

# Safety Advice

Sharing information to improve safety

## Target audience

All Sydney Trains' workers, including contractors, who may need to work within or adjacent to troughing containing asbestos within the ESR.

## Purpose

The purpose of this Safety Advice is to provide an update on the requirements to work within the ESR and specifically in relation to the cable troughing.

## The Issue

1. A [Safety Alert](#) was released in January 2023, indicating cable troughing in the ESR tunnels is asbestos containing material (ACM), no airborne asbestos was detected adjacent to the troughing at this time.
2. Further testing has since been conducted on various tasks within the ESR with surfaces samples on and within cable troughing and underneath a sleeper coming back positive to asbestos.
3. Airborne monitoring within the ESR tunnels and has not identified any airborne asbestos to date during this testing.
4. ESR asbestos awareness pack developed and briefed to all Engineering and Maintenance people required to work *Weekend 05* in the ESR for various task-based risk factors given the volume of planned works.
5. Given the nature of dust generating and high airflow activities external hygienists have been engaged to risk assess specific tasks to determine the appropriate controls, which includes ongoing air-monitoring and surface sampling.
6. Suitable decontamination methodologies have been employed for used Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) and will be required to continue as advised by an Occupational Hygienist.

## What you must do

The following controls are required to be implemented unless already risk assessed under a Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or Safe Work Instruction (SWI) for the listed risk factors:

### Risk Factor – Dust Generating Activities

- Work disturbing dust and high airflow activities i.e. fast rolling stock movements, fans, dust removal activities until further assessments are completed.
- RPE and PPE to be worn as determined by a SWMS or SWI.

### Risk Factor - Direct Contact with the Troughing

- No touching, leaning, or storing tools or equipment on the troughing.
- No work directly on the troughing to occur, a Licenced Asbestos Removal Contractor (LARC) and Hygienist must be engaged to make safe prior to any work being started.

### Risk Factor – Working near the Troughing

- Working above the troughing will require RPE and PPE to be worn.
- Walking on the tracks or working in the proximity of undamaged troughing requires awareness of the hazard however no specific RPE is required unless otherwise stated in a task specific SMWS or SWI or advised by an Occupational Hygienist.

Please refer to [SMS-06-OP-3034 Manage Risks with Hazardous Materials](#) and [SMS-06-OP-3045 Manage Asbestos Works](#) for further information and contact your SEQR Representative or Line Manager if you have any questions.



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