



# U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Applicability Determination Index

---

**Control Number: A000003**

**Category:** Asbestos  
**EPA Office:** Region 9  
**Date:** 04/15/1991  
**Title:** Asbesto NESHAP  
**Recipient:** Rueckert, David  
**Author:** Trotter, Robert

---

**Subparts:** Part 61, M, Asbestos

---

## **Abstract:**

Q: Does the exemption allowing Category I materials to be demolished in place extend to friable roofing felt layers located beneath or between nonfriable asphaltic roofing layers? A: No. If a material is friable there is no allowance under the NESHAP for that material to be demolished in place. Only asphalt based (bituminous) roofing may be demolished in place.

Q: Does nonfriable mastic from flooring material, carpet, covebase, or ceiling tile fall under the Category I non-friable ACMs? A: Yes. The asbestos NESHAP defines Category I material as "asbestos-containing packings, gaskets, resilient floor covering, and asphalt roofing products containing more than 1 percent asbestos". Mastic that is in good condition and non-friable would fall under Category I material.

Q: If nonfriable mastics are Category II nonfriable ACMs, then how are non-exempt flooring mastics to be handled when they occur beneath exempt resilient flooring? A: Mastics would be Category I material and could be demolished in place if in good condition prior to the demolition. Any friable material must be removed prior to a demolition unless it is "on a facility component that is encased in concrete or other similarly hard material and is adequately wet whenever exposed during demolition".

Q: Are renovation and demolition projects involving facilities with no known ACMs or with exempt Category I nonfriable ACM's required to comply with Notification requirements? A: The asbestos NESHAP does not require notification of renovation activities where asbestos materials are not being disturbed. If Category I materials are kept in a non-friable condition

during removal, transport, and disposal, notification of renovation is not required.

Q: Does the use of standard demolition procedures and equipment (i.e., wrecking ball and crane, bulldozer wrecking, heavy equipment loading or material handling...) constitute sanding, grinding, cutting, or abrading? A: The NESHAP specifically allows such standard demolition procedures for Category I material. RACM need not be removed before demolition if it is Category I nonfriable ACM that is not in poor condition and is on a facility component that is encased in concrete or similarly hard material and is adequately wet whenever exposed during demolition.

---

**Letter:**

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, Ca. 94105

April 15, 1991

David K. Rueckert  
Industrial Hygiene Project Manager  
Environmental Engineering Services  
Western Technologies Inc.  
3737 E. Broadway Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Dear Mr. Rueckert:

Thank you for your January 4, 1991 letter requesting a NESHAP Applicability determination on Category I asbestos containing material. Your specific questions on exempted demolitions where category I material is allowed to be demolished in place are addressed as follows:

1. Does the exemption as noted above extend to friable roofing felt layers located beneath or between nonfriable asphaltic roofing layers?

No. If a material is friable there is no allowance under the NESHAP for that material to be demolished in place. Only asphalt based (bituminous) roofing may be demolished in place. If, for example, a roof contained a layer of asphalt roofing and a layer of friable asbestos paper felt containing no asphalt, the paper ACM felt would have to be properly removed prior to demolition.

2. Does nonfriable mastic from flooring material, carpet, covebase, or ceiling tile fall under the Category I non-friable ACMs?

Yes. The NESHAP defines Category I material as "asbestos-containing packings, gaskets, resilient floor covering, and asphalt roofing products containing more than 1 percent asbestos". Mastic that is in good condition and non-friable would fall under Category I material.

3. If nonfriable mastics are Category II nonfriable ACMs, then how are non-exempt flooring mastics to be handled when they occur beneath exempt resilient flooring?

Mastics would be Category I material and could be demolished in place if in good condition prior to the demolition. Any friable material must be removed prior to a demolition. The only exception NESHAP allows for friable asbestos material to be demolished in place is when the material is "on a facility component that is encased in concrete or other similarly hard material and is adequately wet whenever exposed during demolition".

4. Do renovation and demolition projects involving facilities with no known ACMs or with exempt Category I nonfriable ACM's required to comply with Notification requirements?

The NESHAP does not require notification of renovation activities where asbestos materials are not being disturbed. If Category I materials are kept in a non-friable condition during removal, transport, and disposal, notification of renovation is not required. If the material is made friable during any stage of the removal, transport, or disposal, a renovation notification is required. NESHAP Notification is required for any demolition of a NESHAP asbestos facility, regardless as to whether any asbestos containing material is present.

5. Does the use of standard demolition procedures and equipment (ie: wrecking ball and crane, bulldozer wrecking, heavy equipment loading or material handling...) constitute sanding grinding cutting or abrading?

The NESHAP specifically allows such standard demolition procedures for Category I material and states: "RACM need not be removed before demolition if: (i) It is Category I nonfriable ACM that is not in poor condition and is not friable. (ii) It is on a facility component that is encases in concrete or similarly hard material and is adequately wet whenever exposed during demolition". Standard demolition procedures may cause Category II ACM to become crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder. If so, the techniques may not be used or the material should be removed prior to demolition.

If you have any questions on the revised NESHAP regulation, please feel free to contact me at (415) 744-1135.

Sincerely,

Robert Trotter  
Enforcement Officer