THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK



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TO: District Superintendents

Superintendents of Schools Nonpublic School Administrators Charter School Administrators

FROM: Sara Madison, RA

SUBJECT: AHERA 2022 Re-inspection Reminder

AHERA Re-inspection Overview

The federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to be re-inspected for all known or assumed asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM), friable and non-friable, in all facilities which are owned, leased, or otherwise used as a school building every three years. The 2022 triennial re-inspection must be completed no later than July 8, 2022.

If a school was built after October 12, 1988, the architect or engineer responsible for its construction must sign a statement that "no ACBM were specified as building materials in any construction document for the building, or to the best of his/her knowledge, no ACBM was used as a building material in the building." If an existing building that is to be used as a school building, is leased or acquired on or after October 12, 1988, it must be inspected for ACBM prior to its use as a school building if no such statement is available. In the event it is necessary to use a building that has not been inspected for ACBM, the building must be inspected for ACBM within 30 days after the start of such use.

The re-inspection process may only be performed by a person certified by the State Department of Labor (DOL) as an asbestos inspector. The re-inspection does not require a new AHERA management plan, however, it does require a new section in the existing plan that reflects the 2022 re-inspection. This new section must be developed by a person certified by DOL as an asbestos management planner. The overall AHERA re-inspection process is the ultimate responsibility of the school's asbestos designee. Guidance for the designee is available at: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/ampauditchecklist_0.pdf.

Public School Reporting Requirement

In conjunction with the AHERA triennial re-inspection, all New York State public school districts (including BOCES and charter schools) must complete and submit a 2022 AHERA Triennial Report to the Commissioner of Education no later than September 1, 2022. The 2022 AHERA Triennial Report can be accessed at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CFM355X

For further information and assistance on AHERA, contact your BOCES Health and Safety Office, Facilities Planning at 518-474-3906, or see https://www.epa.gov/asbestos/school-buildings#requirements.