



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 19 1994

Robbie Church, Administrator  
Occupational Safety and Environmental Health  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
320 First Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20534

OFFICE OF  
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Dear Mr. Church:

Your recent memorandum to Ms. Susan Hazen regarding the revised Asbestos Model Accreditation Plan (MAP) has been referred to this office for reply. In your memo, you had requested clarification on two points; (1) whether persons collecting asbestos bulk samples on an infrequent or occasional basis were subject to MAP inspector accreditation requirements, and (2) whether accredited workers and/or contractor/supervisors could perform this function without obtaining separate inspector accreditation.

The MAP requires that all persons who inspect for asbestos-containing material in schools or public and commercial buildings must be accredited (Unit I.B.3). The regulation defines inspection in Unit I.A.3 to mean "...an activity undertaken in a school building, or a public and commercial building, to determine the presence or location, or to assess the condition of, friable or non-friable asbestos-containing building material (ACBM) or suspected ACBM, whether by visual or physical examination, or by collecting samples of such material." On this basis, the MAP requires persons to be accredited to collect bulk samples where the purpose of the sampling is to determine the presence or location, or to assess the condition of ACBM. The frequency of sample collection is not a factor in determining the applicability of this requirement.

Accredited workers and contractor/supervisors are not accredited to perform inspections. Each of these "disciplines" is distinguished separately in the MAP (Unit I.B.) as having a fundamentally different job function and role. This is reflected in the fact that each discipline has a different prescribed training curriculum, which in the case of workers and contractor/supervisors, does not include training in bulk sample collection. Consequently, your workers and contractor/supervisors are not accredited to collect bulk samples of suspect material for purposes of determining asbestos content or condition.



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We recommend that you review how you are currently utilizing your accredited workers and contractor/supervisors to determine how many of them will require inspector training and accreditation. The options available to you include, but are not limited to; (1) using contractor personnel to perform sampling activities, (2) designating a limited number of your employees to perform this function and obtaining the required inspector training for these employees only, and (3) seeking state approval of your own in-house training program for the accreditation of your employees as needed.

Thank you for writing to us and for seeking clarification of these issues. If we might be of further assistance, please contact Phil King, of my staff, at (202) 260-9563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Vlier Moos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Linda Vlier Moos, Deputy Director  
Chemical Management Division (7404)  
Office of Pollution Prevention  
and Toxics

cc: Diane Sheridan  
Paul Matthai  
Phil King