



Risk assessment and method statement

Asbestos risk assessment

Work that may disturb asbestos. Pre-filled with typical hazards, controls and sequence: edit it for this site.

PROJECT

SITE ADDRESS			
ACTIVITY Work that may disturb asbestos		RAMS REFERENCE	
CONTRACTOR CARRYING OUT THE WORK		PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	
PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	REVISION	DATE

Revision record

Reissue and rebrief when the sequence, the programme, the team or the conditions change. If you would have written it differently had you known, it needs a new revision.

REV	DATE	WHAT CHANGED	BY

THE WORK

The activity, the place and the people

Pre-filled for this kind of work. Make every line specific to this site: this sequence, this access, these people, this weather.

Scope of the activity

What is being done, and what is not included.

MHSWR REGULATION 3(1)

Refurbishment and maintenance work at [address] that may disturb the building fabric: [list tasks, for example rewiring, replacing ceilings, removing boxing]. Materials in the work area are listed on the information check page. Non-licensed tasks only. Any licensable work is done by [HSE licence holder] before our work starts.

Location and access

Where on site, how people and materials get there, and the restrictions.

Site access via [entrance]. Work area at [location], barriered, signed and closed to occupants and other trades during the work. Decontamination point at [location]. Asbestos waste stored in [locked skip or secure area]. Working hours [08:00 to 17:00].

Programme and interfaces

When the work runs, and who else is working nearby.

CDM REGULATION 15(2)

START DATE

DURATION

WORKING HOURS

INTERFACES WITH OTHER TRADES

Occupants and other trades kept out of the work area: [names]. The client or dutyholder [name] provides the asbestos register and is told of any new finds. Licensed contractor [name] works first where licensable work is needed.

Documents this RAMS relies on

Asbestos register and management plan [ref]; refurbishment and demolition survey to HSG264 [ref]; HSG210 task sheets [refs]; plan of work. Also>NNLW notification [ref]; training and face-fit records; medical records for>NNLW.

The team, and their competence

CDM REGULATION 8

ROLE	NAME	CARD, TICKET OR TRAINING NEEDED	CONTACT
All trades		Asbestos awareness training before working on the fabric of any building that could contain asbestos.	
Non-licensed work		Training for the specific non-licensed tasks, refreshed every year.	
Supervisor		Trained in non-licensed work and the HSG210 methods the job uses.	
Surveyor		A competent surveyor for the refurbishment and demolition survey, working to HSG264.	
Licensed contractor		An HSE licence holder for any licensable work, with the licence checked before they start.	

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METHOD STATEMENT

The sequence of work

The order the team will work in on the day, with the controls built into each stage. If the sequence changes on site, revise the RAMS and brief it again.

STAGE	WHAT IS DONE, AND HOW	CONTROLS AT THIS STAGE	BY
Get the asbestos information	Ask the client or dutyholder for the asbestos register, management plan and survey. For refurbishment, check there is a refurbishment and demolition survey of the areas you will work in.	Survey covers the full scope; any gap is presumed to contain asbestos until sampled.	Contracts manager
Decide the work category	Decide for each material in the work area whether the work is licensed, notifiable non-licensed or non-licensed. Base it on the material, its condition and the task.	Decision recorded on the work category page; licensed work passed to an HSE licence holder.	Assessor
Write the plan of work	Write the assessment and the plan of work. Set out the work, where it is, how long it will take, the method and equipment, and how waste and decontamination are handled.	Written plan of work under regulation 7, kept on site.	Assessor
Notify where needed	If the work is notifiable non-licensed, notify the enforcing authority before work starts. Check each operative has had a medical examination within the last 3 years.	Notification reference recorded; health records kept for 40 years.	Contracts manager
Brief the team	Brief the assessment, the task sheet method, RPE and coverall use, decontamination, and what to do if something unexpected is found.	Training records and face-fit records checked; briefing signed against this revision.	Supervisor
Set up the work area	Clear and segregate the area, lay sheeting, put up signs and keep others out. Set up the H class vacuum, wetting equipment, waste bags and the decontamination point.	Area closed to others for the whole of the work.	Operatives
Do the work	Work to the HSG210 task sheet, keeping the material damp or controlled, avoiding breakage, and bagging waste as you go.	Stop if the job grows beyond the assessment or the material breaks up.	Operatives
Clean and decontaminate	Clean the area with the H class vacuum and damp wipes. Take off coveralls and RPE in the order the task sheet sets out, and bag them as asbestos waste.	Area checked visibly clean before the barriers come down.	Supervisor
Remove the waste	Seal and label the bags, store them securely, and arrange removal by a registered waste carrier to a permitted site.	Waste paperwork kept with the job file.	Supervisor
Close out	Record what was done and tell the client, so the asbestos register can be updated. Review the assessment before the next job.	Client informed in writing; records filed.	Contracts manager

CDM REGULATION 15(2): PLAN, MANAGE AND MONITOR THE WORK

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RISK ASSESSMENT

Hazards, controls and the risk that remains

Each significant hazard rated before and after its controls, as likelihood times severity. The ratings are typical: check them for this site.

	LIKELIHOOD		SEVERITY		
	1	2	3	4	5
5	5	10	15	20	25
4	4	8	12	16	20
3	3	6	9	12	15
2	2	4	6	8	10
1	1	2	3	4	5
	1	2	3	4	5

1 to 4 low
 5 to 12 medium
 15 to 25 high

HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Asbestos not shown on the survey	Trades opening up walls, ceilings, floors and boxing in areas the survey did not inspect.	4 x 5 = 20 High	- A refurbishment and demolition survey to HSG264 for the areas to be worked on, in place before work starts. - Survey checked against the actual scope; any area it does not cover is presumed to contain asbestos until sampled. - Team briefed on the materials likely in a building of this age and type.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	Contracts manager
Sprayed coatings and pipe lagging	Plumbers, heating engineers and electricians working near pipes, boilers, ducts and steelwork.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Licensed work only: non-licensed trades do not disturb these materials at all. - Material presumed to be asbestos until sampled, the area barriered and the client told. - Our work programmed after a licence holder has removed or made safe the material.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Contracts manager
Asbestos insulating board (AIB)	Trades working on ceiling tiles, partitions, soffits, fire breaks and boxing made of AIB.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- A licensed contractor for AIB unless the work is short duration: no more than 2 hours in 7 days, with no one person over 1 hour. - Short duration AIB work treated as notifiable non-licensed work, with notification, medical examinations and records. - Ceiling voids above AIB tiles entered only after checking whether they have been cleaned.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Drilling or fixing into textured coatings	Electricians, joiners and decorators working on textured ceilings and walls.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Work done to the HSG210 task sheet for the material, using the controlled method it sets out. - Area cleared of other people and the floor protected with polythene sheeting. - Large-scale removal of textured coatings by steam or gel is notifiable non-licensed work, planned and notified as such.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Asbestos cement sheets, pipes and gutters	Roofers and maintenance trades repairing or removing cement roofs, gutters, flues and panels.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Non-licensed work only while the material is in reasonable condition; substantially damaged or broken-up cement is NNWL. - Sheets wetted and removed whole where possible, without breaking or power cutting. - Cement roofs treated as fragile: nobody stands or walks on the sheets.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Floor tiles, gaskets and rope seals	Flooring trades and heating engineers lifting old tiles or working on old boilers, flues and doors.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Non-licensed work to the HSG210 task sheet, with materials kept damp and removed whole where possible. - Waste bagged as it comes away, not left to collect on the floor.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Spreading contamination beyond the work area	Other trades, occupants and the public, from dust on clothing, tools and waste.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- Work area segregated and signed, with others kept out until it is clean. - Disposable coveralls removed and bagged before leaving, with personal decontamination as the task sheet sets out. - No dry sweeping; clean-up with an H class vacuum and damp wipes.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	
RPE that does not protect the wearer	Operatives on non-licensed work wearing the wrong mask, or one that does not seal.	3 x 5 = 15 High	- RPE chosen to the task sheet, with each wearer face-fit tested on that model. - Wearers clean-shaven where a tight-fitting mask seals; pre-use checks before each job.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	

MHSWR REGULATION 3(6): WITH FIVE OR MORE EMPLOYEES, RECORD THE SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

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RISK ASSESSMENT, CONTINUED

More hazards, and those specific to this site

HAZARD	WHO COULD BE HARMED, AND HOW	RISK BEFORE	CONTROLS	RISK AFTER	BY
Exposure above the control limit	Anyone in the work area if the task releases more fibres than the assessment allowed for.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	• Methods chosen to keep exposure as low as reasonably practicable and well under the control limit. • If the job grows or the material breaks up, work stops and the category is decided again. • Any work where the assessment cannot show the control limit will not be exceeded is licensed work.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Asbestos waste	Operatives bagging and moving waste, and anyone who handles it later.	3 x 5 = 15 High	• Waste wrapped or bagged and labelled as asbestos waste, as HSG210 sets out. • Stored in a locked skip or secure area, then removed by a registered waste carrier to a permitted site. • Used coveralls, gloves and wipes treated as asbestos waste.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Operatives without asbestos training	Anyone whose work could disturb asbestos without knowing what it looks like or what to do.	3 x 5 = 15 High	• Asbestos awareness training for every trade that works on the fabric of buildings, with refreshers as needed. • Training for non-licensed work, refreshed every year, for anyone who carries out that work.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	
Finding suspected asbestos during work	Any operative who uncovers a material that is not on the survey.	3 x 5 = 15 High	• Stop work at once, keep others out of the area and do not try to clean up. • Report to the supervisor, who checks the survey and arranges sampling or treats the material as asbestos. • Work restarts only once the material is identified and the right category of contractor is in place.	1 x 5 = 5 Med	Supervisor
Occupied premises	Residents, staff, pupils or customers in the building while work goes on.	3 x 5 = 15 High	• Work area closed to occupants and signed; work timed for when the area is empty where possible. • Client or dutyholder told about the work and the controls before it starts.	2 x 5 = 10 Med	

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EQUIPMENT

Plant, equipment and PPE

Plant and equipment

Each item, the checks and certificates it needs, and who may operate it.

PUWER 1998, LOLER 1998

ITEM	CHECKS AND CERTIFICATES	OPERATOR COMPETENCE
H class vacuum cleaner	Suitable for asbestos; filter and hose checked before use.	Trained operative
Hand sprayer for wetting	Filled and working before work starts.	Trained operative
Polythene sheeting and tape	Enough to protect surfaces and seal off the area.	Trained operative
Asbestos waste bags	Labelled for asbestos waste; enough for the work and the PPE.	Trained operative
Reusable RPE	Pre-use check; filters suitable for asbestos; examined at intervals.	Fit-tested wearer

Personal protective equipment

PPE is the last line of defence, after the controls above. Specify the type, not just the item.

PPE AT WORK REGULATIONS 1992

ITEM	NEEDED	TYPE AND SPECIFICATION
Safety helmet	☒	To site standard
Safety footwear	☒	Wiped clean or bagged before leaving
High-visibility clothing	☐	
Gloves	☒	Disposable, bagged as asbestos waste
Eye protection	☒	Where the task sheet calls for it
Hearing protection	☐	
Respiratory protection Type, and face-fit tested	☒	To the task sheet, face-fit tested
Harness or restraint Anchor points identified	☐	

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CONTROLS

Substances, permits, emergencies and the environment

Hazardous substances

Each substance and its COSHH assessment.

COSHH 2002, REGULATION 6

SUBSTANCE	COSHH ASSESSMENT REFERENCE	CONTROLS
Asbestos fibres (non-licensed work)	[assessment ref]	HSG210 method, area segregated, H class vacuum, fit-tested RPE

Permits and plans

PERMIT OR PLAN	NEEDED	REFERENCE
Hot work permit	☐	
Permit to work	☒	
Permit to dig or break ground	☐	
Confined space entry	☐	
Lift plan	☐	
Temporary works design	☐	

Emergency and rescue

First aid, fire, and how someone is rescued.
The rescue plan belongs in the RAMS, not after it.

If suspected asbestos is found or disturbed: stop work, keep everyone out of the area and do not clean up. Tell the supervisor, who checks the survey and arranges sampling. Contaminated clothing is bagged as asbestos waste, never taken home. First aid and the site emergency procedure apply to any other incident.

Environment and neighbours

Dust, noise, vibration, waste, spills and hours of work.

Asbestos waste wrapped or bagged, labelled and kept in a locked skip or secure area. Removed by a registered waste carrier to a permitted site, with the waste paperwork kept. No dust released outside the work area.

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INFORMATION CHECK AND WORK CATEGORY

Asbestos information and work category decision

First confirm the survey type, date and coverage. Then decide each material in turn. If a row says licensed, the work is not ours: name the licence holder.

MATERIAL AND LOCATION	SURVEY INFORMATION	CONDITION AND TASK	WORK CATEGORY AND TEST APPLIED	WHO DOES IT AND NOTIFICATION
Survey check: [management / refurbishment and demolition] survey dated [date]	Covers every area in the scope: [yes / no]	Areas not covered: [list], presumed asbestos	Register shows: [materials in the work area]	Checked by [name] on [date]
Example: textured coating, first floor ceiling	Survey [ref], sample [no.]: contains asbestos	Good condition; drill holes for new light fittings	Non-licensed: minor task, material in good condition	Trained operatives, to the HSG210 task sheet
Example: AIB ceiling tiles, store room	Not sampled: presumed AIB	Remove three tiles for a cable route, one operative, under 1 hour	NNLW: AIB, short duration (2 hours in 7 days, no one over 1 hour)	Trained operatives; notify before start; medicals in date
Example: pipe lagging, plant room	Survey [ref]: asbestos lagging	Damaged; pipes to be rerouted	Licensed: pipe lagging is licensable work	HSE licence holder [name], notified 14 days ahead
Example: cement roof sheets, outbuilding	Roof not surveyed: presumed asbestos cement	Weathered but intact; remove four whole sheets	Non-licensed: cement in reasonable condition, removed whole	Trained operatives, to HSG210, with a work at height plan

CONTROL OF ASBESTOS REGULATIONS 2012, REGULATIONS 2, 3(2), 5 AND 6; HSE HSG210 AND HSG264

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Briefed before the work starts

BRIEFED BY	REVISION BRIEFED	DATE AND TIME

[illegible]

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