

**(b) Duties**

The duties of the Asbestos Ombudsman are—

- (1) to receive complaints, grievances, and requests for information submitted by any person with respect to any aspect of this subchapter,
- (2) to render assistance with respect to the complaints, grievances, and requests received, and
- (3) to make such recommendations to the Administrator as the Ombudsman considers appropriate.

(Pub. L. 94-469, title II, §212, as added Pub. L. 99-519, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2987.)

**§ 2653. EPA study of asbestos-containing material in public buildings**

Within 360 days after October 22, 1986, the Administrator shall conduct and submit to the Congress the results of a study which shall—

- (1) assess the extent to which asbestos-containing materials are present in public and commercial buildings;
- (2) assess the condition of asbestos-containing material in commercial buildings and the likelihood that persons occupying such buildings, including service and maintenance personnel, are, or may be, exposed to asbestos fibers;
- (3) consider and report on whether public and commercial buildings should be subject to the same inspection and response action requirements that apply to school buildings;
- (4) assess whether existing Federal regulations adequately protect the general public, particularly abatement personnel, from exposure to asbestos during renovation and demolition of such buildings; and
- (5) include recommendations that explicitly address whether there is a need to establish standards for, and regulate asbestos exposure in, public and commercial buildings.

(Pub. L. 94-469, title II, §213, as added Pub. L. 99-519, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2987.)

**§ 2654. Transitional rules**

Any regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency under subchapter I which is inconsistent with this subchapter shall not be in effect after October 22, 1986. Any advanced notice of proposed rulemaking, any proposed rule, and any regulation of the Environmental Protection Agency in effect before October 22, 1986, which is consistent with the regulations required under section 2643 of this title shall remain in effect and may be used to meet the requirements of section 2643 of this title, except that any such regulation shall be enforced under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 94-469, title II, §214, as added Pub. L. 99-519, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2988.)

**§ 2655. Worker protection****(a) Prohibition on certain activities**

Until the local educational agency with authority over a school has submitted a management plan (for the school) which the State Governor has not disapproved as of the end of the period for review and revision of the plan under

section 2645 of this title, the local educational agency may not do either of the following in the school:

- (1) Perform, or direct an employee to perform, renovations or removal of building materials, except emergency repairs, in the school, unless—

(A) the school is carrying out work under a grant awarded under section 4014 of title 20; or

(B) an inspection that complies with the requirements of regulations promulgated under section 2643 of this title has been carried out in the school and the agency complies with the following sections of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations:

(i) Paragraphs (g), (h), and (i) of section 763.90 (response actions).

(ii) Appendix D to subpart E of part 763 (transport and disposal of asbestos waste).

- (2) Perform, or direct an employee to perform, operations and maintenance activities in the school, unless the agency complies with the following sections of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations:

(A) Section 763.91 (operations and maintenance), including appendix B to subpart E of part 763.

(B) Paragraph (a)(2) of section 763.92 (training and periodic surveillance).

**(b) Employee training and equipment**

Any school employee who is directed to conduct emergency repairs involving any building material containing asbestos or suspected of containing asbestos, or to conduct operations and maintenance activities, in a school—

- (1) shall be provided the proper training to safely conduct such work in order to prevent potential exposure to asbestos; and

- (2) shall be provided the proper equipment and allowed to follow work practices that are necessary to safely conduct such work in order to prevent potential exposure to asbestos.

**(c) “Emergency repair” defined**

For purposes of this section, the term “emergency repair” means a repair in a school building that was not planned and was in response to a sudden, unexpected event that threatens either—

- (1) the health or safety of building occupants; or
- (2) the structural integrity of the building.

(Pub. L. 94-469, title II, §215, as added Pub. L. 100-368, §4(a), July 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 832.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Pub. L. 100-368, §4(c), July 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 833, provided that: “Section 215 of the Toxic Substances Control Act [this section], as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 12, 1988.”

**§ 2656. Training grants****(a) Grants**

The Administrator is authorized to award grants under this section to nonprofit organizations that demonstrate experience in implementing and operating health and safety asbestos training and education programs for workers who are or will be engaged in asbestos-related