

MV/LV DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS AND SWITCHGEAR – PEBBLECRETE ASBESTOS RISK

BACKGROUND

Powerco have approximately 710 Pebblecrete enclosures in service in the network currently. These units appear to all be located within the Eastern Bay of Plenty area of supply.

One of Powerco's approved contractors (PAC) suspected asbestos containing material (ACM) during works at one of the abovementioned sites. Testing confirmed the presence of ACM in some pebblecrete enclosures.



Figure 1. Exterior pebblecrete material on kiosk/enclosures

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The confirmed ACM was located in two specific areas:

1. The black bituminous boards within the kiosk, typically having LV fusing mounted. This is non-friable and the fibre release potential is very low. **If works are to be carried out on the board it should be removed by a Class B licenced removalist prior to continuing any further work.**
2. There is a metal shelf separating the LV and HV circuits within the kiosk. It is possible in some instances for the metal shelf to have a white board within/under the metal. This material is friable and the fibre release potential is high. **If works are to be carried out anywhere within the kiosk it should be removed by a Class A licenced removalist prior to continuing any further work.**

IMMEDIATE ACTION

- There are numerous sites containing the black bituminous boards. The class A or class B processes should be followed where intrusive works are being carried out only ie. Work is being done on the board directly, drilling, replacement and removal.
- Not all pebblecrete kiosks have metal shelves containing the white ACM board. The process flows on pages 5-7 of this Notice **must** be followed when the ACM status is unknown or it is known that Class A or B asbestos is present.
- Any licensed asbestos removal company may be used to send photos or video for review.
- Upon completion of any testing, the result must be forwarded to Virotech to update the Powerco asbestos register.
- The register will include all sites that have indicated ACM present, even if the material has been removed and cleaned. QR codes will be affixed to the kiosk, enclosure or room.

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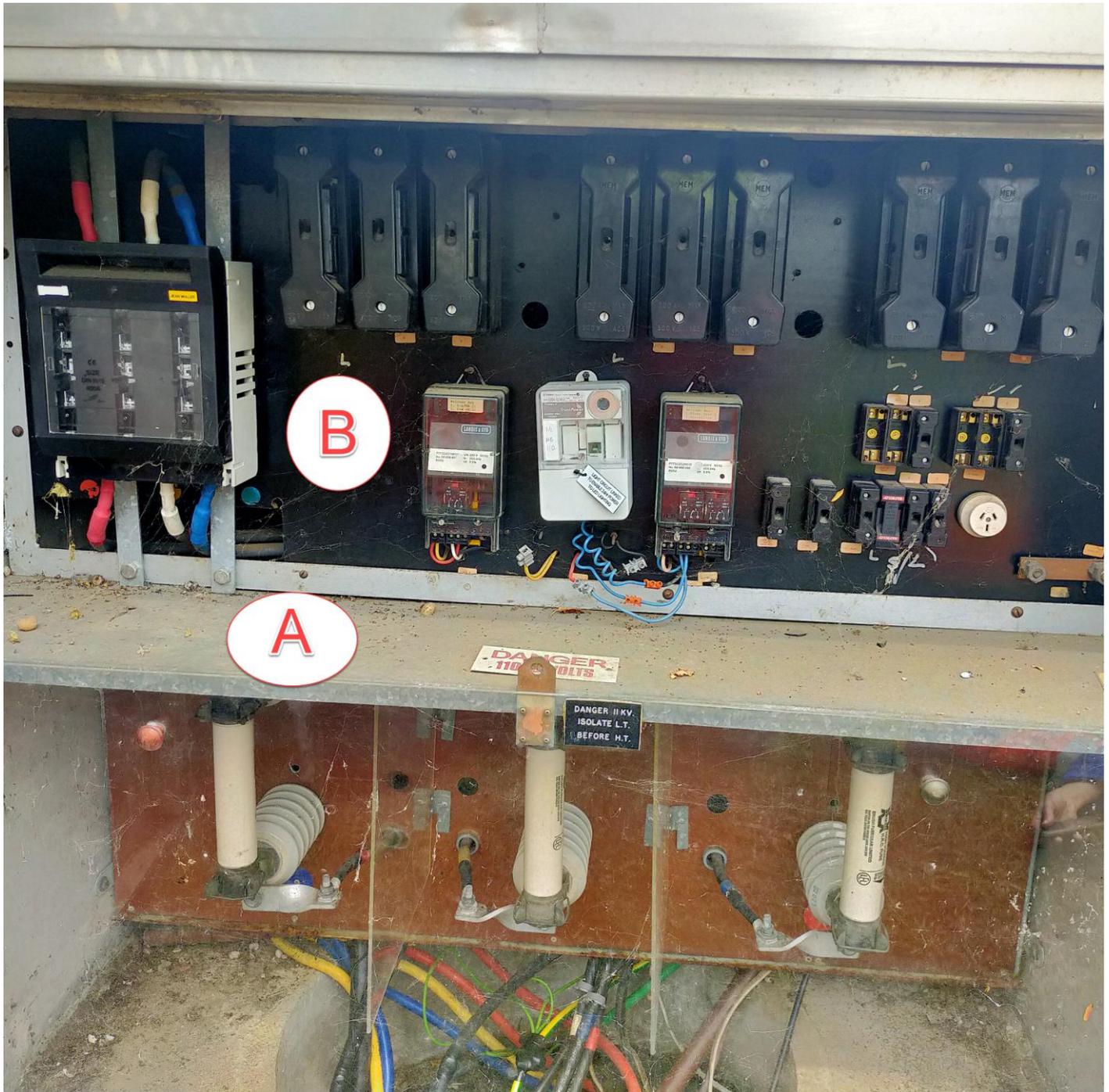


Figure 1. (B) indicates the bituminous board – low risk and (A) indicates the metal shelf position – high risk (Not all metal shelves have ACM within).

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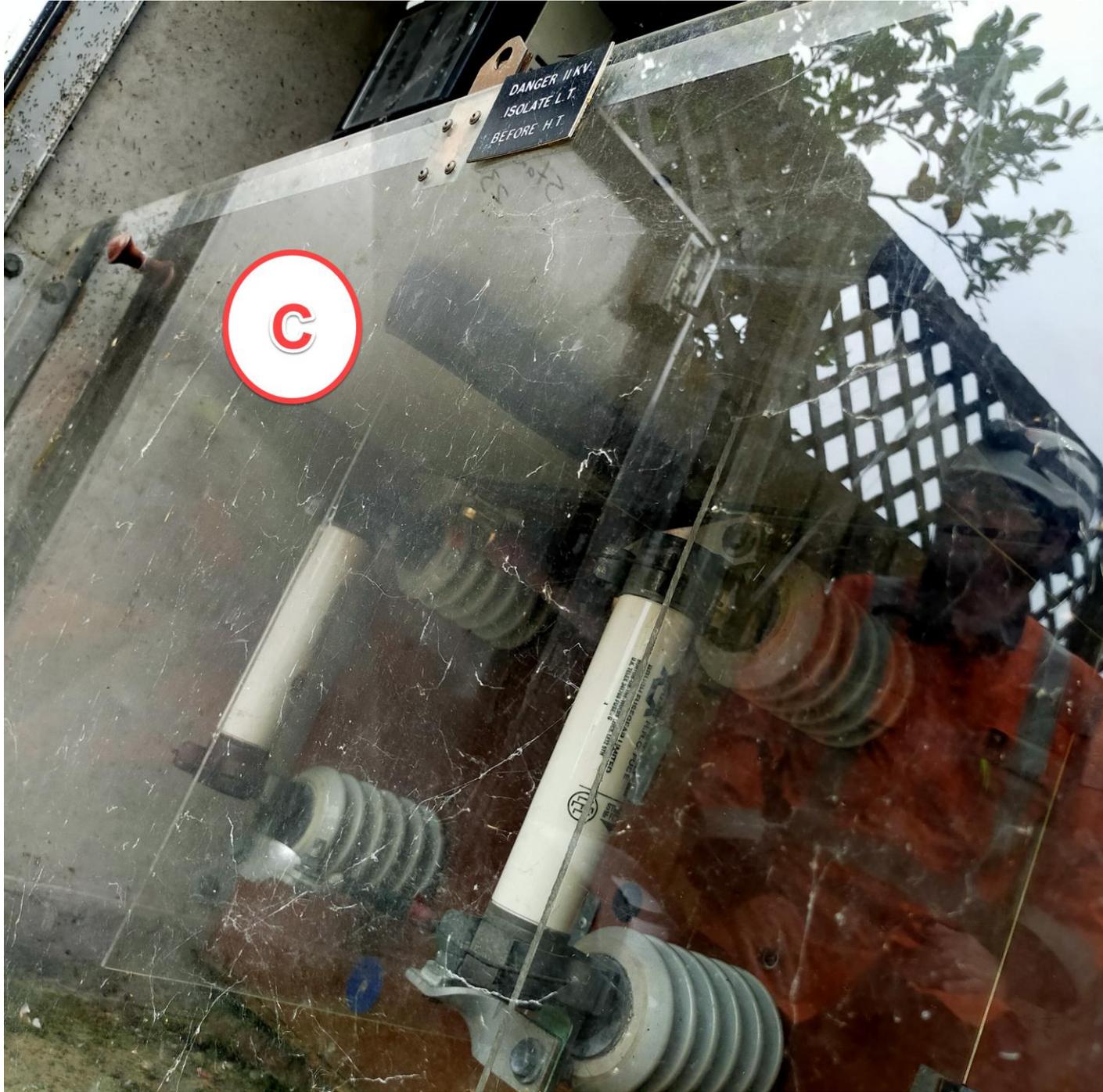


Figure 2. (C) indicates the position of the ACM beneath the metal shelf – high risk

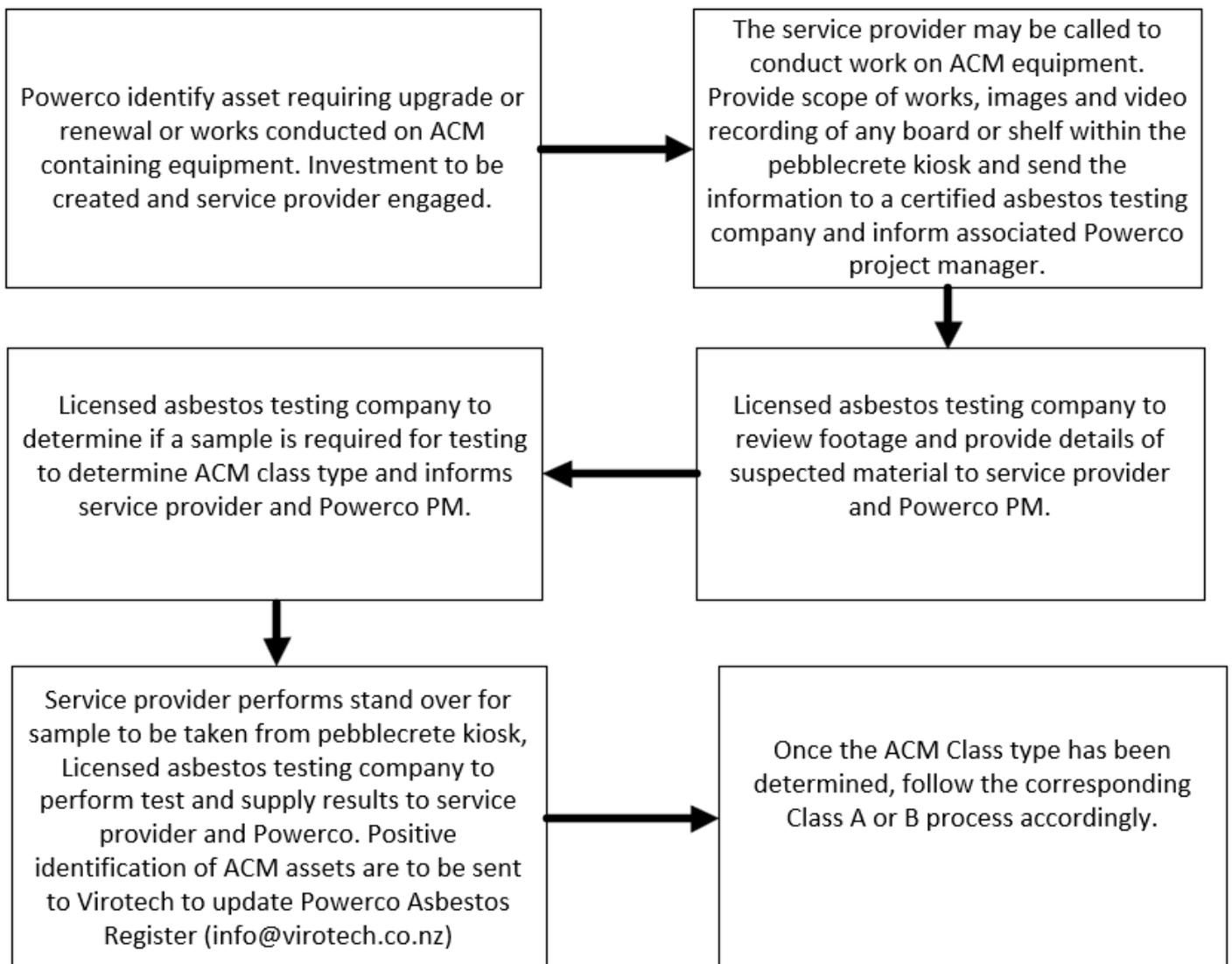
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PROJECT SCOPING

ABESTOS CLASS NOT KNOWN

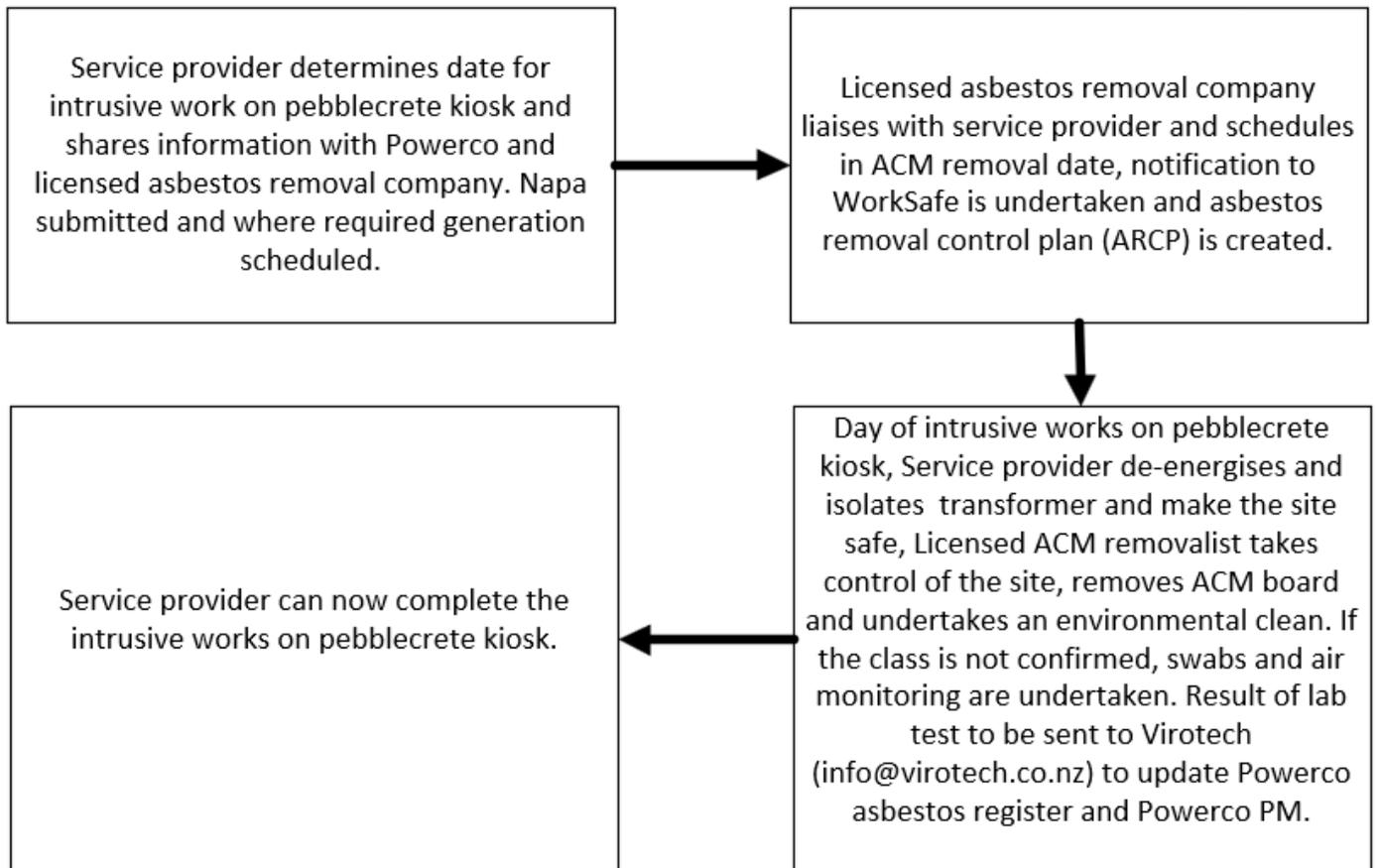


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CLASS A PROCESS

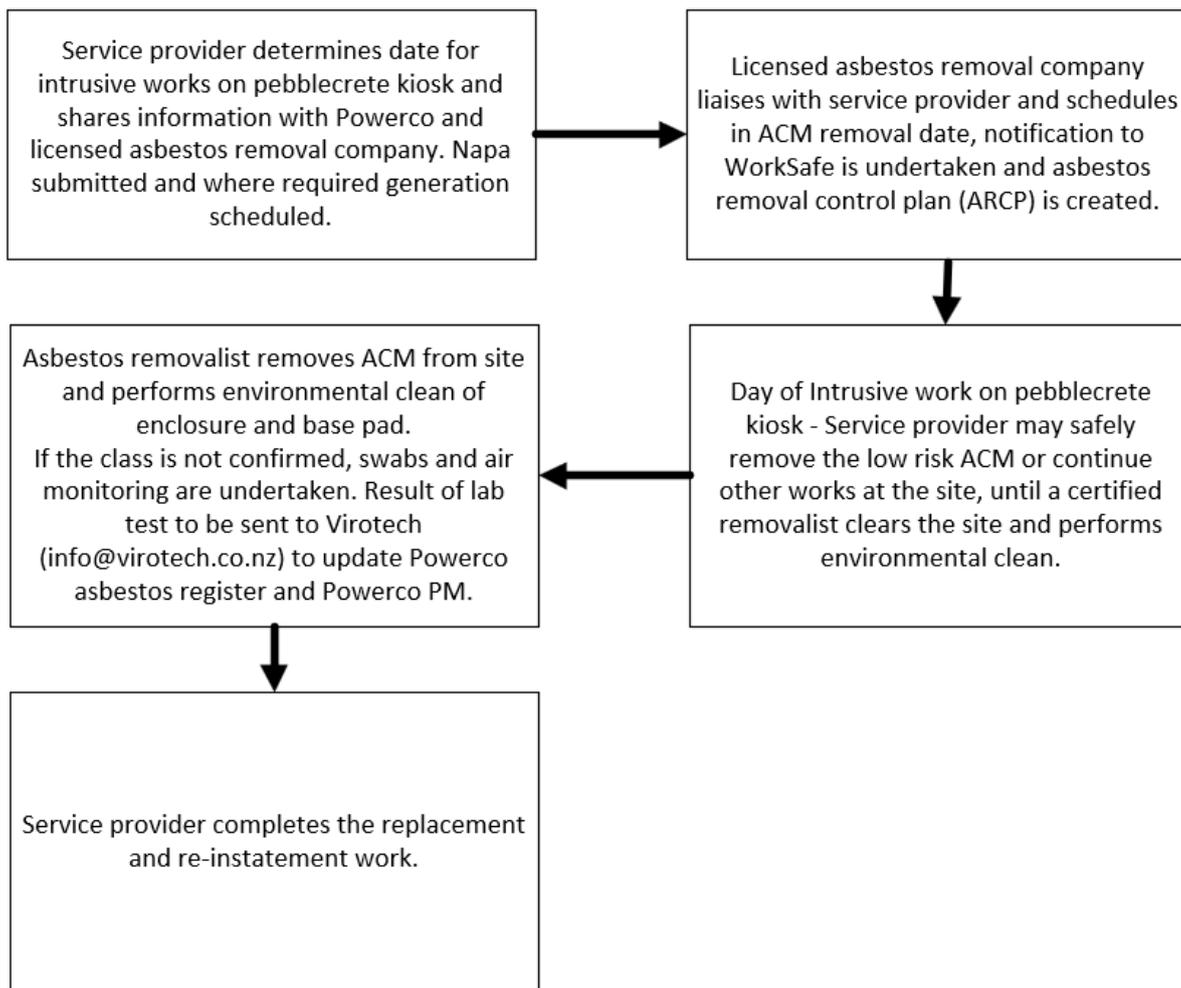


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Notice to all network stakeholders CLASS B – ACM PROCESSES

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CLASS B PROCESS



NEXT STEPS

Not all pebblecrete enclosures have the ACM within the metal shelf. As the total number of affected sites are established, a programme for removal/renewal will be published. Please exercise caution when working within an enclosure of unknown status.

Any queries regarding this issue can be directed to:

Asset Fleet Team – Ryan Reddy (rishendren.reddy@powerco.co.nz or

Health and Safety Team – Sean Heasman (Sean.Heasman@powerco.co.nz)

0800 769 372 powerco.co.nz

