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# Holistic Approach to Asbestos Control

**THIS MANUAL DISCUSSES THE THREE PRINCIPAL** elements of an asbestos management program: building surveys, abatement projects and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) programs in the context of ASTM standards that cover these activities. Figure 1 shows how they are related and serves as a guide to using this *Manual*.

Because asbestos-containing materials (ACM) can't be managed without knowing where they are, an asbestos management program rests on a foundation of information provided by the Baseline Survey. Chapter 2, therefore, introduces the ASTM E 2356 Standard Practice on Comprehensive Building Asbestos Surveys with a discussion of Baseline Surveys for long-term management in place. Part of the Baseline Survey is an assessment of the ACM to decide whether to remove ACM or leave it in place and continue to manage it. Chapter 3 is devoted to the assessment process and introduces a graphical technique that helps in making this decision.

For situations where the assessment leads to a decision to remove the ACM, we return to Chapter 2 and ASTM E 2356 for a discussion of the Project Design Survey that provides information for designing an abatement project. Because many projects are done for renovation and demolition, Fig. 1 shows these as alternates to assessments as reasons for abatement, which still must be preceded by a Project Design Survey.

Chapter 4 on abatement goes through a project using ASTM E 1368 Standard Practice for Visual Inspection of Asbestos Abatement Projects in a way that maximizes the chances for success of the project. It covers the *visual inspection process* from project design through site preparation, removal and clean up, and air sampling for final clearance. The visual inspections called for in ASTM E 1368 are described in detail.

Chapter 5 goes beyond the basic ceiling scrape that most people envision when they think of asbestos abatement. Still focusing on ASTM E 1368, it covers floor tile removal and a few other techniques used in special circumstances. Two other ASTM standards, Test Method for Cohesion/Adhesion of Sprayed Fire-Resistive Materials Applied to Structural Members (E 736) and Practice for Encapsulants for Spray- or Trowel-Applied Friable Asbestos-Containing Building Materials (E 1494), are introduced in the discussion of encapsulation.

Because it is neither necessary nor possible to remove all of the ACM in a building at once, Chapter 6 helps you learn how to live with it. The first part of this chapter applies the concepts and methods of ASTM E 1368 to an O&M program. The second part is devoted to using Negative Exposure Assessments to gain relief from some of the provisions of the OSHA asbestos standards while still remaining in compliance with them. The last part briefly introduces ASTM

Standard Practice for Maintenance, Renovation and Repair of Installed Asbestos Cement Products (E 2394), published just before this *Manual* went to press.

Chapter 7 (not shown in Fig. 1) covers some issues on respiratory protection and safety because they affect building surveys, abatement projects and O&M work. Throughout the chapters, the information follows the sequence of activities that are discussed in the ASTM standards while sidebars cover issues related to these activities.

This *Manual* is quite thorough in its treatment of the subject matter, but it is not a complete discussion of the hazards of asbestos and means of controlling them. It is not a text for "Asbestos 101" nor does it attempt to take the place of training manuals for asbestos courses required for accreditation and licensing. Some topics ordinarily found in such manuals are not covered at all—health effects, for example, as the reader is presumed to be aware of the well-known hazards of breathing asbestos fibers. Other topics, such as laboratory techniques, respiratory protection, engineering controls and safety are discussed in the appropriate context, but without discussion of fundamentals that might be covered in training courses.

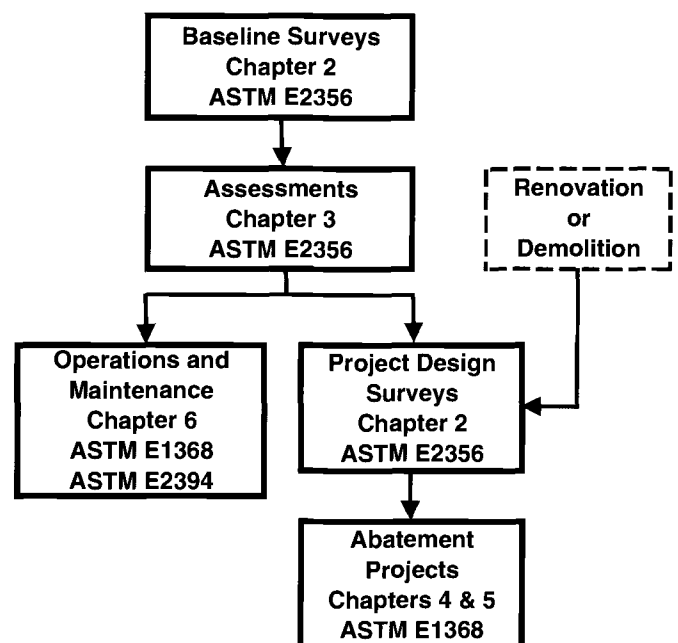


Fig. 1—Asbestos management activities and ASTM standards as covered in this *Manual*.