



# Victoria Government Gazette

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**SPECIAL**

## **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Victorian WorkCover Authority

Occupational Health and Safety (Asbestos)  
Regulations 2003

Notice is given in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the proposed Occupational Health and Safety (Asbestos) Regulations 2003.

The objective of the proposed Regulations is to protect people against the risk of asbestos-related disease resulting from exposure to asbestos.

The proposed Regulations will apply to all occupational situations where a risk to health could arise from exposure to asbestos. The proposed Regulations will contain provisions that implement the national agreement to prohibit the use of all forms of asbestos and complement proposed Commonwealth legislation that will ban import of asbestos. The exposure standard for chrysotile asbestos will be lowered and a regulatory framework will be provided for the control of occupational exposure to asbestos that provides clarity of employer, occupier and employee responsibilities and obligations with regard to health and safety.

The benefits and costs of the proposed Regulations are considered in the RIS. Compliance with the proposed Regulations is estimated to cost occupiers and employers between \$484 million and \$713 million in discounted terms over the next 10 years. As a consequence of compliance with the proposed Regulations it is estimated that there will be a reduction in fatal cancers of about 2,270.

The RIS examines two alternatives to the proposed Regulations, namely (i) removal of all asbestos-containing materials; and (ii) licensing of all employers who undertake asbestos removal as well as those involved in the maintenance and replacement of asbestos-containing automotive parts. The RIS concludes that alternative (i) would impose significant additional costs that could not be justified by the additional benefits, while alternative (ii) would add costs of between \$16.6 and \$33.1 million for limited benefits.

Public comment is invited on the RIS and draft Regulations. Copies may be obtained by contacting WorkCover publications [tel: (03) 9641 1333; fax: (03) 9641 1330; email: [publications@workcover.vic.gov.au](mailto:publications@workcover.vic.gov.au)] or may be downloaded from the Victorian WorkCover Authority's website at:

[www.workcover.vic.gov.au](http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au)

Written submissions should be directed to the following address by no later than close of business 25 November 2002. All submissions received will be treated as public documents.

Chairperson, Asbestos Regulatory Policy Group, Legislation Branch, Strategy and Programs Division, WorkSafe Victoria, GPO Box 4306, Melbourne, Vic. 3001.

Submissions may also be forwarded in electronic form (either as a Microsoft Word 97 document or in Rich Text Format) to the following email address by the same date: [asbestos\\_review@workcover.vic.gov.au](mailto:asbestos_review@workcover.vic.gov.au)

Any enquiries about the draft Regulations should be directed to Mr Garry Radley [tel: (03) 9641 1303] or Ms Anita Aiezza [tel: (03) 9641 1745] while enquiries on the RIS should be directed to Dr Linda Timothy [tel: (03) 9641 1373].

**BOB CAMERON**  
Minister for WorkCover

**Gazette Services**

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