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asbestos essentials

Non-licensed tasks

This information will help employers and the self-employed to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006.

It is also useful for trade union and employee safety representatives.

Asbestos fibres can cause lung cancer and lung diseases.

The sheet covers the points you need to follow to reduce exposure to an adequate level.

It can act as a risk assessment for asbestos if it matches what you plan to do.

Follow all the points, or use equally effective measures.

Only carry out this work if you are properly trained and have the right equipment.

Main points

- Asbestos fibres can kill.
- Keep exposures low using all the controls in this sheet.
- Also follow sheet a0 and equipment and method (em) sheets; see 'Essential information'.



Asbestos cement sheets discarded irresponsibly

How to deal with fly-tipped asbestos waste

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you recognise fly-tipped material as containing asbestos that you need to deal with.

Preparing the work area

- Restrict access - minimise the number of people present.
- Use tape and notices to warn others.

Equipment

- 1000-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape;
- warning tape and notices;
- shovel;
- tent pegs;
- garden-type sprayer containing wetting agent, eg diluted washing-up liquid;
- bucket of water and rags;
- asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack;
- asbestos warning stickers; and
- clear polythene sack.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) - see sheet em6

- Provide:
 - disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
 - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate); and
 - respiratory protective equipment.



Procedure

- Notify the relevant authority - see 'Useful links'.
- Estimate the amount and type of asbestos waste.
- If the waste is spread around or mixed with non-asbestos material, get an HSE-licensed contractor to deal with it.
- Disposal - see sheet em9.

Small amount of any asbestos-containing waste

- Dampen and place pieces in an asbestos waste container.
- Shovel damp residues into the container.

Large amount of asbestos-containing waste

- Cover the waste securely with 1000-gauge polythene sheet. Peg it down with tent pegs. Attach asbestos warning stickers.
- Mark out an exclusion zone with warning tape.
- If the waste is in an inhabited area, make arrangements to secure the site until it is removed.

MORE HELP

- **Licensed asbestos contractors, and training providers** - HSE's Infoline
Tel: 0845 345 0055
Textphone: 0845 408 9577
e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com
and at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/index.htm
- **HSE priced and free publications** - HSE Books
Tel: 01787 881165
and at www.hsebooks.co.uk
- **Qualified hygienists** - The British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)
Tel: 01332 298101
and at www.bohs.org/ under 'Professional > Consultants'
- **Trade associations** - the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA)
Tel: 01283 531126
Website: www.arcaweb.org.uk, or the Asbestos Control and Abatement Division (ACAD)
Tel: 01325 466704
- **Disposal of asbestos waste** - www.environment-agency.co.uk, www.sepa.org.uk/, or www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs.
- **More asbestos pictures** - www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm
- **Help to decide if work is licensed** - www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/index.htm

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Download and follow these advice sheets from www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm:

- em1 *What to do if you uncover or damage materials that could contain asbestos*
- em2 *Training*
- em5 *Wetting asbestos materials*
- em6 *Personal protective equipment (PPE)*
- em8 *Personal decontamination*
- em9 *Disposal of asbestos waste*

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment with damp rags.
- Put used rags and other waste in the asbestos waste container and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste container in a clear polythene sack and tape it closed.
- Disposal - see sheet em9.

Personal decontamination

- See sheet em8

Further information

- *Surveying, sampling and assessment of asbestos-containing materials*
MDHS100 HSE Books 2001 ISBN 978 0 7176 2076 0
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/mdhs/index.htm

OTHER HAZARDS

There may also be other hazards - you need to consider them all.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

- ✓ Can you avoid disturbing asbestos by doing the job in some other way?
- ✓ Do you need a licence for the work?
- ✓ Always follow all legal requirements.
- ✓ Follow the task guidance sheet.
- ✓ Use an asbestos waste container.
- ✓ Dispose at a licensed disposal site.

Caution:

- Don't sweep up dust or debris - use a Class H vacuum cleaner or damp rags.
- Don't take used overalls home.
- Don't re-use disposable PPE.
- Don't smoke.
- Don't eat or drink in the work area.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.

This document is available at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm

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Published by the Health and Safety Executive 12/07