

Enclosures for AIB Soffit Removal

Appendices are attached to Technical Working Group minutes when the nature and extent of discussions (or the complexity of the subject) warrants further explanation and clarification. The following is a summary of the discussions and conclusions on the above topic.

AIB soffit removal is generally licensed work (unless the short duration exemption applies) and therefore a full enclosure (FE) would be expected unless it is not reasonably practicable. The main criteria* for establishing if a FE is reasonably practicable are as follows:

- (i) The potential for fibre release and spread during the removal.
- (ii) The relative ease with which an enclosure can be constructed.

(*The full list of criteria to be considered in the risk assessment is given in the ALG memo 03/12).

With regard to criteria (i), a “high” potential fibre release would be expected where the soffit is in poor condition and is liable to break up during removal (ie come away in pieces) or where the board will need to be broken up to allow removal (ie breakage is foreseeable eg where it is nailed on or it will be difficult to remove eg jammed or wedged under other roofing components).

With regard to criteria (ii), a FE would be expected for single or low-level buildings as it will generally be reasonably practicable to construct an enclosure in these circumstances.

The key to establishing the appropriate control regime for the AIB soffit removal is an adequate risk assessment. The risk assessment should establish if the soffits are nailed or not, as well as their condition (eg they are likely to break up during removal). It should also establish whether it is a single storey/low-level building or not.

Asbestos removal jobs should be well planned and have all the equipment necessary for the different types of conditions and circumstances which may be encountered. A licensed contractor carrying out AIB soffit removal should be prepared for the use of a FE. If the nature/condition of the AIB soffit is unknown, then the contractor

should presume that a FE will be necessary and plan on that basis. All the equipment necessary for a FE should be on-site.

A FE will be expected for:

- (i) Single or low-level buildings and/or
- (ii) Any building where the soffit will be difficult to remove (eg nailed) or will break-up.

The process to establish the type of enclosure to be used with AIB soffit removal is shown in Figure 1.

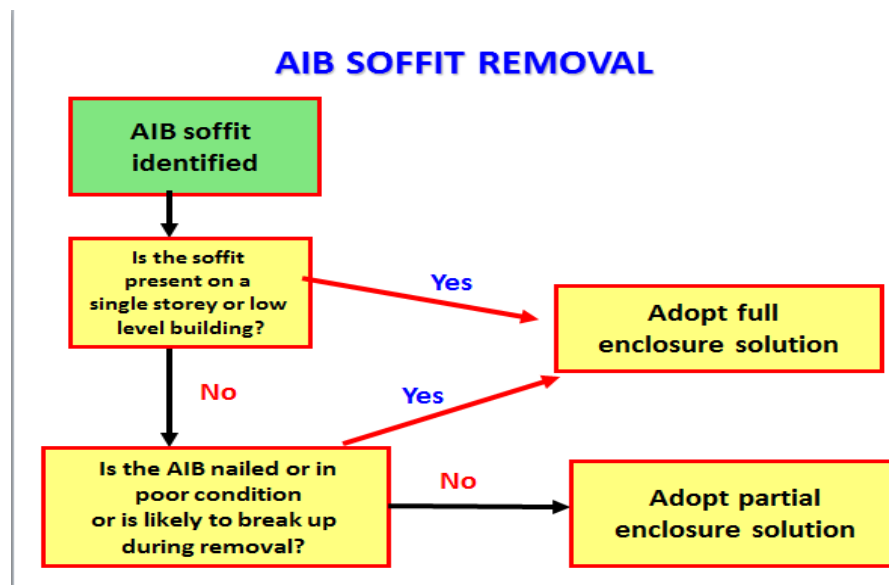


Figure 1: A summary of the process to establish the type of enclosure to be used in AIB soffit removal.