

Asbestos - FACTSHEET

What is it?

Asbestos was widely used in **COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS** and **HOMES** until its ban in **1999**.

The presence of asbestos alone should **NOT** be a **CAUSE FOR CONCERN** and only becomes a **HAZARD** when it is released into the **AIR** and **BREATHED IN**.

This will only occur through **DAMAGE** or **DISTURBANCE** of the asbestos containing material (**ACM**) allowing the fibres to escape.



The **CONCENTRATION** and **FREQUENCY** of **EXPOSURE** to asbestos can **INCREASE** the **RISK** of developing an asbestos related disease.

ALL Network Rail employees must complete the **MANDATORY ASBESTOS E-LEARNING** which can be found on Oracle.

To avoid accidental exposure before you start a task...

All work must be **risk assessed** prior to commencing. To support this and dependent on the task and location, the asbestos risk management (**ARMs**) register should be used to check whether asbestos is present.

Did you know...

Asbestos still kills around **5000** workers each year.

SMOKING increases the risk of developing **LUNG CANCER** in people with a history of **ASBESTOS EXPOSURE** so the best thing you can do if you smoke is to **STOP!**



What can you do next?

Call the NHS smoking helpline on **0800 022 4332** for free advice.

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Visit the HSE website for more information on asbestos – www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos

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Visit the ORR website – www.orr.gov.uk/what-and-how-we-regulate/health-and-safety/guidance-and-research/occupational-health-guidance

Working with asbestos

To undertake certain tasks that involve asbestos, you have to be **LICENCED** by the **Health and Safety Executive (HSE)**.

It is important to remember that non licensed work has a number of legal requirements that must be adhered to such as **NOTIFYING** the **HSE**

If you think you have been accidentally exposed, don't panic, **speak to your line manager** who will arrange occupational health support

For more information visit the health and wellbeing pages on Connect, or to download podcasts, videos and presentations visit Safety Central: Safety.networkrail.co.uk/Communication-and-Health/Occupational-Health-and-Wellbeing



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