

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrew F. Oberta, MPH, CIH-The Environmental Consultancy

Andy Oberta is an asbestos guru and a former rocket scientist who holds the unique combination of Aeronautical Engineering and Master of Public Health degrees. His career segued from designing rocket propulsion systems to contamination control for interplanetary spacecraft to air pollution to asbestos control, in which he has specialized for nearly 25 years.

He is certified in Comprehensive Practice by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene and is licensed as an asbestos consultant in Texas. He is internationally recognized for his work in the asbestos control field, having consulted and lectured in Germany, Greece, Brazil, Israel, Japan and Canada as well as in the United States. His clients include major commercial and industrial firms as well as government agencies. This Manual draws extensively on his experiences, including many projects and research activities that he has performed and managed, as well as litigation support related to the management of asbestos-containing materials. Consequently, it offers not only technical advice on using ASTM asbestos standards, but also the wit and wisdom that his experiences bring to the subject.

Soon after entering the asbestos control field, Andy joined the National Asbestos Council as a charter member, holding numerous offices and eventually serving as president of the Environmental Information Association, as the organization later became known. He joined ASTM in 1986 as Chairman of Task Group E06.24.03 on Asbestos Management, a position he continues to hold. Under his leadership, this Task Group developed three of the standards that are discussed in this Manual. The development of E 2394 Standard Practice for Maintenance, Renovation and Repair of Installed Asbestos Cement Products illustrates his commitment to protecting people in countries throughout the world from the effects of asbestos fibers.

He has served on advisory groups including the Global Environment & Technology Foundation panel that developed the Asbestos Strategies document to guide EPA in formulating asbestos policies and an EPA expert panel on sampling and analysis of vermiculite attic insulation. He has provided technical support to the Federal government on the development of a computerized asbestos management program based on the Customized Compliance Program for Asbestos, a commercial product of Environment-i-media, Inc. (www.environment-i-media.com).

Andy has always considered sharing knowledge with others to be one of his professional responsibilities, and for many years he has conducted asbestos training courses nationwide. As part of this commitment, he served as the lead instructor for the ASTM Standards for Asbestos Control courses for several years. He has made his insights available to a wider audience through the training and information technology products that he produces and distributes through Environment-i-media, Inc.