

Asbestos - How Do Duty Holders Comply?

There are three essential steps:

- 1) Find out whether the premises contain asbestos, and, if so, where it is and what condition it is in.
- 2) If in doubt, materials must be presumed to contain asbestos;
- 3) Assess the risk; and make a plan to manage that risk and act on it.

Here are some basic principles to remember:

Asbestos is only dangerous when disturbed. If it is safely managed and contained, it doesn't present a health hazard;

Don't remove asbestos unnecessarily - removing it can be more dangerous than leaving it in place and managing it;

Not all asbestos materials present the same risk. The measures that need to be taken for controlling the risks from materials such as pipe insulation are different from those needed in relation to asbestos cement;

Remember that the duty to manage is all about putting in place the practical steps necessary to protect maintenance workers and others from the risk of exposure to asbestos fibres. It is **not** about removing all asbestos.

If any ACM need to be sealed, encapsulated or removed, remember you will need to employ a licensed contract if the materials are high risk (e.g. pipe insulation and asbestos insulating panels). If the materials are lower risk (e.g. asbestos cement) then an unlicensed but competent contractor may carry out this work.

To discuss your requirements or request a quotation call Food Hygiene Solutions on 01233 811633.