

Wilkins Safety Group

Weekly Update Newsletter



Welcome to this issue - Friday 8th April 2011 - of our Update Newsletter

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

###



Asbestos at work 2006

Control of Asbestos at work Regulations 2006

Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2006 - The new regulations reflect requirements set out in the European Union Asbestos Workers' Protection Directive and should have been implemented in the UK in April 2006.

So, what does the legislation cover? The key aspects of Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 may be broken down into 12 main points.

1. They combine three sets of previous Regulations: these were:
 - a. The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002;
 - b. The Asbestos (Licensing) Regulations 1983, as amended; and
 - c. The amended Asbestos (Prohibitions) Regulations 1992 (Prohibitions Regulations)
2. A single control limit of $0.1 \text{ fibres per cm}^3$ has been established for all types of asbestos. This will mean that stricter control measures have to apply. The previous limits were:
 - a. $0.2 \text{ fibres per cm}^3$ for brown and blue asbestos (and white if mixed with either of these); and
 - b. $0.3 \text{ fibres per cm}^3$ for white asbestos by itself.
3. A risk-based approach will be taken to work of a short duration. This reflects a requirement in the Asbestos Workers' Protection Directive which allows work of a "sporadic and low intensity exposure" to be exempt from certain requirements. This caused difficulty defining what this work is but the HSE have issued guidance to clarify this, however, essentially it will cover work that does not exceed a limit of $0.6 \text{ fibres per cm}^3$ taken over 10 minutes.

4. Textured decorative coatings was to be excluded from the Asbestos Licensing requirements. However, the HSE emphasises that the control measures in the Asbestos Regulations still apply.
5. A new, World Health Organisation asbestos fibre counting method was introduced to replace the previous European Reference Method (ERM). This only affected those laboratories that carry out analysis and sampling for asbestos. With this method, fibres that touch particles larger than 3 microns are not counted.
6. Those issuing clearance certificates for re-occupation after asbestos removal work are required to meet the relevant accreditation requirements of ISO 17025 and ISO 17020. This had already applied to air sampling and the requirement was extended to the four-stage clearance procedures.
7. A technical amendment was made to ensure that the prohibitions to all forms of asbestos are applied. The UK did this in 1999 and as there are no asbestos-mining activities, there should be no new asbestos materials anyway.
8. The previous requirement where an employer could use his or her own employees on asbestos work was excluded. It applied when there was asbestos product manufacture and is no longer relevant.
9. In the Asbestos Workers' Protection Directive, workers' exposure to asbestos must be "reduced to a minimum and in any case below the control limit". As the UK Regulations are qualified by the term "so far as is reasonably practicable", the Health and Safety Commission proposed to use the wording from the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Amendment) Regulations 2004. This makes avoiding or minimising fibre release to be the first action. This was linked to the next step of reducing the risk at source through engineering controls.
10. Work covered by the Asbestos Regulations require a "suitable and sufficient assessment" of the presence and type of asbestos present, before it commences. Previously only the type of asbestos had to be identified is required. Where any doubt exists as to whether or not asbestos exists, the employer should assume it is present.
11. The HSC believes we already comply with the directive on using competent companies for asbestos removal and demolition. However, it did propose two changes to the "plan of work". The first change was to ensure that in refurbishment or demolition work, the asbestos was removed before the building work starts unless it is more hazardous to the workers than leaving it in. This was already a requirement in the Approved Code of Practice - the proposal brought it into the regulations.

The second change required the plan to identify the measures to be taken to ensure the premises are cleaned before they are used by people again. This was already included in the regulations but served to underpin existing requirements.

12. The amended Asbestos Workers' Protection Directive introduced an explicit requirement that employers shall provide appropriate training for all workers who are likely to be exposed to asbestos. The training must enable workers to get the necessary knowledge and skills on a specified range of issues.

These issues are:

- a. the properties of asbestos and its effects on health, including the effect of smoking
- b. the types of materials likely to contain asbestos
- c. the types of work that could result in asbestos exposure and the importance of controls to minimise exposure
- d. safe work practices, controls and protective equipment; the appropriate role, choice, selection, limitations and proper use of respiratory equipment

- e. emergency procedures
- f. decontamination procedures
- g. waste handling
- h. medical examination requirements.



So, what does this all mean?

Well, in essence, it means that tighter controls now apply to asbestos work. The changes reflect the fact that building workers are often not aware that they are working on asbestos.

What will duty holders in charge of building have to do?

Duty holders are already required to identify the location of asbestos and have a plan to manage the asbestos in buildings they control. These changes meant that control will be tighter when asbestos is removed or work is done on it.

What still needs to be done?

The regulations apply already so we recommend updating your asbestos policy and plan now. The enactment of the Asbestos Workers' Protection Directive means that people working with asbestos have greater protection.

Finally, if you are still wondering why this legislation is important consider this.

The minister for health and safety, Lord Hunt:

"These new provisions will help prevent around 6500 occupational deaths from exposure to asbestos over the next 50 years."

By consolidating all the requirements into one set of regulations, the HSE believes it is easier for duty holder, managers, and those with responsibility for employee safety to apply this law. Failure to do so is a serious matter and will result in large fines and even jail for those who do not comply.

###

TRAINING COURSES



ASBESTOS AWARENESS HALF DAY COURSE

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

Each week, approximately eight joiners, six electricians and four plumbers die from asbestos-related diseases.

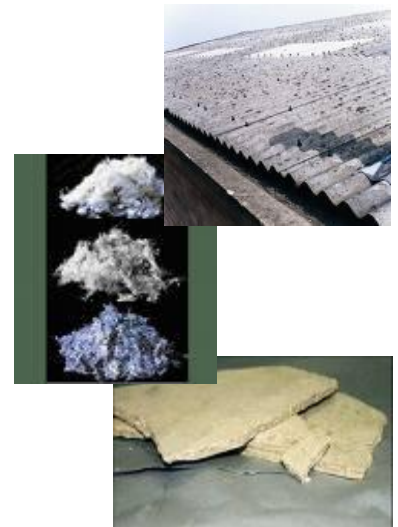
Who Is This Course Suitable For?

The main groups of workers that are deemed to be at risk from asbestos exposure and therefore the groups' most requiring asbestos awareness training are as follows:

- General Maintenance Staff.
- Electricians, Plumbers & Gas Fitters. Painters & Decorators.
- Construction & Demolition Workers. Joiners and Plasterers.
- Computing & Telecommunications Engineers.
- Heating & Ventilation Engineers.
- Roofers.
- Architects & Building Surveyors
- Fire & Burglar Alarm Installers

SYLLABUS

- Asbestos- a history of use
- What is Asbestos
- Amosite (Brown) - Chrysotile (White) - Crocidolite (Blue)
- Asbestos Containing Product Examples
- Asbestos Properties and the hidden legacy of asbestos
- Control of Asbestos Regs. and Requirements
- Exactly who is at risk
- Action to take on discovery and Survey and Recording



This ½ day Course will be held at **THE CLEVE HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB, Mantle Street, WELLINGTON, Somerset** on **Wednesday 20th April 2011**. The morning will include tea/coffee on arrival and mid-morning, Comprehensive notes will be provided to all delegates.

The all-inclusive rate of £60.00 + vat per delegate will be payable at the time of booking.

###

CITB SMSTS Training

SMSTS Training - 5-Day CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme

The CITB Site Safety Plus Site Management Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS) health and safety course is one of the most highly regarded training courses within the construction industry available for site managers and supervisors, taken by more than 10,000 people each year.

The SMSTS training course helps site managers (and anyone wanting to become a site manager) to develop a better understanding of the legal, moral and social responsibilities of their role, and to manage health and safety on site in accordance with current legal provisions.

The course lasts five days. During the SMSTS training course, candidates must pass core exercises. At the end of the training course, candidates sit an examination in order to qualify for the CITB certificate.

The industry recognised SMSTS training course is ideal for companies that need to meet the ever increasing demand for evidence of health and safety compliance.

Course Content

The SMSTS training course covers The Health & Safety at Work Act and the regulations relevant to the Construction Industry (and other workplaces), including;

- Site Set Up
- CDM
- Risk Assessment
- Method Statements
- Scaffolding
- Electricity
- Excavations
- Demolition
- Confined Spaces

Who will benefit from attending the course?

The SMSTS training course is intended for project managers, site managers and site supervisors as well as proprietors of small to medium sized companies. Client-based personnel would also benefit from attending the SMSTS training course. Possession of the CITB SMSTS qualification is listed in the Approved Code of Practice for the construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations as a demonstration of competence in the role of site manager.

Course Duration:

5-days

Location:

COURSE REF	DATE(s)	LOCATION
SMSTS 1102	4 th , 5 th , 6 th , 12 th & 13 th May 2011	Unit 8, Mendip Business Park, Rooksbridge, Somerset, BS26 2UG

Fee:

£645 all inclusive of registration and books (Fees subject to VAT)

N.B It must be stressed to all course attendees the need to attend ALL sessions since without full attendance the examining body will not award the CITB SMSTS Construction Site Managers Safety Certificate. This Course is run in association with TQ Exel Ltd and includes tea, coffee and lunch

Space is limited with a maximum of twelve attendees, so please book your place now by emailing **Jon Wilkins** on jon@jonwilkins.co.uk

###

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



Your Business is Safer
Your Business is Safer in Our Hands