

a22

asbestos essentials

Non-licensed tasks

This information will help employers, including the self-employed, comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006, to control exposure and protect health.

It is also useful for trade union representatives.

Asbestos fibre causes lung cancer and lung diseases.

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove metal cladding lines with asbestos-containing bitumen (eg 'Galbestos').

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

It is important to follow all the points, or use equally effective measures.

Only carry out this work if you are properly trained.

This sheet is not appropriate for work with asbestos-containing bitumen, eg roofing felt, damp-proof courses. See sheet a21.

Main points

- Asbestos fibres can kill.
- Keep exposures low using all the controls in this sheet.
- See also sheets em1, em2, em5, em6, em7 and em8.

Removing metal cladding lined with asbestos-containing bitumen

Access

- Take precautions to prevent the risk of falling if this work is at height.
- Minimise the number of people present.
- Restrict access - close doors, and use warning tape and notices.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

Equipment

- 500- and 1000-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape;
- warning tape and notices;
- bolt cutter;
- hammer;
- chisel;
- garden type sprayer;
- bucket of water and rags;
- asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack;
- lockable skip for larger quantities of waste; and
- asbestos warning stickers.



Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Provide:
 - disposable overalls fitted with a hood (you may need waterproof overalls for work outside);
 - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate); and
 - respiratory protective equipment - see sheet em6.

Procedure

- Protect surfaces in the restricted area from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape.

Caution: It is dangerous to seal over exhaust vents from gas-fired equipment. Can the gas be turned off?

Removal

- Carefully remove fixtures such as pipework.
- If the sheets are screwed in place, knock off the screw heads with the hammer and chisel.
- If the sheets are bolted in place, cut the bolts while avoiding contact with the asbestos-containing bitumen. Remove the bolts carefully.
- Pull the sheet away from its fastenings.
- Lower sheets to the ground - do not use a rubble chute.
- Check for debris in screw or bolt holes. Clean with wet rags.
- Put small items and debris in the waste container.
- Double-wrap small pieces of cladding in 1000-gauge polythene sheeting. Attach asbestos warning stickers.
- Where there are several sheets of cladding, place them in a lockable skip.

Safety Checklist

- ✓ Can you avoid disturbing asbestos by doing the job in some other way?
- ✓ Do you need a license for the work?
- ✓ Always follow all legal requirements.
- ✓ Follow the task guidance sheet.
- ✓ Make sure other risks (eg work at height, manual handling) are assessed and controlled.
- ✓ Use only suitable asbestos waste containers.
- ✓ Double-wrap asbestos waste.
- ✓ Take asbestos waste to a licensed tip.

Caution:

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

Cleaning

- Clean the equipment and the area with wet rags.
- Put debris, used rags, polythene sheeting and other waste in the waste container.
- Tape the container closed.

Personal decontamination

See sheet em8.

Clearance procedure

- Visually inspect the area to make sure that it has been cleaned properly.
- Clearance air sampling is not normally required.

Essential information

Download and follow these advice sheets:

- em1 *What to do if you uncover or damage asbestos materials*
- em2 *Training*
- em5 *Wetting asbestos materials*
- em6 *Personal protective equipment (PPE)*
- em7 *Using rags to clean surfaces and equipment contaminated with asbestos*
- em8 *Personal decontamination*

Further information

- *Tower scaffolds Construction Information Sheet CIS10 (rev4) HSE Books 2005* Web only version available at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cis10.pdf
- *General access scaffolds and ladders Construction Information Sheet CIS49 (rev1) HSE Books 2003* Web only version available at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cis49.pdf
- *Health and safety in roof work HSG33 (Second edition) HSE Books 1998* ISBN 0 7176 1425 5

Useful links

- For information about health and safety ring HSE's Infoline Tel: 0845 345 0055 Textphone: 0845 408 9577 e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com.
- HSE priced and free publications are available from HSE Books Tel: 01787 881165 Website: www.hsebooks.co.uk.
- British Standards are available from BSI Customer Services, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL Tel: 020 8996 9001 Fax: 020 8996 7001 e-mail: cservices@bsi-global.com Website: www.bsi-global.com.

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

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