



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

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

OCT 27 1997

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Supervisors "Stepping Down" to Workers Under the
Asbestos Model Accreditation Plan

FROM: Tony Baney, Chief 
Fibers and Organics Branch
National Program Chemicals Division

TO: Regional Asbestos Coordinators

This memorandum is intended to clear up lingering confusion over whether the Asbestos Model Accreditation Plan (MAP) permits accredited Contractor/Supervisors to exchange that accreditation for Worker accreditation without further training.

In order to become MAP-accredited in any discipline, a person must attend an approved training course for that specific discipline and pass a final examination. The fourth paragraph of Section I.B. of the MAP, Appendix C to Subpart E of 40 C.F.R. Part 763, states that "each accredited discipline and training curriculum is separate and distinct from the others." However, the first sentence of Section I.B.1. establishes an exception to that requirement by permitting accredited contractor/supervisors to "perform in the role of a worker without possessing separate accreditation as a worker." This exception would not have been established had EPA not believed that accredited contractor/supervisors are at least as competent in the worker role as accredited workers. Therefore, if a state wishes, for whatever reason, to permit its accredited contractor/supervisors to relinquish their certificates in favor of accreditation

certificates identifying them as workers, EPA has no basis upon which to object.

The next issue involves refresher training requirements for a person who "steps down" from contractor/supervisor to worker. If such a person takes contractor/supervisor refresher courses on an annual basis, then, as far as EPA is concerned, that person may perform in both the contractor/supervisor and worker roles. If, however, such a person chooses to take a worker refresher course, then that person may continue to act in the role of an accredited worker, but loses his or her ability to perform contractor/supervisor duties in the future. In order to regain contractor/supervisor accreditation, such a person must take an initial contractor/supervisor course.

If you have any questions concerning this interpretation of the MAP, please contact Cindy Fournier of my staff at (202) 260-1537.

cc: Aron Golberg, OGC
Padmini Singh, OGC
James Handley, OECA
Tom Ripp, OECA
Rebecca Woods, OECA



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Judy Jarrell, M.A., Ed.D., Director
ERC Continuing Education
University of Cincinnati Medical Center
3223 Eden Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45267-0056

Dear Dr. Jarrell:

I am writing in reply to your letter of October 5 in which you requested confirmation of an interpretation of the asbestos MAP rule which we had discussed earlier with Marty King. The issue has also subsequently been raised to both of us by Mr. William Birmingham, representing an approved labor training group in Pittsburgh.

The central issue was whether personnel could be certified as asbestos workers if they completed training for asbestos contractor/supervisors. We agree with your current understanding that if a person completes initial training for accreditation as a contractor/supervisor, that person does not qualify for accreditation as a worker. This is based on the following MAP provisions;

- 1) each accredited discipline and training curriculum is separate and distinct from the others (Unit I.B.),
- 2) a person who is otherwise accredited as a contractor/supervisor may perform in the role of a worker without possessing separate accreditation as a worker (Unit I.B.), and
- 3) refresher training courses must be specific to each discipline (Unit I.D.).

These provisions are intended to preclude a person from receiving training in one accredited discipline for the purpose of obtaining accreditation in a different discipline. What this refers to, however, is accreditation.

It is important to note that in certain states, the term certified may have a somewhat different meaning, and refer to licensure rather than accreditation. "Certification" per se, is not a term that is specifically defined in the context of the asbestos model "accreditation" plan. Consequently, where a person



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FROM: REBECCA NICHOLSON

ORGANIZATION: ARTD/RALI - Region 7

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MESSAGE: I'm sending you this because I believe it should be raised at the next RAL conf call (or maybe MAP). After reading it, I'm assuming that Illinois doesn't have regulations -- they're enforcing our MAP.

Illinois Department of
**Public
Health**

Jim Edgar, Governor • John R. Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., Director

525-535 West Jefferson Street • Springfield, Illinois 62761-0001

December 4, 1997

ASBESTOS WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1
3325 HOLLENBERG DRIVE
ST. LOUIS MO 63044

Dear Training Course Provider:

The Asbestos Model Accreditation Plan (MAP) requires the individual to attend an approved training course for a specific discipline and pass an exam. In Illinois, we will not allow an individual who has taken an initial contractor/supervisor course to take a worker refresher in order to become licensed as a worker. The individual must take the same discipline of refresher course as the initial course.

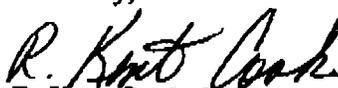
The state of Missouri allows an individual to "step down" from an initial contractor/supervisor course to complete a worker refresher course and then be licensed only as a worker.

If you are a training course provider for both Illinois and Missouri, please make this very clear to your students that Illinois will not allow the individual to "step down" from an initial contractor/supervisor to take a worker refresher course. If we find that Illinois approved training courses are allowing individuals to take the incorrect training course, we will recommend that action be taken by our legal staff to have your training course removed from the list of approved Illinois training course providers.

The MAP also requires the training course providers or States to maintain records that document the names of the persons who have been awarded certificates, their certificate numbers, the disciplines for which accreditation was conferred, training and expiration dates, and the training location. The training provider or State shall maintain the records in a manner that allows verification by telephone of the required information. Please make sure that all of the above information is listed on the training course certificate that is given to each individual that attends your course.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at the Illinois Department of Public Health, Asbestos Program, 525 West Jefferson St., Springfield, IL 62761 or telephone (217)782-3517, for the hearing impaired only, TTY (800)547-0466.

Sincerely,


R. Kent Cook, Manager
Asbestos Program

cc: U.S. EPA Region 5
U.S. EPA Region 7