



Asbestos exposure

Making a workers' compensation notification claim

This document is issued for general guidance only. It does not constitute professional advice. The issues with which it deals are complex and the document necessarily deals only with general principles. No reader should rely on this document for the purpose of making a decision as to action but should seek the appropriate advice from the Union on the particular circumstances of that reader. The Union accepts no responsibility for the consequences should any person act in reliance on this document without obtaining the appropriate advice from the Union.

It is vitally important that if you know or believe that you have been exposed to asbestos in the workplace, you make a notification claim to WorkCover immediately.

A notification claim means you are notifying WorkCover of potential exposure. You do not need to have an injury (in this instance an asbestos related disease) at the time of the notification claim. The notification claim makes WorkCover aware of the details of the potential exposure, which can then be noted on file. No investigation will take place at this time.

In the unfortunate event that you contract an asbestos related disease in the future, provided that WorkCover has confirmed the existence of asbestos in the workplaces detailed in the notification claim, the claim should be immediately accepted upon confirmatory medical evidence. Put simply, the notification claim process ensures that if you fall ill from asbestos exposure, you are not made to wait weeks or months while WorkCover investigates and confirms asbestos exposure at work, which may have occurred a considerable period of time ago.

The following process should be undertaken for notification claims

1. complete a WorkCover claim form
2. mark the top of the claim form "ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION" in black marker
3. on the front of the claim form, clearly write "Notification Claim"
4. write a statement outlining the following information:

(a) Employment history:

- (i) Who have you been employed by during your lifetime and for what length of time were you employed with each of these employers?

- (ii) What was the nature of your duties with each of these employers?
- (iii) What was the extent of your exposure to asbestos, if any, with each of these employers (please indicate if no exposure occurred with any employer)?
- (iv) Do you recall any specific manufacturer or brand of asbestos used in your employment, and if so, what causes you to recall this specifically? Where you are able to recall more than one brand used, please indicate an approximate percentage of use with each brand.
- (v) What was the nature of your duties in relation to working with asbestos?
- (vi) Have you ever been in the armed services, and if so, please indicate duties and placements undertaken?
- (vii) Have you kept independent records of your employment history. The best records are group certificates or payment summaries and personal tax returns?

(b) Residential history

Detail a complete list of houses in which you have lived. You must indicate whether you have ever worked with, or were exposed to asbestos in your home environment. Please indicate whether you have ever worked with or removed asbestos in a non-employment capacity, for example, carrying out private renovations in your own home, or another person's home.

Send the notification claim form to WorkCover. Keep a copy for your own records.

Note: A medical certificate is not needed for the lodgement of the notification claim.

The Union strongly advises that if you believe you have been exposed to asbestos, you should visit your doctor and seek advice about regular check-ups.

Please be aware, however, that WorkCover will not meet these costs.

QTU advice and support

If you require further information about the lodgement of notification claims, please contact the QTU. You can also contact WorkCover Queensland on 1300 362 128 and <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/>