

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Policy No: 21

Management of Asbestos in Non-domestic Premises

Review	Audit & Risk Committee 13 May 2020
Board Approved	30 June 2020
Reviewed	Within 5 years

All types of asbestos are dangerous. Asbestos is made up of thin fibres that cannot be seen with the naked eye but can be breathed in. The fibres can become stuck in the lungs causing scars that stop the lungs working properly (asbestosis), or cause cancer. The main types of cancer caused by asbestos are cancer of the lung and cancer of the lining of the lung (mesothelioma). These diseases can take from 15 to 60 years to develop and there is no cure.

Anyone who disturbs asbestos-containing materials, for example, by working on them or near them, may be at risk of exposure. The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 places responsibilities on duty holders to manage asbestos in non-domestic properties.

Duty Holders Responsibilities

1. Must take reasonable steps to find out if there are materials containing asbestos in the premises and, if so, how much, where they are and what condition they are in. This will involve a survey being undertaken by a competent person;
2. The results of the survey should be recorded and the information provided to anyone who may work on, or disturb, the materials, for example, contractors;
3. Must develop a plan to manage materials containing asbestos on the premises. In some cases, asbestos can be safely left in place and a system of inspection introduced. Where asbestos is to be removed, the duty holder must use a contractor who holds a licence to work on asbestos (exemptions apply);
4. Must undertake a suitable assessment of the risk to health of employees, and others, before any work is carried out that may expose persons to asbestos. The risk assessment should be completed by a competent person;
5. The results of a risk assessment should be recorded and the information provided to employees, including the control measures in place to prevent exposure; and
6. Must review the survey and management plan at regular intervals and revise as necessary.

Employee Responsibilities

1. Must co-operate with the arrangements for the management of asbestos in non-domestic premises, for example, ask to see a copy of the asbestos survey and be mindful as to where asbestos is present, such that you are able to recognise defects or shortcomings in arrangements; and
2. Must notify the duty holder if there any defects or shortcoming in their arrangements.