

APPENDIX 2: CHECKLIST FOR CONTAMINATION ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

THIS CHECKLIST SUMMARISES KEY SECTIONS OF THE INDUSTRY STANDARD ON CONTAMINATED CONSTRUCTION SITES.

<p>1. Is contamination present at the site?</p>	<p>Contamination is likely to be present on sites that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • were previously used for industrial purposes • have a site history indicating there may be contamination • have physical signs of contamination • contain fill material from former industrial sites • have other indicators of contamination e.g. substances released from buildings.
<p>2. Has a site assessment been done?</p>	<p>A site assessment is necessary when contamination is known or likely to be present. It involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • checking the site's history • taking soil samples to identify contaminants and their concentrations. <p>Site assessments should be undertaken by a competent person. Specialist advice will be required in most cases to assist with taking soil samples.</p> <p>NOTE: a <i>statutory environmental audit</i> may be required by local councils/EPA or other bodies, on potentially contaminated sites. An audit provides information on any risk to the health of workers on the site.</p>
<p>3. Is a risk assessment required?</p>	<p>A risk assessment is necessary when a site assessment indicates that contaminants are present that may be a risk to the health of workers on the site.</p>
<p>4. Was the risk assessment adequate?</p>	<p>Conduct a risk assessment to determine any risk to health according to principles in the <i>National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM)</i>* and consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • type of contaminant present • working conditions • tasks to be carried out • routes of exposure • level of exposure e.g. duration. <p>Each site is different and needs an individual assessment.</p> <p>Specialist advice is usually required to conduct a risk assessment.</p>
<p>5. Have relevant "acceptance criteria" been used in assessing the risk from contaminants?</p>	<p>Develop "acceptance criteria" for contaminants in soil based on the specific situation and activities at the site. Consult the NEPM Health-Based Investigation Levels (HILs)* for initial guidance on the levels of particular contaminants that may be acceptable or where further investigation is required to determine if there is a risk to the health of workers on the site.</p> <p>For contaminants that do not have HILs set e.g. volatile compounds, develop other "acceptance criteria" with specialist advice.</p>
<p>6. Have the appropriate control measures been chosen to protect workers from exposure?</p>	<p>If the risk cannot be <i>eliminated</i> by removing contaminated soil from the site, reduce the risk as far as reasonably practicable. Control measures in order of effectiveness are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>isolation</i> • <i>engineering controls</i> • <i>administrative controls</i> • <i>personal protective equipment and clothing (PPE).</i> <p>A combination of measures may be the most effective.</p> <p>See Part 4 of the Industry Standard for more information.</p>

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7. Has a health and safety plan been developed to include protection of workers from exposure to contaminants?	Where a risk assessment indicates that contamination levels pose a risk to workers' health, develop a safety plan and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information from assessments on the risks to health • all relevant steps and processes to protect workers.
8. Is there a procedure in place to deal with "unexpected" contamination?	Ensure workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • know how to detect signs of further "unexpected" contamination • know to stop work immediately and report the discovery.
9. Have workers been consulted on the site assessment, risk assessment and on a plan to protect them against exposure?	Employers must consult with affected workers and any health and safety representatives.
10. Are workers appropriately trained and supervised, and new employees inducted?	Every worker must be trained in their tasks and the control measures required, and supervised by a person with appropriate knowledge and experience.

For further information:

- Refer to the *Industry Standard for Contaminated Construction Sites*. The standard and other WorkSafe publications can be ordered from WorkCover Publications on: 9641 1333 or 1800 136 089 or picked up from your local WorkSafe office.
- Visit WorkSafe's website: www.worksafe.vic.gov.au for OHS information, solutions and guidance material.
- Call the WorkCover Advisory Service on 9641 1444 or toll-free on 1800 136 089
- National Environment Protection Measure, NEPM (Assessment of Site Contamination) 1999 - *Schedules B(4) *Guideline on Health Risk Assessment Methodology*, B(9) *Guideline on Protection of Health and the Environment during the Assessment of Site Contamination*, B7 *Health Investigation Levels*. Website www.ephc.gov.au
- For information about contamination found on site, or about environmental management on construction sites, visit the EPA Victoria website: www.epa.vic.gov.au or contact the nearest EPA regional office.
- For information about the environmental audit system, contact EPA Land and Groundwater Unit, tel. (03) 9695 2519.