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WORKCOVER NSW TO ISSUE ON THE SPOT FINES FOR SAFETY BREACHES

Members are advised that WorkCover NSW Safety Inspectors now have new powers to issue on the spot fines to any individual or business that engages unlicensed contractors to perform asbestos removal work. These fines range from \$720 for individuals to \$3,600 for businesses.

Members are reminded that there are two classes of asbestos removal licences in NSW. A “Class A” asbestos removal licence enables the licence holder to undertake friable asbestos removal work and a “Class B” licence enables the licence holder to undertake bonded asbestos removal work.

In order to make it easier for businesses commissioning asbestos removal work, WorkCover NSW has published its [database of licensed asbestos removal contractors across NSW](#) on its website.

The Executive Director of WorkCover’s Work Health and Safety Division, Peter Dunphy has been publicly quoted as saying:

“In NSW there are rigorous legal and safety requirements for the management of asbestos.”

“Any business or individual that commissions the removal of asbestos must ensure the work is done by a removalist who is appropriately licensed by WorkCover NSW.”

“We have strengthened asbestos safety laws, giving WorkCover NSW inspectors the power to issue penalty notices which include on the spot fines to individuals and businesses that engage unlicensed asbestos removalists or fail to notify WorkCover of licensed removal work.”

Members are also reminded that the control of asbestos in NSW workplaces are regulated under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011. The Code of Practice “How to Manage and Control Asbestos” in the workplace provides information on control measures that can be used.

Should members have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the Association’s Safety Department Sydney Office on 02 8586 3555 or Newcastle Office on 02 4953 9400.