

Employers told to avoid 'Asbestos Tester'

This is a direct extract from a safety alert received in office recently.
Provided to you verbatim.

WorkSafe Victoria has warned employers to avoid engaging a Brisbane company that has been accused of charging clients for asbestos tests on building products that were never conducted.

Any employer that had previously hired Asbestos Audit Pty Ltd should check whether it provided NATA-accredited analysis reports for all samples taken, WorkSafe health and safety executive director Marnie Williams said.

If not, they should contact Asbestos Audit to demand the reports, and engage a competent person to re-take and test samples if the reports couldn't be provided, she said.

Williams stressed that Asbestos Audit and its sole director Mark Dougal Rentoul had no association with the Victoria-based company, Asbestos Audits (Australia) Ptd Ltd or its directors.

The Queensland Office of Fair Trading (OFT) issued a formal warning on Rentoul and his company's alleged conduct last month.

It said it began investigating Asbestos Audit after a regional council complained that the company charged it for asbestos analyses of 178 samples, despite only sending 60 of these samples to a laboratory for testing.

Another employer complained that it charged it for 447 sample tests when only 101 samples were tested for asbestos.

The OFT said it was aware of 700 locations where Asbestos Audit had provided services, and one NSW employer had engaged it for \$1.7 million worth of sampling and testing work.

"Not only is Asbestos Audit making misleading representations about its services and accepting payment for services not delivered, but this behaviour is potentially putting people's health at risk," OFT executive director Brian Bauer said.

"It's possible there are several victims who are unaware that they have been misled. The OFT will continue its investigation in order to identify other clients of Asbestos Audit Pty Ltd and take action under the Australian Consumer Law," he said.

WorkSafe Victoria's Williams said employers needed to have confidence that these kinds of procedures were carried out properly "to ensure workplace health and safety in never compromised".

She urged Victorian businesses or consumers that had engaged Asbestos Audit to contact the [Queensland OFT](#) if they had any concerns.



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March 2017

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