

Advice Regarding the Removal and Disposal of Asbestos

This advice note relates to asbestos or asbestos containing materials (ACMs) that have been used in the construction of the existing buildings at your property/development site and their removal.

Please note: The form, nature and extent of asbestos and ACMs at the property may not be completely known and may be present as lagging, insulation, boards, electrical equipment, *etc.* not just profiled cement bonded asbestos sheets used for roofing or cladding. It is recommended that an asbestos survey of the property/development site is carried out by a qualified, competent person.

Breathing in air containing asbestos fibres can lead to asbestos related diseases, mainly cancers of the lung and chest lining. To avoid the risk of inhaling of asbestos fibres, asbestos and ACMs must be handled with great care at all times. All forms of asbestos and ACMs can release fibres if disturbed, damaged or inappropriately handled.

The removal and disposal of asbestos waste is controlled by legislation enforced by the health and safety enforcement authorities; the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) or Local Authority Environmental Health (Aberdeenshire Council) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). See overleaf for contact details.

Inappropriate handling, storage or disposal of asbestos and ACMs, e.g. dropping an ACM roof without due care, may lead to the contamination the site by the release of asbestos fibres. Should this occur, investigation and remediation of the affected site by an appropriately experienced and qualified person will be required.

Removal of Asbestos Material

Works involving asbestos and ACMs are subject to the *Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012*.

The regulations and approved code of practice (ACOP) (*Managing and working with asbestos, Approved Code of Practice and guidance*, HSE 2013) outline and give guidance on the various legal duties required of the owners and/or those responsible for maintenance in non-domestic premises and employers responsible for work on asbestos (and ACMs). The ACOP describes and advises on the licencing of working with asbestos (see below), the competencies and training required of those carrying out the works, the planning of works (including demolition), control measures and duties of care to those affected by those works (including those in neighbouring properties), *etc.*

1. Licensable works involve high risk materials such as asbestos pipe lagging or asbestos insulation board and require the services of a Licensed Contractor.

Works involving low risk materials such as cement bonded asbestos products or asbestos containing floor tiles are either notifiable non-licensable or non-licensable dependent on the state of the materials and the works to be carried out.

2. Notifiable non-licensable works include the removal of 'low risk' ACMs that are already substantially damaged, broken-up, or would become so during removal, potentially creating significant quantities of dust and debris in the process.

3. Non-licensable works include the removal of undamaged or weathered (but not significantly damaged) 'low risk' ACMs that are not broken-up during removal.

You are advised to contact the appropriate health and safety enforcement authority to determine whether the asbestos in your property/development will require removal by a licensed contractor. For construction and demolition sites that authority is the HSE.

Further information and guidance, including the ACOP, is available on the HSE website: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/>

Transport and Disposal of Asbestos – Commercial Properties

All forms of asbestos are classed as hazardous waste. In Scotland, asbestos in demolition waste is special waste if there is greater than 0.1% dispersed fibres or identifiable pieces of asbestos/ACMs or if demolition has been undertaken without prior asbestos removal until proven otherwise. Please refer to SEPA Guidance, *Asbestos in Demolition Wastes, WST-G-046*, version 1, February 2015 (https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/154363/wst_g_046_asbestos_in_demolition_wastes.pdf).

The transport and disposal of hazardous waste is controlled by SEPA and requires documentation to track its movement (*Special Waste Regulations 1996 (as amended)*). **You must contact your local SEPA office for further advice and to arrange the necessary paperwork and forms.** Both a fee and a pre-notification period of 72 hours will apply. A registered waste carrier in possession of a valid waste carrier's certificate must transport hazardous waste.

Transport and Disposal of Asbestos – Domestic Properties

Aberdeenshire Council has four disposal sites licensed to accept **cement bonded asbestos** from the public. A maximum of 10 sheets can be disposed of per household. The material must be double bagged or wrapped in strong plastic, sealed and presented by the householder, in person, with proof of residency.

You must make arrangements with the site manager in advance, else be turned away.

For further details, including disposal site locations and contact numbers, please visit the Aberdeenshire Council website <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste/other/disposal-of-asbestos-domestic-properties/> or telephone 03456 081207.

There is no charge for this service and disposal of cement bonded asbestos from domestic properties does not require a waste consignment note from SEPA.

Note: The reuse¹ and supply² (other than to a licensed waste contractor) of asbestos and ACMs is prohibited by *The Asbestos (Prohibitions) Regulations 1992* and as amended by *The Asbestos (Prohibitions) (Amendment) Regulations 1999*.

Contact Addresses

Health and Safety Executive

www.hse.gov.uk

Health and Safety Executive
Lord Cullen House
Fraser Place
ABERDEEN
AB25 3UB
Tel: 01224 252500
Web: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/index.htm>

Local Authority Environmental Health

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Infrastructure Services
Environmental Health
Aberdeenshire Council
Gordon House
Blackhall Road
Inverurie
AB51 3WA
Tel: 01467 539039

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

www.sepa.org.uk

Aberdeen Office

Inverdee House
Baxter Street
Torry
ABERDEEN
AB11 9QA
Tel: 01224 266600

Arbroath Office

62 High Street
ARBROATH
DD11 1AW
Tel: 01241 874370

Elgin Office

28 Perimeter Road
Pinefield
ELGIN
IV30 6AF
Tel: 01343 547663

Fraserburgh Office

Shaw House
Mid Street
FRASERBURGH
AB43 9JN
Tel: 01346 510502

¹ ACM's containing chrysotile (white asbestos) may be used in limited circumstances, appropriate guidance should be sought from the HSE; <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/>.

² "...by way of sale, lease, hire, hire-purchase, loan, gift or exchange for a consideration other than money, whether (in all cases) as principal or as agent for another." (*The Asbestos (Prohibitions) (Amendment) Regulations 1999*)