

Asbestos Exposure

Making a Workers' Compensation Notification Claim

IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT ANY MEMBER WHO KNOWS OR BELIEVES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS IN THE WORKPLACE MAKE A NOTIFICATION CLAIM TO WORKCOVER IMMEDIATELY.

A notification claim means that the worker is notifying WorkCover of potential exposure. The worker does not need to have an injury (in this instance an asbestos related disease) at the time of the notification claim. A notification claim allows WorkCover to investigate the details of the potential exposure and to note such details on file.

In the unfortunate event the worker contracts an asbestos related disease in the future, provided that WorkCover has confirmed the existence of asbestos in the workplaces detailed in the notification claim, the claim should be immediately accepted upon confirmatory medical evidence. Simply, the notification claim process ensures that if a worker falls ill from asbestos exposure, they are not made to wait weeks or months for WorkCover to investigate and confirm asbestos exposure at work, which may have occurred a considerable period of time ago.

THE FOLLOWING PROCESS SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN FOR NOTIFICATION CLAIMS:

Note: A medical certificate is not needed for the lodgement of the notification claim

1. Complete a Workers' Compensation claim form and;
2. Mark the top of the Application form in black marker "**ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION**"; and
3. On the front of the claim form clearly write "Notification Claim"; and
4. Write a statement indicating the following information:

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

- Who have you been employed by during your lifetime and for what length of time were you employed with each of those employers?
- What was the nature of your duties with each of these employers?
- What was the extent of your exposure to asbestos, if any, with each of these employers (please indicate if no exposure occurred with any employer)?
- Do you recall any specific manufacturer or brand of asbestos used in your employment, and if so, what causes you to recall this specifically?

Where are you able to recall more than one brand used, please indicate an approximate percentage of use with each brand.

- What was the nature of your duties in relation to working with asbestos?
- Have you even been in the armed services, and if so, please indicate duties and placements undertaken?
- Keep independent records of your employment history. The best records are group certificates or payment summaries and personal tax returns.

RESIDENTIAL HISTORY

- Please detail a complete list of houses in which you have lived. You must indicate whether you have ever worked with, or were exposed to asbestos in your home environment.
 - Please indicate whether you have ever worked with or removed asbestos in a non-employment capacity, for example carrying out private renovations in your own, or another person's home.
5. Send the notification claim form to WorkCover.
 6. Keep a copy for your own records.

If you require further information about the lodgement of notification claims, please contact CFMEU on (07) 3231 4600

THE UNION STRONGLY ADVISES ANY MEMBER WHO BELIEVES THEY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS, TO VISIT THEIR DOCTOR AND SEEK ADVICE ABOUT REGULAR CHECK-UPS.