

HEALTH, SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

A) - During the construction works an operative advises that he thinks he might have disturbed some asbestos when removing some existing boxing of heating pipes.

In the role of the Project Manager for the contractor provide a report detailing the initial steps you would take in response to this disturbance. Assuming that it is subsequently proven to be asbestos following survey, detail the processes you would then follow to remove the asbestos.

Question Answered – Health, Safety and the Environment - Question A

All works pertaining to asbestos is covered by legislation ie. The Health and safety at work act 1974 updated under “The control of Asbestos Regulations 2012” which came into force on 6th April 2012

It is good practice when completing projects that involve the refurbishment of existing and / or old buildings that an asbestos management plan has been included in the Construction Phase Health & Safety Plan and the headline activities have been communicated to all operatives through the induction to site process. This will be enforced in attached Appendix 1 :- The Management of Asbestos in non domestic premises – Regulation 4 of The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 Approved code of practice and Guidance

The Asbestos Management plan for the health centre project is as follows;

Asbestos Management Plan – The Health Centre Project

- It is a requirement that a full Refurbishment and Demolition asbestos survey has been carried out by a competent surveyor (UKAS accredited) that is set out in attached Appendix 2 entitled – HSG 264
- It is a requirement that all operatives on the site have received asbestos awareness training, this should be completed annually. If this has happened then the risk of exposure to asbestos will be greatly reduced to those concerned
- Appendix 3 attached :- HSE document EM1 is a very useful aide to the site team on how they deal with a suspected disturbance of asbestos to comply with current legislation and more importantly protect those affected by the find should it be confirmed as containing asbestos.
- Once it is thought that asbestos has been found or disturbed, work to the area must stop immediately, area to be cordoned off and signage displayed “ Danger, Area may have asbestos contamination.
- Client is to be notified and a licensed surveyor to take samples of the affected product is procured. Area must remain cordoned off with no admittance to anyone during the testing period.
- On this occasion, assuming that it is a confirmed ACM, a licensed contractor is to be employed, to which they will complete a site specific plan of work and issue the 14 day notification to the HSE prior to any removal of the contamination. During this period no works will be allowed in or near this area and the time is used to further plan and reinforce all Risk assessments and methods statements by a competent person and “must address the issues contained in paragraph 67 of the ACoP L143” on how the asbestos is to be removed.

Details of the plan of work to include:

1. The name and local address of the persons to whom you are contracted
2. The names, job titles, and telephone numbers of all relevant contacts, including your site supervisor and the competent person preparing the Plan of Work
3. When the supervisor will be on site
4. The number of employees on the job at any time
5. When the work is going to take place i.e. dates and times (nights, week end work, etc), the dates for set up, removal and clearance.
6. The names of the principal contractor, the Planning supervisor and CDMC construction, Design and Management coordinator for the client.
7. The name(s) of any other asbestos license holders involved
8. Who will carry out the 4 stages of the clearance process and issue the certificate of reoccupation. Provide the name of the analyst and to whom they are contracted

Scope of work and risk assessment:

1. Details of the asbestos survey, The level who did this and when.
2. Provide a description of the work, its location and the removal method, the type and form of asbestos, the quantity, extent and condition. Provide brief details of any access and fire risks and precautions taken.
3. Details of person responsible should a change to the plan of works need to be made and how this will be recorded.

Control Measures

1. State expected exposure using specified controls.
2. Describe the steps taken to reduce exposure as low as reasonably practicable and to control release into the environment
3. Provide a sketch(es) showing size of enclosure(s), location of viewing panels, negative pressure units, H-type vacuum cleaners, DCU, transit routes, bag locks, waste routes, skips etc, and include the positions from which the water and electrical supplies to the DCU are to be fed
4. State the volume of enclosure, size and numbers of NPU s and number of air, changes per hour
5. State the type of respirators used
6. Describe the air monitoring arrangements for duration of the work
7. Describe the arrangements for smoke testing and witnessing.
8. Describe how control measures are to be maintained on site and what checks are to be in place.

Method of work for removal:

1. State any additional precautions to reduce exposure
2. Provide detailed site information and a site specific description of the working method to be used with reasons
3. Describe which fibre suppressant technique is to be used for wet strip system – describe injection technique, time allowed for penetration, what indicator will be used to check material is fully saturated

4. State what tools and other equipment are to be used for AIB work, provide a proper indication of practical measures to minimise dust release

Other relevant site specific information: not in company procedures and relating to:

1. DCUs (including clearance testing)
2. Entry and exit procedures
3. Welfare facilities
4. Waste disposal
5. Emergency procedures (including asbestos disturbance during enclosure erection, etc)

Confirm the version/date of your company's standard procedures which apply.

It should be noted that work should not take place until there is a copy of the Plan of Work available on site and it should be made available to employees, to the person carrying out the 4 stage clearance process and to any others involved in the work, as necessary. Any changes to the Plan of Work should be notified in writing to the HSE.

- When the removal of the asbestos starts, no one other than those authorized by the licensed removal company is allowed into the affected area. This will remain until the works are completed, all materials cleared and disposed of in the approved method, air clearance testing has been completed, signed off and area handed back to the main contractor. Detailed records to be kept during this period and issued back to company Health and safety department upon completion.
- When all tests have been completed and verified, then and only then can normal site works resume on confirmation from the health and safety department.

 [Appendix 1.pdf](#)

Copy of HSE

The management of asbestos in non-domestic premises - Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 - Approved Code of Practice and guidance

 [Appendix 2.pdf](#)

Copy of HSE

Asbestos: The survey guide

**This is a free-to-download, web-friendly version of HSG264
(Second edition, published 2012).**

 [Appendix 3.pdf](#)

em1 asbestos essentials

Non licensed tasks

This information will help employers and the self-employed to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

Markers Comment:

A good understanding of this question is evident although I would have liked to have seen more practical application to the site in question. Legislation has been mentioned but no direct mention of RIDDOR. The question has been answered within the template field provided and also some HSE documents have been attached as well and I was able to open them readily. The purpose of these attachments is questionable as they could merely have been included within a bibliography which is not present. If the learner is referencing his text he should provide an end bibliography. The discussion would have been aided with the addition of selective annotated diagrams personalising the discussion to the site in question. I am not trying to be over critical but I feel that these additions would have clearly enhanced this submission for a clearly able student who may just require this direction for future attempts. [Make comment or override mark](#)