

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.12.2024)

The Asbestos at Work Directive¹, lays down the limit values for workers' protection from exposure to asbestos, as well as other specific requirements, in particular with regard to employers, which represent minimum requirements allowing Member States to adopt stricter and more detailed provisions going beyond the requirements of the directive. In this regard, its recent amendment² of Article 3 paragraph 2 specifies that removal of asbestos or materials containing asbestos shall be prioritised over other forms of asbestos handling.³ It is up to the Member States to take the necessary steps for asbestos removal as regards buildings owned by them, while ensuring that the workers carrying out such works are subject to the national provisions transposing this Directive. Member States have until 21 December 2025⁴ to transpose the amending Directive. The Commission is currently working on guidelines facilitating the implementation of the revised Directive to be developed by the end of 2025.

¹ Directive 2009/148/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work (Codified version) (Text with EEA relevance) OJ L 330, 16.12.2009, p. 28.

² Directive (EU) 2023/2668 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 November 2023 amending Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work OJ L, 2023/2668, 30.11.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/2668/oj>

³ '2. *In the case of any activity likely to involve a risk of exposure to dust arising from asbestos or materials containing asbestos, that risk shall be assessed in such a way as to determine the nature and degree of the workers' exposure to dust arising from asbestos or materials containing asbestos and to prioritise removal of asbestos or materials containing asbestos over other forms of asbestos handling.*'

⁴ Until 21 December 2029, with regard to the method for measuring asbestos fibres and the related limit value, see Article 1, point (6)(c) and (d) (as regards Article 7(7) second subparagraph of Directive 2009/148/EC) and point (7) (as regards Article 8(2) and (3) of Directive 2009/148/EC).