

APPENDIX A – SAMPLING PROCESS

A competent person should take the following steps to carry out sampling:

Step 1 – Preparation

- Make sure no one else is in the vicinity when sampling is done.
- Shut down any heating or cooling systems to minimize the spread of any released fibres.
- Turn off any fans if you're inside. If outside, then sample on a non windy day.
- Do not disturb the material any more than is needed to take a small sample.
- Collect the equipment you will need for sampling, including:
 - pliers, resealable plastic bags, disposable coveralls, waterproof sealant, plastic drop sheet, water spray bottle
 - P2 respirator, rubber gloves.

Step 2 – Taking the sample

- Wear disposable gloves.
- Put on respiratory protective equipment (RPE).
- Wear a pair of disposable coveralls.
- Lay down a plastic drop sheet to catch any loose material that may fall off while sampling.
- Wet the material using a fine mist of water containing a few drops of detergent before taking the sample. The water/detergent mist will reduce the release of asbestos fibres.
- Carefully cut a thumb nail piece from the entire depth of the material using the pliers.
- For fibre cement sheeting, take the sample from a corner edge or along an existing hole or crack.
- Place the small piece into the resealable plastic bag.
- Double bag the sample, include the **date and location** and an **asbestos caution warning**.
- Tightly seal the container after the sample is in it.
- Carefully dispose of the plastic sheet.
- Use a damp paper towel or rag to clean up any material on the outside of the container or around the area sampled.
- Dispose of asbestos materials according to state or territory and local procedures.
- Patch the sampled area with the smallest possible piece of duct tape to prevent fibre release.
- Send the sample to a NATA-accredited laboratory or one that is either approved or operated by the relevant regulator.

Step 3 – Cleaning up

- Seal the edges with waterproof sealant where the sample was taken.

- Carefully wrap up the plastic drop sheet with tape and then put this into another plastic rubbish bag.
- Wipe down the tools and equipment with a dampened rag.
- Place disposable gloves and coveralls into a rubbish bag, along with the damp rag and drop sheet.
- Seal plastic bag.
- Wash hands.
- Keep RPE on until clean-up is completed.
- Follow a decontamination procedure (personal washing) upon completion of the task.