

AHERA Self Study Guide

How to Manage Asbestos in School Buildings:
The AHERA Designated Person's Self Study Guide

Introduction

To Whom it May Concern:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires local education agencies (LEAs), to designate a person, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) designated person (DP), to be responsible for a number of asbestos-related activities, including the implementation of the plan for managing asbestos-containing building material (ACBM) in the school buildings and compliance with the federal asbestos regulations. EPA staff have observed that the quality of school asbestos programs depends heavily on the dedication and work of the AHERA DP. ***The purpose of this manual is to help the designated person understand his or her responsibilities and comply with the federal asbestos requirements.***

AHERA requires that the DP be ***adequately*** trained to carry out his or her responsibilities. Due to the differing needs of school districts based on the size of the district and the amount and condition of the ACBM, AHERA does not list a specific training course or specific number of hours of training for the DP. Further, AHERA does not require the DP to be accredited. Specifically, the regulations note the training must include the following topics:

- health effects of asbestos;
- detection, identification and assessment of ACBM;
- options for controlling ACBM;
- asbestos management programs; and
- relevant Federal and State regulations concerning asbestos, including AHERA and its implementing regulations and the regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This manual is recommended for all AHERA DPs, whether recently appointed to the position or those who have held the position for some time.

The US Environmental Protection Agency strives to provide accurate, complete, and useful information. The information contained in the manual is the best available information as of December 1995; however, with new regulations, technology, and interpretations, this information is subject to change. It is up to the reader to keep current with the subject matter. Neither the United States government, nor any of their employees makes any warranty, expressed or implied, or assumes any legal liability regarding the use of information provided in this manual. The information is offered for educational purposes only and shall not be construed to create any rights, substantive or procedural, not otherwise available by law.