2015 The Health and Safety at Work Act is enacted 1992 2016 The National The import of 1984 Asbestos Survey all goods that The import of is completed and contain asbestos blue and brown the Asbestos is banned, unless asbestos is Register is authorised by a banned established permit 1936 1960 1978 1987 1999 2016 First The Department Government The manufacture The import of The Health and documented of Health links enacts the of materials that white asbestos is Safety at Work link between asbestos with Asbestos contain asbestos banned Act (Asbestos asbestos and lung cancer Regulations 1978 is significantly Regulations) are health problems reduced enacted in Aotearoa 1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s 2010s

1930s and 1940s

This era saw an increase in the amount of asbestos used across many industries and low understanding about its risks.

Asbestos was used commonly, especially for shipbuilding during World War II.

International research started to link asbestos exposure to health risks, but awareness about these risks was quite low in Aotearoa. No formal systems were in place to protect worker health and safety.

1950s and 1960s

International evidence about the dangers of asbestos planted a seed of awareness in Aotearoa.

Asbestos use continued to increase after World War II, especially in the production of asbestos cement.

By the late 1960s, the government began to investigate asbestos use and its effects on health.

1970s and 1980s

In this era, there were growing concerns about the risks of asbestos.

The government started to take steps to tackle the asbestos problem.

The Asbestos Regulations were enacted in 1978. These regulations did not cover all industries or completely ban asbestos.

1990s and 2000s

These decades were marked by greater awareness about asbestos and the problems it can cause.

The impact of asbestos on people's health became more visible during this time. Several high-profile cases brought the issue to the attention of the public and the media shared their stories with the public.

A National Asbestos Register was established to track asbestos exposure and asbestos-related diseases.

2010 onwards

The widespread demolition and refurbishment of buildings, many containing asbestos, led to public concern about asbestos exposure.

The government enacted a ban on asbestos-containing products.

New laws to protect the health and safety of workers were brought in, such as the Health and Safety at Work Act enacted in 2015. This was followed by specific asbestos regulations in 2016.

Timeline of asbestos in Aotearoa