

Asbestos Policy

The hazards associated with working with asbestos or materials containing asbestos fibres is that when disturbed or worked airborne asbestos fibres are proven to cause asbestosis (asbestos induced lung fibrosis), mesothelioma (cancer of the pleura or lining of the lung) and bronchogenic, lung cancer, it is therefore essential that all legislation and procedures in this are complied with fully in order to protect Occupants, Employees, Supply Chain and other Stakeholders. Thomas Vale's policy is to use only licensed contracts for all works associated with asbestos regardless of type or location of the asbestos.

Precautions

No new asbestos or second hand asbestos based products or materials shall be used (The control of Asbestos regulation 2006 ban the supply and use of all types of asbestos)

Prior to commencement of works to a previously developed site or works of a demolition or refurbishment nature the Contract Manager must liaise with the Client, Safety, Health & Environmental team or specialist contractors to ensure a thorough survey is undertaken to ascertain if any asbestos based materials are present. Any suspicious materials will be sampled and sent for analysis.

Training

Information, toolbox talks, induction and training will be given to all employees and other persons effected relevant to the specific project including –

- Visual identification
- The health risks associated with asbestos
- Reporting procedures
- Their responsibilities

Based upon the analysis report an assessment will be made by a specialist contractor as to the best method to prevent and reduce exposure to asbestos fibres, in all cases this will involve the use of specialist contractors with a license issued by the HSE for the removal of asbestos based materials. A copy of the contractor license must be provided to the site management before work starts.

Before work starts the licensed contractor must produce a written method statement for approval by the Client, Clients professionals and the Thomas Vale team, approval needs to be given in writing. The method statement must include the following details as a minimum.

- Date and page numbers
- Method of removal
- Type of enclosure
- Testing of enclosure (smoke testing will be witnessed)
- Negative pressure arrangements
- Decontamination procedures
- Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) and personal protective clothing (PPE)
- Air monitoring arrangements (including visual inspections)
- Removal of waste
- Copies of consignment notes
- Clearance certificates

It is imperative that the Specialist Contractor works to the agreed method statement. If there needs to be a change in the working method this change must be approved in writing.



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Notification

If the assessment report from the Client/Professionals indicates that the materials to be removed is asbestos based and requires a 'Licensed Contractor' or the work is likely to exceed the action levels contained within the regulation then 14 days prior notice of the work starting must be given to the HSE. This notice must be carried out by the Licensed Contractor with copies to the Thomas Vale team.

References

Health and Safety at work act 1974

The asbestos (licensing) regulations 1983 amended 1999

The asbestos (prohibitions) regulations 1985 amended 1999

The control of asbestos at work regulation 2006

The ACOP – Work with asbestos insulation coating and asbestos insulated board.

An introduction to asbestos essentials

Asbestos essentials – task manual.

Approved by SA Hyde, Managing Director (August 2008)



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