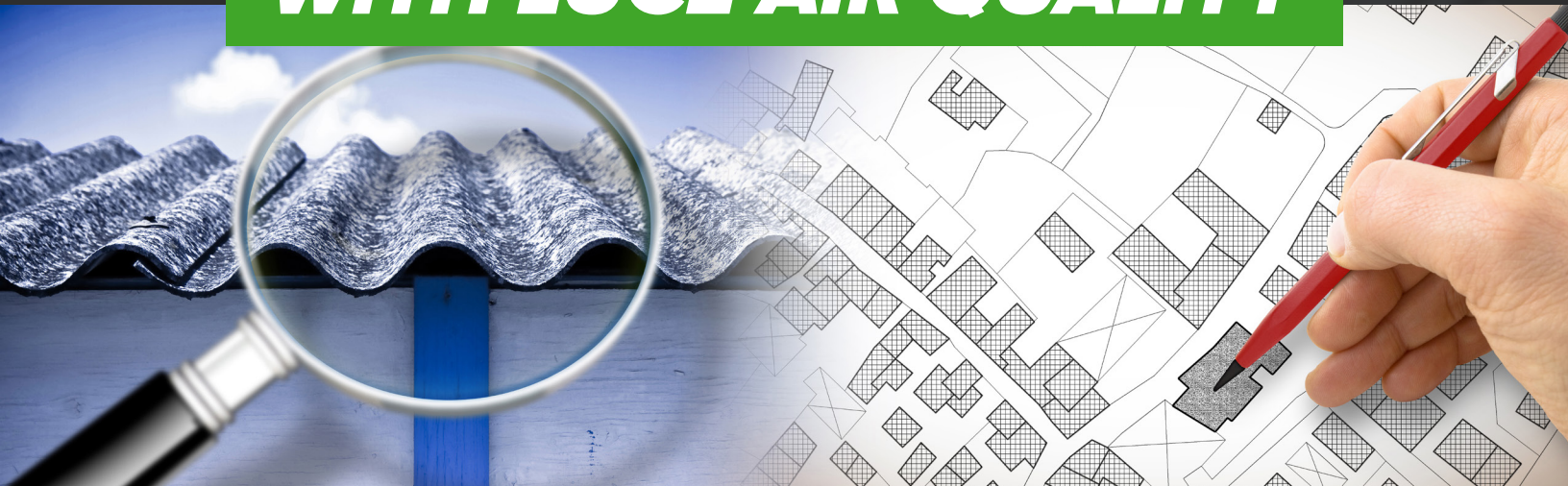




DECODING OSHA'S DIRECTIONS

WITH LUCE AIR QUALITY



***Have You Misinterpreted OSHA's Asbestos
Regulations? We're Here to Help.***



Even long-term professionals who are well-versed in the technical jargon of our industry can misinterpret information or become confused under the right circumstances.

And when there's page after dense page of regulations, every paragraph presents another opportunity to become lost — as is often the case with the asbestos regulations published by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

That's why we decided to reach out to OSHA directly in early August of 2022 in order to find clarification.

And now, we're here to share it with you!

DIRECTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

According to OSHA's asbestos-related code, Presumed Asbestos Containing Material (or PACM for short) is defined as as...

"thermal system insulation and surfacing material found in buildings constructed no later than 1980. The designation of a material as 'PACM' may be rebutted pursuant to paragraph (k)(5) of this section."

Further, Section 1926.1101(k)(1)(i) elaborates upon the communication and compliance efforts that must take place in the event that PACM is present. And not only is it a slow read in terms of its sheer volume, but it again mentions the hazard of materials that were "installed no later than 1980."



READING THE CONFUSION BETWEEN THE LINES

So, what is it about this code that can lead to so much confusion and, by extension, so many mistakes?

Simple, it all hinges on the year 1980.

The wording of the code makes it easy to mistakenly assume that buildings constructed after 1980 are not a concern when it comes to PACM. Consequently, the necessity of asbestos testing can be overlooked and workers may unknowingly disturb and expose ACM.

And if you misinterpreted the code in this manner, don't worry, — you're certainly not the first. In fact, these sections of the regulations have also been misunderstood by other industry professionals! That's why we decided to reach out to OSHA ourselves...

Because it's crucial that the regulations are interpreted correctly by those who deal directly with PACM.

SO, WHAT ARE THE REGULATIONS REALLY SAYING?

When we emailed OSHA for clarification on when and how testing of PACM should occur, the organization referred us to a brief series of previously-asked asbestos questions.

And when we boil down all of the answers, OSHA's code is saying that all materials that may contain asbestos — regardless of the year the building was constructed — requires you do one of the following:

Assume materials contain asbestos

You must treat materials as you would with any other ACM if it were to become damaged or need to be disturbed, removed, or repaired.

Prove materials do *not* contain asbestos

Remember that the only way to prove that a material does not contain asbestos is have it tested by a licensed asbestos business.





HOW DO I SCHEDULE AN ASBESTOS TEST?

If you're in need of a professional asbestos test for PACM on your job site, Luce Air Quality's team of licensed and certified professionals is ready to help!

When you schedule an asbestos survey with our team, we will...

- Inspect and identify existing materials
- Determine the location and condition of existing asbestos
- Provide accurate testing and reports according to state and federal standards
- Verify the efficacy of asbestos removal services post-procedure

In other words, Luce Air Quality can help you — and those around you — breathe a healthy sigh of relief.

Learn More or Schedule an Appointment with Luce Air Quality today!

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To review our email correspondence with OSHA, [click here](#) or go to this link on our website:
<http://luceairquality.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/OSHA-Email-Correspondence.pdf>