



# Department of Environmental Protection

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## ASBESTOS MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

(Updated March 2016)

Under the Federal United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Phase II SOC/IOC rule, all community (COM) and non-community non-transient (NTNC) public water systems (PWS) are required to monitor for asbestos in the distribution system every 9 years, during the first 3 year monitoring period of each nine year cycle, unless a waiver is granted.

### **1. Source Water Monitoring for Asbestos:**

Based on a demonstration project submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Supply (DEP/DWS) to USEPA, a statewide waiver has been approved for Massachusetts from requiring PWS to sample for asbestos at the source.

### **2. Distribution System Monitoring for Asbestos:**

The results of an asbestos-cement pipe pilot study to support waiver requests for asbestos testing of distribution systems served by asbestos-cement (AC) pipe have proven inconclusive. As a result, PWS that are vulnerable to asbestos contamination due to the presence of asbestos-cement pipe must sample for asbestos at a tap served by asbestos-cement pipe during the first compliance period of each 9-year compliance cycle.

#### **A) If your water system has asbestos-cement pipe or asbestos-cement vinyl lined pipe in the distribution system, your sampling requirements are;**

- For PWS serving a population less than 1,000 people: One Sample
- For PWS serving a population equal to or greater than 1,000 people: Number of samples to be collect will depend on the total miles of AC and/or AC vinyl lined pipes in the distribution system as follows:

# of Asbestos Samples Required	Total # of Miles of AC and/or AC vinyl lined pipe
Less than 1000 persons:	
1 Sample	N/A
Equal or Greater than 1000 persons:	
1 Sample	.01 to 30 miles
2 Samples	30 to 60 miles
3 Samples	> 60 miles

<p><b><u>Sampling site:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System shall collect sample at a tap <u>downstream from the oldest part of the AC pipe and/or AC vinyl pipe</u>, where flow is sufficient to clean the pipe of debris.</li> <li>• The DEP does not recommend that samples be collected after recent pipe tapping or from dead ends or fire hydrants due to the laboratory related difficulties in reading analysis of samples with high sediment levels.</li> <li>• <b>Note: if system is taking more than one sample then the sample locations must be uniformly spaced apart.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Sample Container:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sample container will be unused, pre-cleaned, screw-capped bottle of glass or low density (conventional) <u>polyethylene</u> and capable of holding at least 1 liter.</li> <li>• It is recommended that the use of polypropylene and glass bottles be avoided since problems of particulates being released from the surface of the bottle into water samples have been observed. Glass is also difficult to ship because of possible breakage through dropping or freezing.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Sampling Frequency:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Your system is required to sample for asbestos in the monitoring quarter specified in your standard monitoring framework-sampling schedule.</b></li> </ul>

**B) Public water systems with no asbestos-cement or asbestos-cement vinyl lined pipe in the distribution system:**

- If your system does not have AC or AC vinyl lined pipe in the distribution system and, if you have not done so in the past, then you must complete and return an **Asbestos in Distribution System Exemption Form** in order to be exempt from the distribution system monitoring requirements for asbestos.

**Please note: failure to provide accurate information will result in enforcement action if at some later date the DEP determines that any system is providing inaccurate data or is in violation of the requirements.**

If you have any questions please contact your DEP regional office or the DEP Boston Office at (617) 292-5770 or at [Program.Director-DWP@state.ma.us](mailto:Program.Director-DWP@state.ma.us)

Refer to the following web sites for:

- List of laboratories certified for asbestos testing:  
<http://public.dep.state.ma.us/Labcert/Labcert.aspx> Under the “analyte” pull down menu, scroll down to and select “asbestos”, then click on the “search” tab to obtain a listing of the certified laboratories.
- DEP official Asbestos reporting form:  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/approvals/drinking-water-forms.html#8>
- Asbestos Monitoring Exemption Form:
  - PDF version: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/asbcert.pdf>
  - Microsoft Word version: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/asbcert.doc>