

Wilkins Safety Group

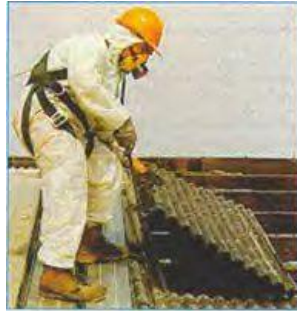
Weekly Update Newsletter



Welcome to this issue - Friday 21st October 2011 - of our Update Newsletter

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to colleagues and friends.

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CAWR 2006 Training guidance

The HSE have been running another campaign on Asbestos training, and as regular readers of our newsletter know that we do run regular in-house and open courses on Asbestos awareness. We have previously high-lighted the regulation [CAWR 2006] about compliance and the company responsibility towards correct training of staff.

What we thought we would do this week; is to highlight the HSE guidance for training and the different levels of training.



Asbestos training

The use of all asbestos containing materials was not banned until 1999. This means any building built or refurbished before the year 2000 could contain asbestos.

Any worker liable to disturb asbestos while performing their normal everyday work is required to be trained. Every employer must ensure that adequate information, instruction and training is given to those employees who are liable to be exposed to asbestos during the course of their work.

What type of training is necessary?

All workers who are liable to disturb asbestos during their normal work should be trained so that they can recognise asbestos containing materials and know what to do if they come across them. The training needs to be appropriate for the work and the roles undertaken by individuals. There are three types of asbestos training:

- Awareness training
- Training for work with asbestos that does not require a licence from HSE
- Training for asbestos work that does require a licence from HSE.

Awareness training

This training is for those persons who are liable to disturb asbestos while carrying out their normal everyday work, or who may influence how work is carried out, such as:

General maintenance workers Electricians Plumbers Joiners	Painters and decorators Plasterers Construction workers Roofers Shop fitters	Gas fitters Heating and ventilation engineers
Demolition workers	Telecommunication engineers Fire/burglar alarm installers Computer installers	Architects Building surveyors etc.

Please note: There are other occupations who are liable to disturb asbestos in addition to those listed in the above table.

You will need awareness training so you know how to avoid the risks and how to protect yourself. Asbestos awareness training should include the following topics:

- The properties of asbestos and its effects on health, including the increased risk of developing lung cancer for asbestos workers who smoke
- The types, uses and likely occurrence of asbestos and asbestos materials in buildings and plant
- The general procedures to deal with an emergency, e.g. an uncontrolled release of asbestos dust into the workplace
- How to avoid the risk of exposure to asbestos.



Important - Awareness training is not enough if you plan to carry out any work with asbestos containing materials.

Training for asbestos work that does not require a licence ('non-licensable' asbestos work)

This training is for those workers who plan to carry out any work with asbestos that does not require a licence and who may knowingly disturb lower risk asbestos containing materials. It should be provided in addition to asbestos awareness training and should be job specific.

Typically, workers who may need this training include those listed under asbestos awareness training and who carry out such tasks as:

- Drilling holes in asbestos materials (including for sampling and analysis purposes)
- Laying cables in areas containing undamaged asbestos materials
- Removing asbestos containing floor tiles
- Cleaning or repairing asbestos cement sheet roofing or cladding.

Topics covered by this type of training include:

- How to make suitable and sufficient assessments about the risk of exposure to asbestos
- Safe work practices and control measures, including an explanation on the correct use of control measures, protective equipment and work methods
- Selection and appropriate use of protective equipment
- Waste handling procedures
- Emergency procedures
- Relevant legal requirements.

Important - This form of training on its own is not sufficient for carrying out licensed work.

Training for asbestos work that does require a licence ('licensed asbestos work')

Most work with higher risk asbestos containing materials must be carried out by licensed contractors. Only suitably trained workers, using appropriate respiratory protective equipment and who are under suitable medical surveillance can undertake licensed asbestos work. This type of training is therefore required for Operatives, Supervisors and Managers working for a licensed contractor.

Refresher training

Refresher training should not be a repeat of the initial training. It should be given at least once a year and be appropriate to the work. As a result it should be tailored to meet the training needs of the individual, taking into account their experience, skills, knowledge, frequency of the work and their performance. Refresher training should focus on what 'good practice' in the job is. It may be required more frequently if:

- work methods change
- the type of equipment used to control exposure changes or
- the type of work being carried out changes significantly.
- What are my responsibilities as an employer?
- As an employer you must ensure that:
 - your employees have the training, knowledge, experience and ability to carry out the work without risk to themselves or others
 - supervisors and managers are also trained and aware of their responsibilities
 - the training provider is competent and aware of the tasks that are likely to be carried out by employees.

Self-employed workers should ensure that they are properly trained to protect themselves and ensure that others are not put at risk from their work activities.

Important - Competent training providers should have adequate practical experience in the asbestos sector and a theoretical knowledge of all relevant aspects of the work being carried out by the employer. It is the responsibility of the employer to determine whether a training provider is suitable or not.

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TRAINING COURSES



Have you booked your place on our health and safety training courses yet?

Asbestos Awareness Half Day Course – 26th October 2011

Asbestos training is a legal requirement If you work on buildings built or refurbished before the year 2000, asbestos could be present. You will need awareness training so you know how to avoid the risks. If you employ these people, you **must** train them

If you would like to discuss any of the issues highlighted in this newsletter then drop an email to Jon on jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk or call the office 01458 253682



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Your Business is Safer in Our Hands