

Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee (QNJAC)

Occupational Health

Information Sheet 10

April 2013

Management of Asbestos on Site

This information sheet has been developed by the Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee (QNJAC) to help quarry operators, contractors, managers and others make health and safety improvements in the quarry industry. This guidance represents good practice, which may go further than the minimum you need to do to comply with the law

Approved by the Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee (QNJAC)
(Version 1: 17 April 2013)

Management of Asbestos on Site

Legal Requirements:

- Health and Safety at Work etc Act (1974)

The HASAWA requires the employer to ensure plant, machinery and systems are safe and without risk.

- Control of Asbestos Regulations (2012)

These regulations revised previous legislation and aim to ensure that asbestos on site is identified and managed in order to avoid risk to health of employees, visitors or members of the public. They require site management to:

- Identify all forms of Asbestos on site and assess the risk to health from it
- Compile a register detailing type and location of any asbestos
- Produce an action plan to manage asbestos either by removal or monitoring in situ

- Quarries Regulations (1999)

Regulation 6 and 7 require a quarry to be operated only where any hazards that employees or visitors could be exposed to have been assessed and are managed.

Why should you read this guidance:

Asbestos is the single biggest cause of work-related death in the UK. Around 4500 people die from asbestos related diseases each year. Many of these are people involved in building and construction who were exposed to asbestos in their day-to-day work.

Asbestos describes a group of naturally occurring, fibrous minerals widely used for their fire resistant, binding and wear resistant properties. These fibres can also be woven into cloth or rope. Asbestos can be found in many products used in construction and other industries e.g cement roofs, wall cladding, pipes and gutters, lagging, wall coatings like Artex, sprayed coatings, Insulation board, floor tiles, fire blankets, heat resistant gloves. Asbestos composites can be toilet cisterns and seats, window sills and bath panels (see appendix 1 photos of examples).

There are three main types of asbestos:

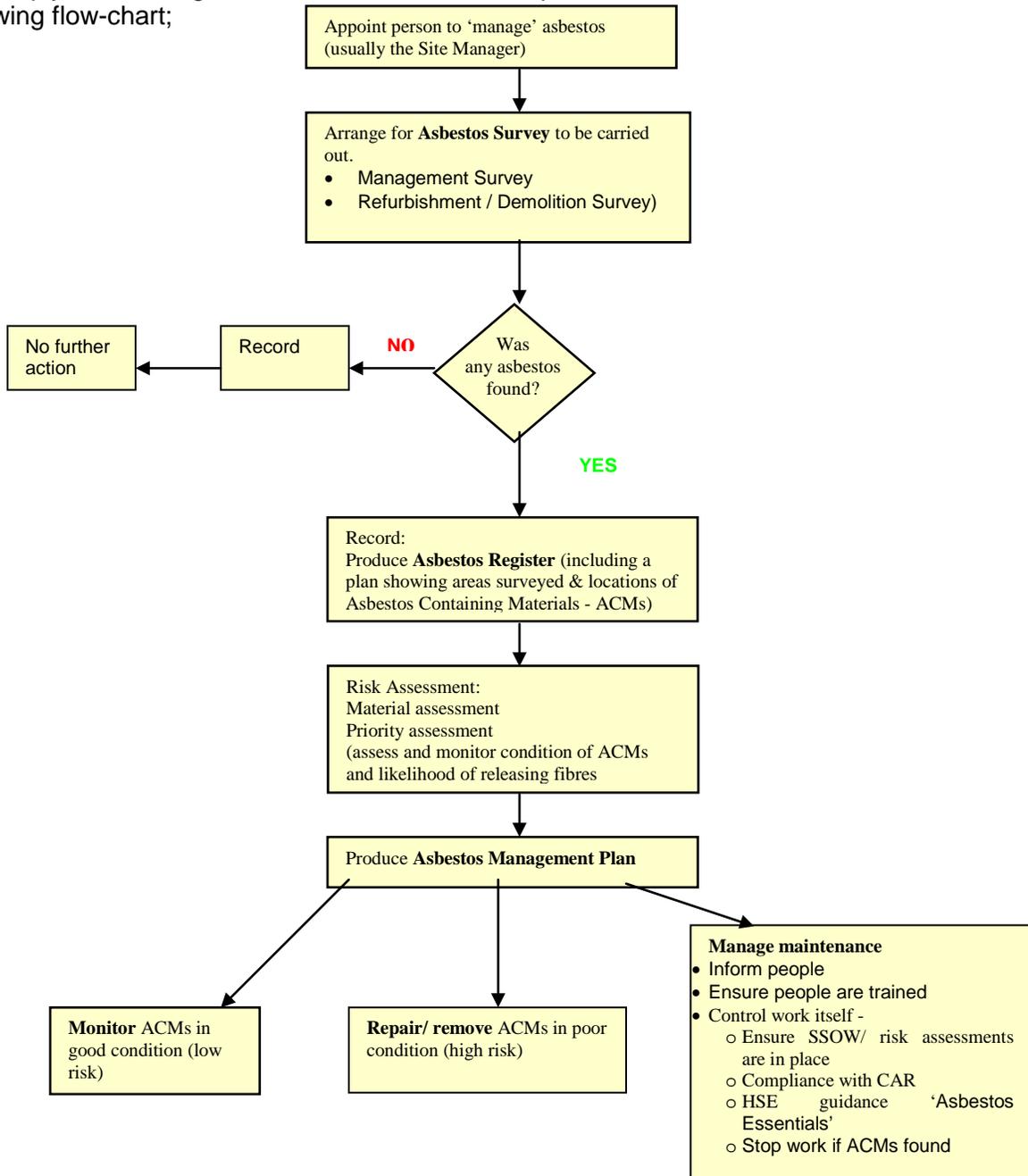
- Crocidolite (blue);
- Amosite (brown);
- Chrysotile (white).

all three types can cause asbestos related diseases.

Asbestos was used widely in the UK until a ban was introduced on blue and brown asbestos in certain products in 1985. The use of asbestos (mainly white) continued until 1999, when all types were banned completely in the UK.

Actions to be taken on site:

To comply with the regulations there are several steps that need to be taken, as detailed in the following flow-chart;



Responsibilities

The key responsibilities of the site manager are:

- Establish if there is any asbestos on site and what condition it is in
- Assess the risks to health of any asbestos found on the premises
- Produce a plan to manage the risk and to act upon it

Surveys

The management survey is to find out if there is any asbestos on site, where it is and what condition it is in. It must be carried out in accordance with HSG264 – ‘Asbestos –the Survey Guide’ and it is strongly recommended that this is completed by a competent accredited or certified surveyor.

A refurbishment/demolition survey is completed when there is planned work on premises to upgrade, refurbish or demolish any or all of the building.

Asbestos Register

The information contained within the management survey must then be used to produce a site register of asbestos that has details of the location, extent and condition of any asbestos found on site.

Management Plan

Using the survey and the register the site manager needs to produce a plan to manage the risks from any asbestos. This will include such items as:

- Removal
- Inspection of asbestos
- Signage and other warning information
- Precautions to take if asbestos is to be disturbed
- What to do in the event of emergencies – e.g. unexpected discovery of asbestos
- Training and instruction of personnel who may be exposed to asbestos

Training and Instruction

All personnel on site should be given basic information on asbestos and the results of any management surveys. Personnel who are likely to come across or disturb asbestos as part of their daily duties e.g. maintenance staff, electricians etc, should be provided with further Asbestos Awareness training that provides them with information on recognising asbestos, its health risks ,how to avoid the risks .

STOP if in doubt

Removal of Asbestos

The current regulations differentiate between licensable and non-licensable work on asbestos when the material is to be knowingly disturbed and removed.

It is strongly recommended that any disturbance or removal of materials containing asbestos is carried out by suitably trained and licensed personnel only. A list of asbestos license holders can be found on the HSE website.

Disposal of Asbestos

Asbestos is classed as a hazardous waste and must be disposed of by licensed waste carriers in waste sites that are licensed to receive asbestos.

Guidance currently available:

- www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos

This site has a wealth of information on asbestos including;

- ACOP guidance
- Guides to the regulations
- 'Introduction to Asbestos' learning package

Best practice currently available:

- www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials

The 'Asbestos Essentials' are a series of guides on non-licensable work with asbestos and provides best practice guidance.

Training/Toolbox talks:

For most site personnel a toolbox talk using the information in this guidance will be sufficient including details of any surveys completed. However, more detailed awareness training will be needed for those people whose work could foreseeably expose them to asbestos e.g. maintenance staff.

Further details of training resources available can be accessed on the HSE website;

- www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/training.htm

There are resources available on the website and links to organisations providing more detailed training. Asbestos Awareness Training is also available on-line.

Additional resources:

Details of the four main training associations are available on HSE's website:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/training.htm>

Key Performance indicators to consider:

- TBT completed with all employees
- Asbestos awareness training completed for those employees whose work could foreseeably expose them to asbestos
- Management survey completed for site
- Asbestos register completed and action plan to deal with asbestos identified
- Any asbestos removed is completed in accordance with CAR and Asbestos Essentials

Appendix 1



ceiling tiles



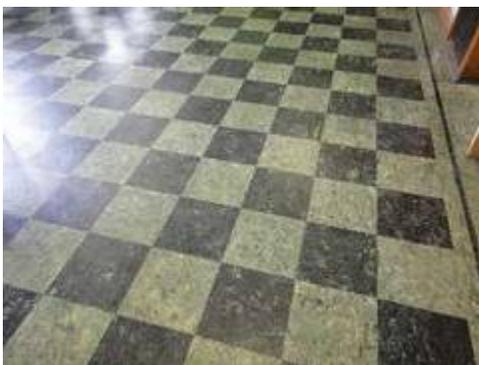
Roof panels



Asbestos Insulating Board (AIB)



Asbestos Pipe Lagging



Vinyl asbestos floor tiles



Bituminous tile adhesive



Bitumen-asbestos sink pad



Toilet cistern contains asbestos

within the plastic



Artex textured plaster containing asbestos



Asbestos in fire door (AIB may also be used)



Friction products containing asbestos



Sprayed asbestos fire-proofing and/or insulation