

1.3 ASBESTOS POLICY STATEMENT

Collinson Contracts Limited recognise their responsibility to ensure all personnel working under their control, visitors or persons who may be affected by their undertakings are not subjected to hazardous substances that could affect their health and safety. The company places high priority to ensure the correct procedures and safe systems of work are established prior to works commencing. In order to comply with The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. Collinson Contracts Limited will ensure all personnel working for the company are suitably trained in identifying suspected Asbestos containing materials and the procedures required should they come into contact with suspected ACM,s.

In particular:

Asbestos is a term that is used for a number of naturally occurring silicate minerals that form bundles of crystallised fibres. These fibres have the qualities of high tensile strength combined with resistance to chemicals electricity and heat and were used throughout industry for these properties.

The three main types of asbestos that have been used commercially are;

- Crocidolite - blue asbestos
- Amosite - Brown asbestos
- Chrysolite – white asbestos

All types of asbestos are dangerous they are carcinogens, but blue and brown asbestos are statistically more dangerous than white. Asbestos types cannot be identified by their colour or appearance laboratory analysis is required to determine which type of asbestos it is.

The Law:

The regulations prohibit the importation, supply and use of all forms of asbestos. The ban for use of Blue and brown asbestos was introduced in 1985, however the ban for use of white asbestos was not introduced until 1999.

The control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 reinforced this duty which requires them to manage the risk from asbestos by:

- Finding out if there is asbestos in the premises, its amount and what condition it is in.
- Presuming materials contain asbestos, unless you have strong evidence that they do not.
- Making and keeping up to date a record of the location and condition of the asbestos containing materials or presumed asbestos containing materials in the premises.
- Assessing the risk from the material.
- Preparing a plan that sets out in detail how they are going to manage the risk from this material.
- Taking the steps needed to put their plan into action.
- Reviewing and monitoring their plan and the arrangements to put it in place.
- Providing information on the location and condition of the material to anyone who is liable

- to work on or disturb it.

The health effects of asbestos:

Asbestos is only a risk if you disturb or damage it, which can cause fibres to be released into the air, asbestos fibres are long and thick but so small that they cannot be seen, if inhaled the fibres become lodged in the tissue of your chest and your body's defences are not able to break them down.

Asbestos related diseases can take between 10 – 40 years to manifest there are several conditions and diseases associated with exposure to asbestos, such as:

- Pleural plagues
- Asbestosis
- Lung cancer
- Mesothelioma

You are mostly at risk when:

- The building you are working on was built before the year 2000
- Asbestos containing materials were not identified before the job was started
- Asbestos containing materials were identified but this information was not passed on by the people in charge to the people doing the work
- You don't know how to recognise and work safely with asbestos
- You know how to work safely with asbestos but you choose to put yourself at risk by not following proper precautions, perhaps to save time or because no one else is following proper precautions

If you encounter any dusty or hidden materials that you think may contain asbestos STOP WORK, tell your supervisor and try to avoid exposure to all dust.

Asbestos Containing Materials:

Below is a selection of common uses of asbestos containing materials:

- Insulation of boilers, plant and associated pipe work
- Sprayed insulation to steel and concrete for fire and acoustic insulation
- Asbestos insulating Board (AIB)
- Asbestos Cement products i.e. panels, tanks and roofing products
- Textured coatings
- Reinforced composite materials and bituminous products

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