

Asbestos management on site webinar – 02 November 2018

Additional questions:

- Q. How do you recognise the Asbestos when there is no information available from the Client/Owner or Principle Contractor. This question is in particular to those in counties where either there are no legal requirements, or they aren't enforced.
- A. Unfortunately, you will have to presume it is asbestos unless you have a suitable inspection or survey to identify what is asbestos and what isn't. The default position in the UK is to have an inspection undertaken, overseas, i.e EU – The asbestos workers protection directive 2005, will also require some form of inspection, outside of the EU different countries will have many variations in their laws.
- Q. If a UK registered Principle Contractor perform the work in other country such as Middle East or Asian country and appoint a subcontractor to remove the Asbestos work, how are the requirements applicable?
- A. If it is a UK based company appointing contractors from the area, morally they would have an obligation to ensure the contractors are protected as they would be in the UK, however this is rarely challenged and in most cases, can't be enforced due to the local laws. If the UK company is employing UK citizens working abroad for that company then they should ensure their own employees are protected.
- Q. How long will the actual operation of clearing take place? Of course, it depends upon area, but an average indication of say 100 sq. Ft area contaminated?
- A. Difficult to answer but I would imagine if it was a simple job two days, one day for set up and removal, ½ day for cleaning and then ½ day for the Analysts to undertake their inspection. It could be done in one day but that will put undue pressure on the analysts and they may not undertake their inspection correctly
- Q. If we need to maintain friable boards that are degrading, does this come under maintenance?
- A. It would be a requirement to manage the friable boards to ensure they aren't friable, this would involve the use of LARCS to repair and make good, then the responsibility to reinspect would not fall under maintenance as they would be no disturbance of the ACMs, merely a visual inspection to ensure they are in good condition.
- Q. Is it mandatory to conduct asbestos contamination, if any, before start of works?
- A. If you are asking is it mandatory to remove asbestos contamination before works starts, if it can be done safely then yes, if it is more complex it would form part of the works.
- Q. What kind of PPEs are required to be provided by employer when working with asbestos filled work location?
- A. This will depend on the work undertaken in the area and the condition and possible exposure to asbestos. If the asbestos is managed effectively in a work area, there should be no disturbance or exposure and no PPE would be required. Remembering that any person working with asbestos will be required to be suitably trained in their role and the use of PPE.

Q. Is there any frequency for measuring asbestos containment on the human body?

A. No, unfortunately the only time it would be identified would be after diagnosis.

Q. Are there any particular areas in the UK where asbestos contamination exists and if so how do the employers/customers get permission to install any new plants?

A. The requirement would be to undertake an inspection of the area to determine the contamination, assess the likely exposure and then plan the works accordingly. In most cases the asbestos contamination would need to be removed before installing new plant.

Q. I have a question more related to the Part 1 presentation. For a demolition job, where does the duty to manage and upkeep of the asbestos management plan reside. If the client (CDM) provides the existing management plan and a demolition survey to the Principal Contractor does the need for the client to keep the existing plan up to date become superseded by the construction phase H&S plan arrangements as to how the asbestos and its removal will be managed up until the building is demolished?

A. In most cases, and certainly since 2004, the contractor should act as the DH, however it would depend on the contractual obligations and what the Client and PD have stated in their information to the Contractors, ultimately it would be the client that would maintain that role subject to any contractual obligations.

Q. I understand that the medical monitoring for exposure to asbestos is only applicable to work activity. How does this affect the employer of a worker who lives in an accommodation containing asbestos?

A. The employer or landlord in this case would be required to manage the asbestos within the property to ensure the ACMs are kept in a good state of repair, if the property is classed as a domestic dwelling there is no requirement to manage under CAR Reg 4, however there is an obligation under landlord and tenant laws and the defective premises act. Assuming that the asbestos in the property whether it be classed as domestic or non-domestic, there is no medical monitoring requirements.

Q. How are the photos taken inside the enclosure? e.g. is the camera in a bag/housing that can be cleaned easily.

A. The tablet that the Analyst uses is placed inside a clear plastic bag to prevent contamination, this is the only way this can be achieved, however the quality of the photos can be slightly clouded, the certificate I showed on the presentation was from Asbestos Analysts Limited, that is how they do it, I am unsure how other analytical companies do this.

Q. Is it required that the RA should be carried out by experienced workmen and then it should be verified by analysts to ensure correctness?

A. No, the RA should be carried out by someone who is competent to do so, they could always consult with a consultant or analyst to ensure they have identified all hazards and assessed all risks, asbestos removal works can be seen to be very complex.

Q. Can you explain about duty holders and how they are decided across a multi-business?

A. This will be determined by the level of responsibility individuals have within the business. For large multi business, due to the lack of desire to want to be duty holder, this is often allocated to a senior person within the business and then the individuals dealing with the day to day asbestos matters would act on behalf of the DH, such as an appointed or responsible person.