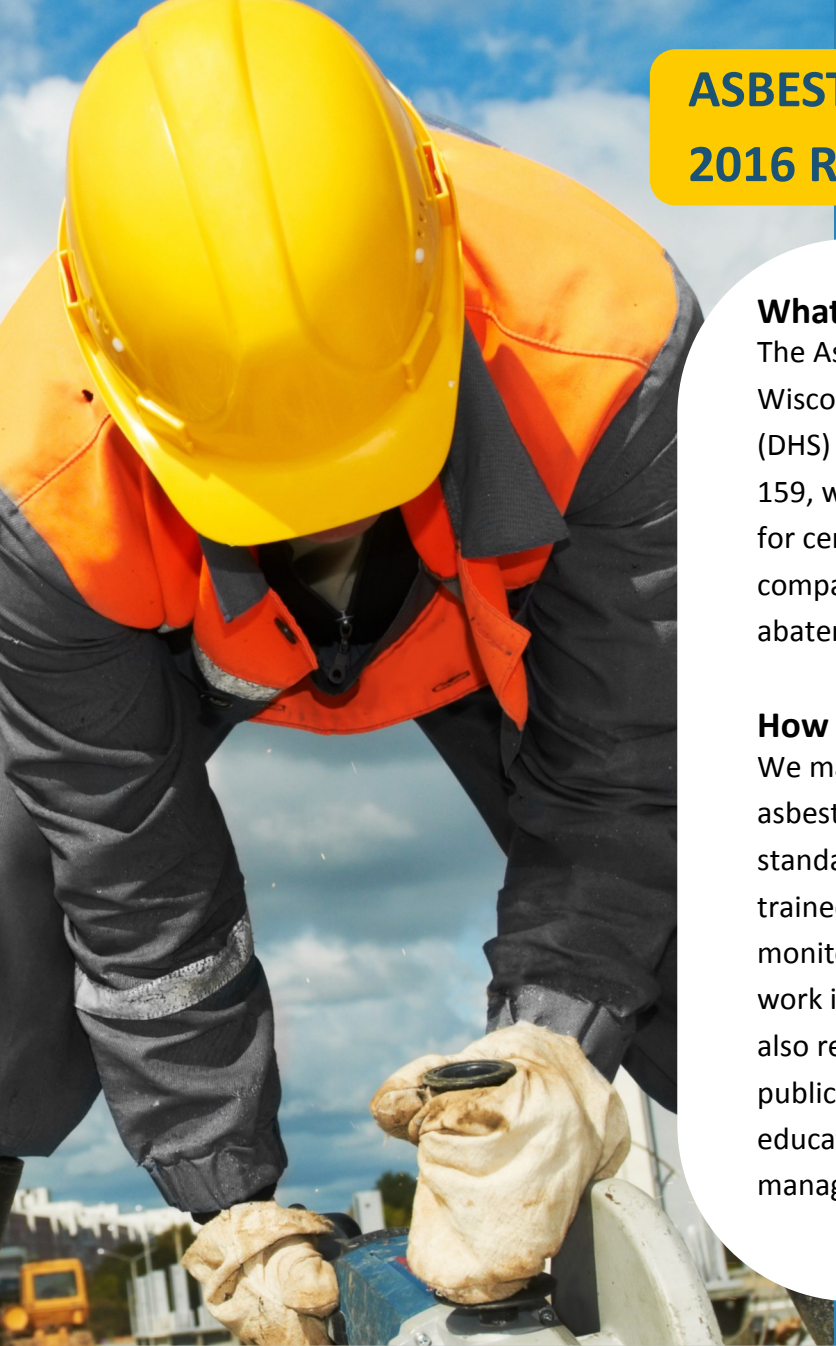


ASBESTOS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

2016 REPORT



What We Do

The Asbestos Certification Program of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) administers Wis. Adm. Code Ch. DHS 159, which establishes minimum requirements for certification and training for people and companies performing any asbestos abatement or asbestos management activity.

How We Do It

We make sure that training programs for asbestos professionals meet minimum standards. We certify people who have been trained to work safely with asbestos, and we monitor work sites to make sure asbestos work is only done by certified workers. We also respond to complaints received from the public by stopping unsafe work, and by educating homeowners, contractors, property managers, and others on asbestos issues.

Why We Do It

When asbestos-containing materials are disturbed during building maintenance, renovation, or demolition activities, fibers can be released into the air where people can breathe them in. This can lead to serious or fatal diseases, including cancer and damage to lung tissue. Fortunately, asbestos work can be done safely by contractors who are properly trained, minimizing the risk of exposure for workers and members of the public.

2016 Data

In 2016, companies submitted **3,013 notifications** of asbestos abatement activities in Wisconsin. DHS inspectors conducted **665 inspections** of regulated asbestos activities. Of these, **635 were randomly selected from notified abatement work** and **30 were triggered by complaints** from members of the public or other government agencies.



Wisconsin Asbestos and Lead Certification Unit

Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health
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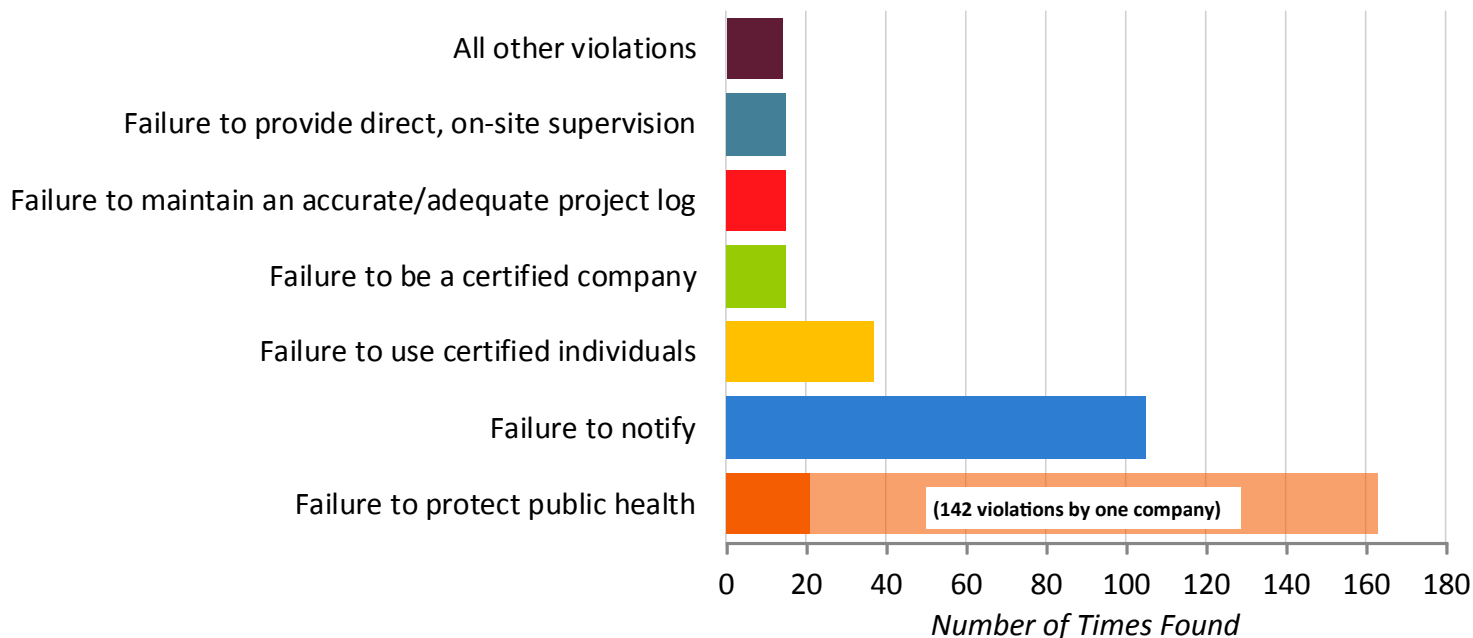


Inspection Results

Out of the 129 companies that submitted asbestos notifications during the year, we visited **93 different contractors**. The **vast majority of abatements were completed safely**, with just under 4% of sites inspected having asbestos rules violations. DHS 159 authorizes forfeiture, suspension, or revocation of certification, depending on the nature of the violation. No suspensions, denials, or revocations were issued.

The violations found by DHS inspectors during 2016 are shown below in a chart showing the number of times each type was found. The most common violation was failure to protect public health during asbestos abatement. However, most of these violations were by a single company that conducted unsafe roofing work over the course of many days. The second most common violation was a failure to properly notify DHS of an asbestos abatement, which includes failure to pay the notice fee that is due at the time the notice is submitted.

Asbestos Violations Found During 2016



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