

# HAZARD ALERT

## Asbestos in Plant & Equipment

14 June 2018

### REFERENCE:

WHS Act 2012 (SA) Sections 19 & 21  
WHS Regulations 2012 (SA) Chapter 8-Asbestos  
CSH&WSA Procedure No. 15-Management of Plant

### OBJECTIVE:

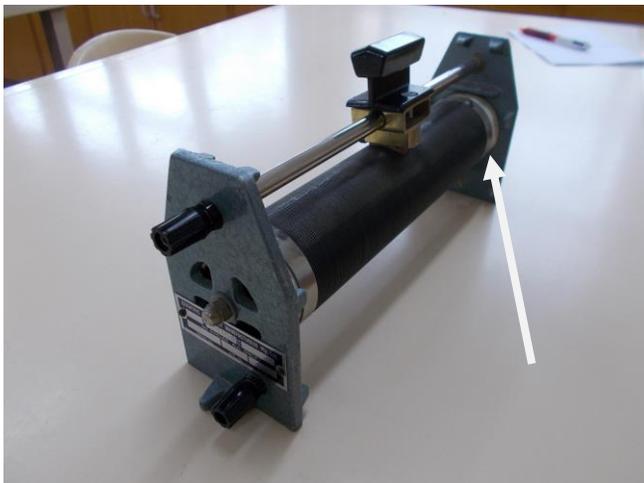
To raise awareness of asbestos products in vintage (old/dated) plant and equipment.

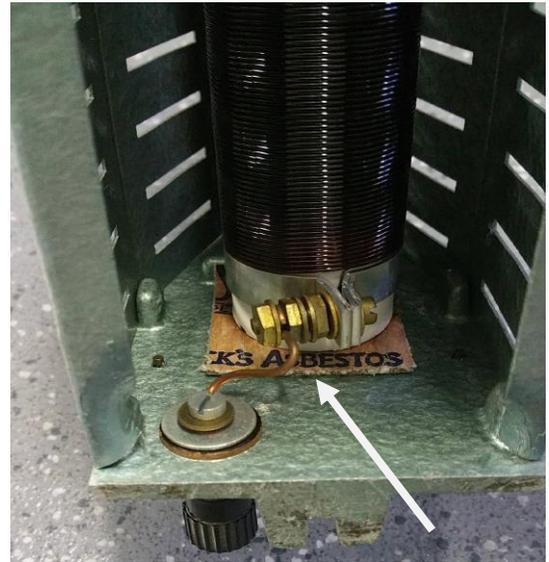
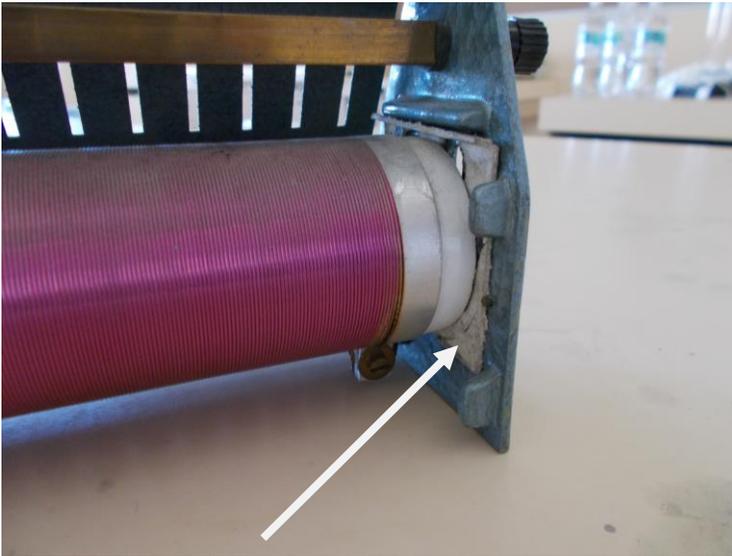
### DEFINITION:

**Rheostat**, an adjustable resistor used in applications that require the adjustment of electrical current or the varying of resistance in an electric circuit. A rheostat can adjust generator characteristics, dim lights, and start or control the speed of motors.

### BACKGROUND:

Recently a worker was undertaking repairs to a “Rheostat” machine in the science laboratory when he discovered a layer of hard insulation at the end of the ceramic roller which was suspected as being an asbestos product. The Rheostat in question was a Scientific Equipment Manufactures (SEM) brand from the 1960’s. Further investigation was carried out on a laboratory hotplate/stirrer, also a SEM brand from the same period, and this was found to contain a white cement insulation on the underside of the hotplate. In discussion with other Laboratory Managers the site was able to identify that these items of plant do in fact contain asbestos products.





### **PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:**

- Provide this Hazard Alert to all staff, in particular, those working in Laboratories, Science and Maintenance
- Check your plant/equipment register and identify any items which may be of a "vintage" nature
- Have a competent person conduct a background check/research on the identified plant and equipment for presence of asbestos products
- Include any plant and equipment which has been identified as containing asbestos products onto the Asbestos Register
- Sites may choose to correctly dispose of any item/s of plant and equipment they suspect contains asbestos products.

**FOR ENQUIRIES OR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR WHS CONSULTANT**