



## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Applicability Determination Index

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**Control Number: C111**

**Category:** Asbestos  
**EPA Office:** Region 5  
**Date:** 04/03/1991  
**Title:** Removal of Nonfriable ACM Before Demolition  
**Recipient:** Sloan, Bill  
**Author:** Varner, Bruce A.  
**Comments:** Incorrectly states that only "previously" sanded, ground, sawed, or abraded Cat 1 nonfr. ACM is subj.to the regulation

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

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**References:** 61.141  
61.145(c)

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**Abstract:**

The NESHAP does not require that Category I nonfriable ACM be removed before demolition as long as it is not friable and has not been sanded, ground, sawed, or otherwise abraded, and as long as the facility is not being demolished by intentional burning. Transite must be removed prior to any demolition or renovation that will crumble, pulverize, or reduce it to powder or if the facility will be demolished by intentional burning.

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**Letter:**

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
230 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

APR 03 1991

Bill Sloan, Senior Vice President  
Institute for Environmental Assessment  
Corporate Headquarters  
433 Jackson Street  
Anoka, Minnesota 55303

Re: Removal of Nonfriable ACM  
Before Demolition

Dear Mr. Sloan:

Thank you for your March 11, 1991, letter which asks me to clarify whether Category I nonfriable asbestos-containing material (ACM) must be removed before demolition if it is in good condition and is not cut, sanded, ground or abraded. As you know, the November 20, 1990, revision to the asbestos National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) introduced the term Category I non-friable ACM, which is defined in section 61.141 as "asbestos-containing packings, gaskets, resilient floor covering, and asphalt roofing products containing more than 1 percent asbestos as determined using the method specified in appendix A, subpart F, 40 CFR part 763, section 1, Polarized Light Microscopy." " "

The revised asbestos NESHAP also introduced another term, regulated asbestos-containing material (RACM), which is defined in section 61.141 as including ".....(b) Category I nonfriable ACM that has become friable, (c) Category I non-friable ACM that will be or has been subjected to sanding, grinding, cutting, or abrading,.....". Section 61.141 further states that "cutting" means to penetrate with a sharp-edged instrument and includes sawing, but does not include shearing, slicing or punching". Hence, Category I nonfriable ACM is subject to the asbestos NESHAP if it has become friable, or if it is sanded, ground, sawed, or otherwise abraded, before demolition.

The November 20, 1990, revision specifies one other circumstance where Category I nonfriable ACM must be removed before demolition. When a facility is demolished by intentional burning, Section 61.145(c)(10) states that "....all RACM including Category I and Category II nonfriable ACM must be removed in accordance with the NESHAP before burning."

In summary, the asbestos NESHAP does not require that Category I nonfriable ACM be removed before demolition as long as it is not friable and has not been previously sanded, ground, sawed, or otherwise abraded, and as long as the facility is not being demolished by intentional burning.

Your letter also mentions that a current project also involves the demolition of a facility that contains suspect exterior transite siding. Transite is considered Category II nonfriable ACM under the revised asbestos NESHAP. The definition of RACM in section 61.141 includes "....(d) Category II nonfriable ACM that has a high probability of becoming or has become crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by the forces expected to act on the material in the course of demolition or renovation operations regulated by this subpart [subpart M].". Hence, transite must be removed prior to any demolition or renovation that will crumble or pulverize the material or reduce it to powder. As required in section 61.145(c)(10), it must also be removed in accordance with the NESHAP before a facility is demolished by intentional burning.

If you have any questions on this matter, you may contact me or Jeff Bratko at (312) 886-6793 or 886-6816, respectively.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce A. Varner  
Air Toxics Coordinator  
Air Toxics and Radiation Branch (5AT-26)

cc: Steve Giddings  
Division of Air Quality  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency