

Policy 03	Created: 23 January 2023	Reviewed:	Pages: 2
-----------	--------------------------	-----------	----------

ASBESTOS POLICY

Introduction

This Asbestos Policy sets out the Company's management proposals to ensure that all procedural arrangements comply with the Health and Safety At Work etc Act 1974 and the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

Commercial, industrial, residential, school and public buildings built or refurbished before the year 2000 may contain asbestos. As long as the asbestos containing material (ACM) is in good condition and is not disturbed there is negligible risk. But if it is damaged it can become a danger to health because people may breathe in asbestos fibres released in to the air.

For this reason, our primary approach is in training operatives to understand what asbestos is and how to recognise it in the workplace. As a pre-requisite for working on a construction site, operatives are required to undergo asbestos awareness training. Refresher training is expected yearly and all operatives working for the Company will be asked to undertake the company's refresher training course which is a combination of a toolbox talk, slideshow presentation and reading matter that includes this asbestos policy document.

Operatives are shown the three main types of asbestos found in premises, commonly called 'blue asbestos' (crocidolite), 'brown asbestos' (amosite) and 'white asbestos' (chrysotile). All of them are dangerous carcinogens, but blue and brown asbestos are more hazardous than white. Despite their names, you cannot identify them just by their colour. The training covers this adequately.

Objectives

The primary objective of the asbestos training is to prepare operatives in the event that they come across ACMs or presumed ACMs so that they understand the dangers and take reasonable steps to secure the area and notify supervisory staff. In this way, steps are taken to prevent exposure wherever possible. This is supplementary to any external certificated asbestos awareness scheme.

This policy puts down a series of practical measures that will minimise or eliminate exposure to ACMs. It acknowledges the employer responsibilities to ensure the safety of operatives working for or on behalf of the Company.

The company will:

- Before commencing any works, establish from the owners or those in charge, e.g. the Principal Contractor, the location or likely location of ACMs in the premises.
- Obtain a copy of the relevant parts of the premise's asbestos register, if applicable, for the details of any known or suspected ACMs.

- If there are no records of an asbestos assessment, those in charge will be requested to undertake one, and the survey to include the taking and analysis of samples.
- Carry out a risk assessment of the whole task, record findings and implement suitable control measures.
- Document the risk from ACMs with a method for dealing with them in the site RAMS. The wording will cover a plan for what to do in the event that ACMs are uncovered or fibres are released accidentally during works.
- Provide training explaining the employee/subcontractor responsibilities; to stop work if there is suspicion of ACMs; not to work on any suspected ACMs; to report any suspected ACMs, and to follow all information and instruction given in training to prevent injury and ill health to themselves and others.

Management

As an unlicensed asbestos company, the Company will not work on or disturb materials containing or suspected of containing asbestos. If any employee has been potentially exposed to asbestos fibres then the incident will be recorded within their personal file and kept by the Company indefinitely.

Access in to a previously contaminated area will not be permitted until a risk assessment has been carried out by the Principal Contractor and a report is available with the results to verify all surfaces and airborne contamination has been dealt with.

The Company will make every effort to ensure all operational staff are trained in asbestos awareness and receive yearly refresher training. Information from subcontractors about asbestos awareness is reviewed in the subcontractor assessment forms done annually.



Marshall Walker

Managing Director

23 January 2023