

DRAFT TEXAS ASBESTOS HEALTH PROTECTION RULES
AVAILABLE FOR STAKEHOLDER COMMENT

In 2014, the Texas Department of State Health Services (Department) began reviewing the Texas Asbestos Health Protection Rules (TAHPR), 25 Texas Administrative Code §§295.31-295.73. At that time, the Department asked stakeholders for rule recommendations. The Department has prepared [draft rules](#) and [responses to stakeholder recommendations](#).

The Department is seeking informal comments on the draft rules from stakeholders. The draft rules will be available for informal public comment until April 28, 2016. The Department will consider each comment received during the informal comment period but will not provide an individual response to each commenter.

Please provide the following for each comment submitted:

- Identify the draft section number.
- Provide language that you recommend.
- Describe how your recommended edit will affect public health and the regulated community.

The Department must adopt rules to administer and enforce the Texas Asbestos Health Protection Act in a manner that is at least as protective of human health and safety as the minimum requirements of the Texas Asbestos Health Protection Act and the federal National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants. The Department may not adopt rules that would conflict with or fail to carry out the requirements in applicable federal regulations or state statutes. Copies of the current TAHPR, the Texas Asbestos Health Protection Act, and the federal National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants are available on the Department's Asbestos Program website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/asbestos.

You may provide comments to the Department at the public meeting, by mail or email.

Public Meeting: April 26, 2016
 1:00-4:00 p.m.
 1100 West 49th Street, Room K-100
 Austin, TX 78756

Mailing Address: Texas Department of State Health Services
 Attn: Environmental Hazards Group Rules Coordinator
 PO Box 149347, MC 1987
 Austin, TX 78714-9347

Email Address: EHGRulesCoordinator@dshs.state.tx.us
 Please write "Informal Comments for TAHPR" in the subject line.

The Department will set the draft rules on the agenda for discussion during the May 18, 2016, work session meeting of the State Health Services Council (SHSC). The Department plans to present proposed rules as an action item at the SHSC meeting scheduled for August 18, 2016. If the SHSC votes to recommend publication of the proposed rules and the Executive Commissioner approves, the Department will publish proposed rules in the Texas Register, and a formal 30-day public comment period in fall of 2016 will follow.

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

April 12, 2016	Draft rules available for informal public comment
April 26, 2016	Public meeting to gather informal public comments
April 28, 2016	Last day for informal public comments
May 18, 2016	Work session meeting of the State Health Services Council (SHSC)
August 18, 2016	Draft rules presented at the SHSC meeting
Fall 2016	Department publishes the proposed rules in the <i>Texas Register</i>
Fall 2016	Formal 30-day public comment period