



Field Operations Directorate

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Head of Operations
Mr Barry Baker

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Dear Sir/Madam

SUPPLY OF CNA 2000 PIPELINE GASKETS – PRESENCE OF ASBESTOS

I am writing to you because you may have been supplied with pipeline gaskets that contain asbestos, and/or may have had these gaskets installed in your premises.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigated a concern in 2011 that recently manufactured pipe gaskets had been found to contain asbestos. We found that gaskets known as CNA 2000 (dark blue in colour) were manufactured by a company called G&H Engineering Services between 2006 and 2010 from material directly imported from China which contained asbestos.

HSE is completely satisfied that G&H Engineering Services were not aware that the gaskets contained asbestos and that they had received confirmation from the manufacturer that the material that was supplied to them was asbestos free. G&H Engineering subsequently wrote to their customers in 2011 to alert them to the potential hazard. However, we now believe that this letter may not have been fully circulated further down the supply chain.

G&H Engineering or their customers have identified that you may have purchased, supplied or used these CNA 2000 gaskets. If you supplied or provided these gaskets to other customers or distributors, you should forward them a copy of this letter.

Whilst fitted as a gasket, the asbestos is contained within a tight matrix of material and contained by the pipework and the risk of exposure is very low. Greater potential for risk arises when the gasket is replaced and the material is disturbed during the removal process. You may need to act to update your asbestos register and consider whether to have these gaskets removed or leave them in situ.

The HSE website Asbestos Essentials website contains all the relevant information you will require on how to manage the safe removal and disposal of the gaskets:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm>

In particular the safe system of work to be adopted when removing and disposing of the gasket is at the following link:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/a25.pdf>



Health and Safety
Executive

Alternatively contact me on garry.stimpson@hse.gov.uk for further information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Garry Stimpson'.

David Garry Stimpson
HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety