The purpose of today's visit to this workplace by the Ministry of Labour (MOL) was to review information gathered following complaints made regarding asbestos events.

The following complaint was made:

"Many teaching assistants and professors who hold classes in the medical sciences building (Floor 3-7) is not notified about a potential asbestos exposure. A shaft in the building and paint is suspected to contain asbestos in Floors 3-7, Medical Sciences Building."

This inspector was accompanied by D. Winter, MOL Hygiene Consultant.

The following items were discussed:

The University of Toronto has demonstrated that an asbestos inventory is kept electronically and is accessible to anyone with a U of T ID. Workers are made aware of this record during their Basic Health and Safety Awareness training and via email communications/e-bulletin.

Workplace parties advised that clearance air testing results are posted on Type 3 containment.

Ambient air sampling has been conducted in many locations throughout the medical sciences building (MSB). Ambient air sampling is not the same as clearance sampling and therefore the requirements under 278/05 do not apply to the ambient sampling performed. Ambient air sampling results are posted on a bulletin board and portal.

The University of Toronto has demonstrated that sampling reports pertaining to the asbestos exposure have been provided to the MSB JHSC.
Should workers have concerns about past exposure to asbestos, they are advised to complete an internal incident report and a WSIB Form 7. Students may complete an internal incident report.

MOL Hygienist Comments:

Reports related to ambient airborne testing for asbestos fibres collected within MSB were reviewed. It was indicated that testing locations are chosen based on occupant concerns as well as randomly to provide a representative distribution throughout the building. All sample results have indicated that concentrations of airborne asbestos fibres were below the occupational exposure limit of 0.1 fibres / cubic centimeter at the time of testing. It was been reported that over 200 air samples have been collected throughout MSB.

-end of comments-

An ongoing investigation into this concern has already commenced.

You are required under the OHSA to post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place and provide a copy to the JHSC.

Not all areas of the work place were inspected at the time of the visit.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

For further information on Health and Safety the Ministry of Labour has a website at www.labour.gov.on. This website contains general information and guides, legislation and regulations, health and safety guidelines, engineering data sheets and hazard alerts.

To contact the Ministry of Labour to report a fatality, critical injury or concern: 1-877-202-0008