



Foreword

Since 1 July 2001, under the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations* a licence has been required to carry out certain types of demolition work. This paper sets out the procedure for applying for a licence and criteria used in assessing an application. The WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner determines such applications and any application for exemption from any of the assessment criteria. The WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner has the power to suspend or cancel licences on specified grounds.

This paper does not cover demolition work procedures or work practices. All demolition work must be carried out in accordance with Australian Standard *AS 2601 The demolition of structures* or as approved by the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner. While a licence is not required for some demolition work, all demolition work whether licensed or non-licensed, must comply with AS 2601, or otherwise be approved by the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner.

The *Occupational Safety and Health Act* (section 18) provides for the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner to delegate his functions in the *Regulations* to a WorkSafe Western Australia officer. The Commissioner may do this in respect of some functions relating to the issue of a demolition licence.

The following are included as appendices to the Guidelines

- *The Occupational Safety and Health Legislative Framework in Western Australia* (Appendix 1);
- an outline of *AS 2601-2001 The demolition of structures* (Appendix 2);
- *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations* 3.114 to 3.128 (Appendix 3);
- application form (Appendix 4);
- notification form (Appendix 5); and
- sources of other information (Appendix 6).

1. WHAT IS DEMOLITION?

The *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996* define *demolition* and include regulations which relate specifically to *demolition*. These are regulations 3.114 to 3.128 in Subdivision 7, Division 9 of Part 3 of the *Regulations*.

In the *Regulations* "*demolition*" means the complete or partial demolition of a building or structure by pre-planned and controlled methods or procedures.

Not all work commonly understood to be demolition work is covered by regulations 3.114 to 3.128. These regulations do not apply to the *demolition of a building or structure by a person in the metal fabrication or engineering industry in the course of maintaining, refurbishing, upgrading, modifying or decommissioning plant*. The exemption applies only to these particular regulations.

Demolition work in mines is covered by the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act* and regulations made under that Act.

2. IS A LICENCE REQUIRED FOR ALL DEMOLITION WORK?

A licence is required to carry out certain types of demolition work.

It is an offence to do any of the work described as class 1, class 2 or class 3 demolition work unless licensed to do the work.

"**class 1**", in relation to demolition work, means demolition work of any of the following kinds-

- (a) work comprising the total demolition of a building or structure that is 10 metres or more in height when measured from the lowest ground level of the building or structure to the highest part of the building or structure;
- (b) work-
 - (i) comprising the partial demolition of a building or structure that is 10 metres or more in height when measured from the lowest ground level of the building or structure to the highest part of the building or structure; and
 - (ii) affecting the structural integrity of the building or structure;
- (c) work
 - (i) comprising the total or partial demolition of a building or structure; and
 - (ii) involving the use of load shifting equipment on a suspended floor;
- (d) work comprising the total or partial demolition of pre-tensioned or post-tensioned structural components of a building or structure;
- (e) work comprising the total or partial demolition of a building or structure containing precast concrete elements erected by the tilt-up method of construction;

- (f) work involving the removal of key structural members of a building or structure so that the whole or a part of the building or structure collapses;
- (g) work done to a building or structure involving explosives;
- (h) work comprising the demolition or partial demolition of a building or structure that involves the use of a tower crane or any crane with a safe working load greater than 100 tonnes;
- (i) work involving the removal of an area of brittle or fragile roofing material in excess of 200m² from a building or structure if any part of the area to be removed is 10 metres or more above the lowest ground level of the building or structure;

“class 2”, in relation to demolition work, means demolition work comprising the total or partial demolition of a building or structure that is less than 10 metres in height when measured from the lowest ground level of the building or structure to the highest part of the building or structure but does not include -

- (a) the total or partial demolition of a single storey dwelling; or
- (b) work of a kind referred to in paragraphs (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), or (h) of the definition of “class 1”;

“class 3”, in relation to demolition work, means work comprising the removal of –

- (a) more than 200m² of brittle or fragile roofing material; or
- (b) more than 200m² of asbestos cement roofing,
from a building or a structure;

“licensed person”, in relation to class 1, class 2 or class 3 demolition work, means a person who has been issued with a licence that allows that person to do that class of demolition work.

“licence” means a licence issued under regulation 3.116(2), that is, a person who satisfies the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner that he or she is able to do that class of demolition work in a safe and proper manner.