

Asbestos Guide

Telecoms Location Case - Lineside

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Asbestos Exposure

Exposure to asbestos fibres causes mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis, all of which can be fatal. Worst of all, it's not instant and you won't see it coming, these diseases may not develop for ten to fifty years.



- Asbestos still kills around 5000 workers each year, this is more than the number of people killed on the road.
- Around 20 tradesman die each week as a result of past exposure
- Asbestos is not just a problem of the past. It can be present today in any building built or refurbished before the year 2000.

Purpose of this guide

Who is this for?

This guide has been created to assist anyone who may disturb Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) when working on our infrastructure. It will also assist responsible managers and those who control site safety and access, by showing where ACMs are likely to be.

Telecoms Location Case - Lineside have been identified as potentially **Medium risk**

The Technical Authority (TA) has completed an assessment of all our assets and identified telecoms location cases - lineside as potentially Medium risk. Lots of information was used to complete the assessment, including; previous survey information, location, asbestos type, accessibility etc.

This guide highlights the most significant risks, but there may be others

This guide provides a list of locations where we believe ACMs might exist, but there may be others. You should always assume that an asset will contain asbestos unless it has been inspected/surveyed and recorded on Network Rail's Asbestos Risk Management System (ARMS <https://arms.networkrail.co.uk>).

This guide must not be used in place of an asbestos survey.

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Asset Information

Location cases can be attached to walls, frames or can be free standing. They can be internal within buildings or external along the track. They can contain a variety of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) made of varying product types including insulating board, cement panels, textiles, rope gaskets and cloth.

Typically, some of the ACM locations to a location case are:

- Rope or cloth door seals
- Base board
- Cable sleeves
- Back board
- Debris in the vicinity

Lineside location cabinets are located outdoors and are in areas that are not occupied and are occasionally likely to be disturbed by the workforce. Maintenance activities are expected to cause minor disturbance to any ACMs present (e.g. possibility of contact when gaining access)

If any suspected ACMs could be disturbed or are damaged it should be reported to the duty holder (NR/TOC/FOC/DFO or other) who will determine what action is required.

Maintenance

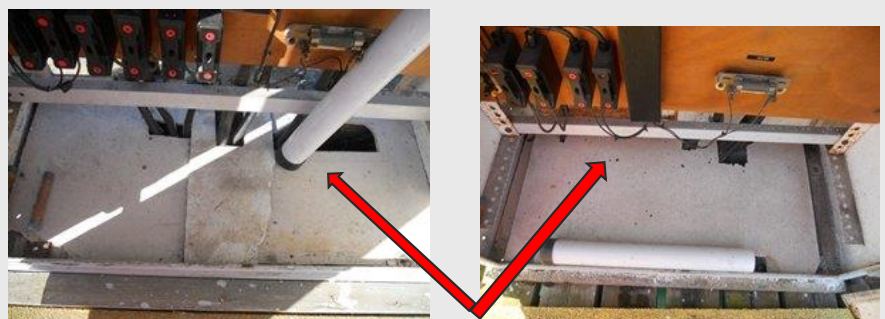
Location cases are subject to maintenance checks every three months. This maintenance will require the door to be opened and the plant/equipment inside to be worked upon.

In the case of failure, which may occur as often as every two months, the cabinets are opened and the base panel is removed. During a previous asbestos surveying programme this identified that there was evidence that this is causing damage to the cable entry base board.

Some location cabinets have cable entry panels at the base of the cabinet. They were originally bolted into the bottom of the cabinet, however over time the panels have been damaged and they appear to be resting or part fixed to the bottom of the cabinet. These boards have been removed whenever new cables have been added. Other maintenance includes an annual clean of the cabinet.

Due to the damaged nature of the cable entry boards it is recommended that the cleaning of the location cabinets be suspended until the asbestos boards have been removed and the cabinet environmentally cleaned by a RISQS Approved Licensed Asbestos Removal Contractor.

Example Photos



Asbestos base boards

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Maintenance continued

Example Photos



Asbestos Rope seals



Cable Sleeves

Work with Asbestos

There are three types of work with asbestos:

- 1. Non-Licensed Works** - Work with asbestos that does not require a licence from the HSE. Further information on non-licensed works can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/non-licensed-work.htm>
- 2. Notifiable Non-Licensed Works (NNLW)** - Work with asbestos that does not require a licence from the HSE but is required to be notified to the appropriate enforcing authority (HSE/ORR). Further information on NNLW can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/notifiable-non-licensed-work.htm>
- 3. Licensed works** - Work with asbestos that requires the contractor to hold a license from the HSE and usually requires notification to the appropriate enforcing authority (HSE) 14 days prior to the work starting. Further information on licensed works can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/licensed-contractor.htm>

Work with Asbestos continued

There are some tasks Network Rail Operatives undertake which bring them into contact with asbestos. Most maintenance tasks deemed as work with asbestos will not be licensed works. With the correct level of information, instruction and training, and if the works are deemed as **Non-Licensed Works** or **Notifiable Non-Licensed Works (NNLW)**, Network Rail Operatives can undertake these tasks. Network Rail Operatives must never undertake **Licensed Works** – a Licensed Asbestos Removal Contractor (LARC) must be used.

There is a guide on the HSE website to assist in deciding if the work requires an HSE-Licensed asbestos contractor <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/managing/flashtools/isitlicenced.htm>
If the work falls under notifiable non-licensed work the notification form can be found at <https://extranet.hse.gov.uk/lfservlet/external/asbnnlw1>

Some examples of maintenance work which **does not usually require a licence from the HSE** are listed below:

- Removal and/or replacement of asbestos cement base boards
- Feeding cables through asbestos base boards
- Feeding cables through asbestos ducts/cable sleeves
- Disturbance of door/cabinet seals that are unsealed or sealed with signs of damage.
- Removal/Disturbance of ropes or gaskets, depending on condition, if poor condition or degraded during work it will be NNLW, if kept virtually intact likely to be non-licensed work.
- Removal of AIB base boards but only if not part of maintenance, short duration work and below the control limit

Some examples of maintenance work which **requires a license from the HSE** are listed below:

- Work on asbestos insulating board, where the risk assessment indicates that it will not be of short duration
- cleaning up significant quantities of loose/fine debris containing ACM dust (where the work is not sporadic and of low intensity, the control limit will be exceeded or it is not short duration work)

If there is asbestos dust/debris present works may need to be completed by a Licensed Asbestos Removal Contractor.

All non-licensed and notifiable non-licensed work with asbestos requires:

- Risk Assessment <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/risk-assessments.htm>
- Appropriate Controls <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm>
- Information, Instruction & Training <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/training.htm>
 - Asbestos awareness training (NR training catalogue course code S&SD/OH&S/AM RME)
 - Task-specific information, instruction & training (Cat B Training industry standard, delivered by NR approved framework asbestos contractor)

In summary - for all work with asbestos, staff will require adequate PPE (including a face fit test), training, appropriate equipment and medical surveillance (for NNLW). Records must be kept in relation to works completed including exposure and health records. Arrangements need to be made for the disposal of asbestos waste including storage location, waste carriers license and waste consignment notices. Without all of the above in place, staff must not start work on asbestos.

If in doubt, do not start work.

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Further Information

Document Reference	Document Title
NR/L2/CIV/168	Asbestos Management
NR/L2/OHS/157	Health surveillance for silica and asbestos and the management of diagnosed occupational respiratory conditions.
Number Route Specific	Operational Regional Asbestos Management Plan (ORAMP) / Regional Property Asbestos Management Plan (RPAMP)
Number Site Specific	Operational Site Specific Asbestos Management Plan (OSSAMP)
SI No.632	Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012
L143	Managing and Working with Asbestos. Control of Asbestos Regulations
HSG210	Asbestos Essentials (including task sheets for Equipment and method sheets EM1-EM10 and work with asbestos A1-A37)
HSG 264	Asbestos: The Survey Guide
HSG 248	The Analysts Guide
HSG247	The Licensed Contractors' Guide
GE/RT8047	Reporting of Safety Related Information
INDG453	The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations
NR/L2/INV/002	Accident and Incident Reporting and Investigation
NR/L2/OHS/00103	Specialist Risk Assessment - COSHH
NR/L2/OHS/00112	Worksafe Procedure
NR/L2/OHS/00124	Competence specific medical fitness requirements and supplier requirements for medical assessments
NR/L2/OHS/0047	Application of the Common Safety Method for Risk Evaluation and Assessment
NR/L2/RSE/100/02	Application of the Common Safety Method for Risk Evaluation and Assessment
NR/L3/INV/3001	Reporting and Investigation Manual
NR/L3/INV/3001/RIM101	Reporting of accidents, incidents and occupational ill health
NR/L3/INV/3001/RIM113	Statutory reporting of accidents, incidents and occupational ill health
NR/SP/OHS/00102	Work Activity Risk Assessment
NR2072P	Preliminary report investigation form