

<b>TOPIC:</b>	<b>ASBESTOS ON BOARD SHIPS</b>	<b>REF. NO.</b>	<b>02/09</b>
<b>VESSEL CATEGORY:</b>	<b>ALL VESSELS</b>	<b>AREA:</b>	<b>AUSTRALASIA &amp; PACIFIC</b>

We would like to advise Members that the Australian Maritime Safety Authority has announced, through Marine Notice 19/2008, that they have become aware of cases where asbestos treated panels, lagging, fire suits, helmets, gloves and aprons have been found on board vessels.

Recent events have highlighted some instances where ships, imported into Australia from neighbouring countries, have been issued with certificates stating that they are asbestos-free but due to small amounts of asbestos still being used in products in these countries, they are considered as illegal imports under Australian law.

Under the Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) Act 1993 and the associated Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry/National Standards) Regulations 2003, it has been illegal to use any products containing asbestos in maritime workplaces since 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003. An exception has been made in the regulations for 'in situ' asbestos. This is asbestos fixed or installed in a ship, (or any other structure that forms a workplace, a plant or any other item that is for use at a maritime workplace), before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003 in such a way that it will not constitute a risk to users until the asbestos is disturbed.

In situ asbestos on ships must be managed using a management plan to assess, control and mitigate any risk from asbestos as described in Part 2 of the Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry/National Standards) Regulations 2003.

Removal of the asbestos is mandatory if it is to be disturbed for maintenance work etc. This must be done by an asbestos removal company recognised by the relevant state WorkSafe/WorkCover Authority.

In addition to the occupational health and safety bans on asbestos, the Australian Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 prohibit the import of asbestos.

Therefore, operators/owners need to diligently check for the presence of asbestos in ships and products prior to importation into Australia.

Further information relating to Asbestos regulations is available from:

Seacare Authority: [www.seacare.gov.au](http://www.seacare.gov.au)

Australian Maritime Safety Authority: [www.amsa.gov.au](http://www.amsa.gov.au)

Australian Customs Service: [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au)

Australian Safety and Compensation Council: [www.ascc.gov.au](http://www.ascc.gov.au)

Source of information: Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) Marine Notice No.19/2008 - [http://www.amsa.gov.au/Shipping\\_Safety/Marine\\_Notices/2008/1908.pdf](http://www.amsa.gov.au/Shipping_Safety/Marine_Notices/2008/1908.pdf).