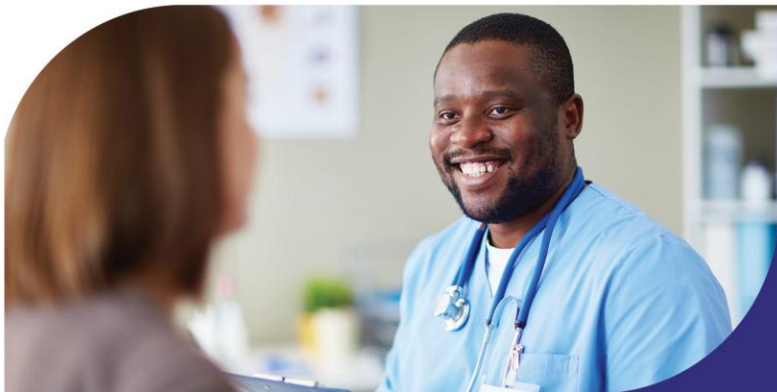




HSA

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

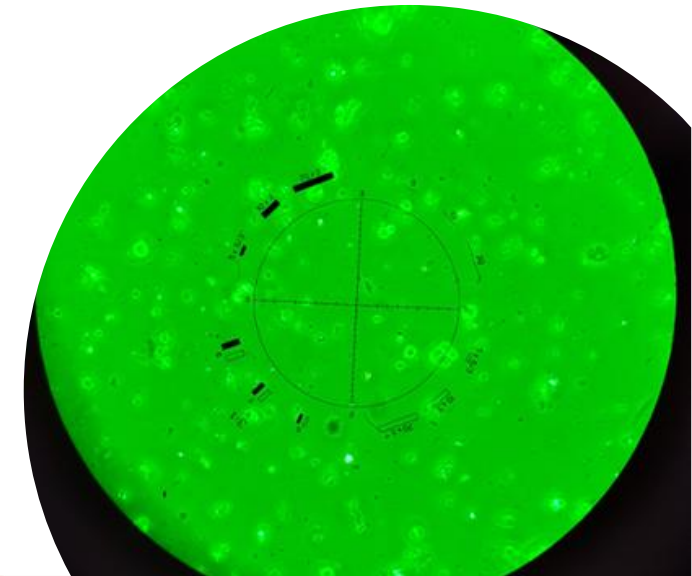
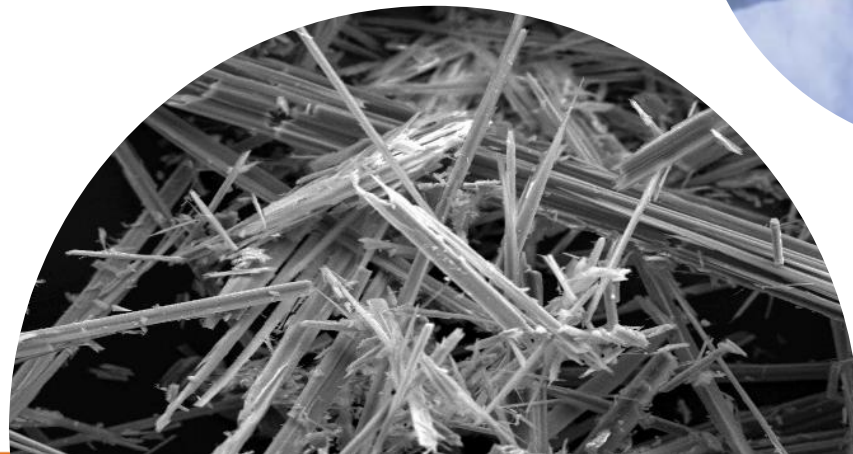
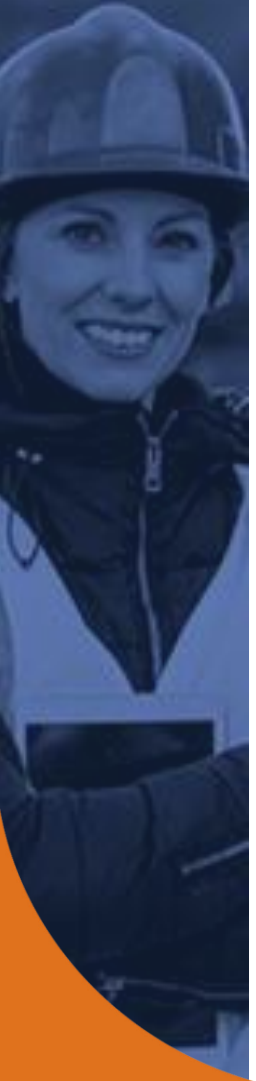
The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Exposure to Asbestos) Regulations 2006-2025



Brian McHugh & Derek Conerney
Health & Safety Authority
Date: 23rd March 2026

Agenda

- **Asbestos – Introduction**
- **Asbestos Worker Directive
Timeline and Legislation**
- **The Safety, Health and Welfare at
Work (Exposure to Asbestos)
Regulations 2006-2025**
- **Guidance & Advice**
- **Key Take-Aways**



Asbestos discovered at military camp used to house Ukrainian refugees



The cancer-causing material was in an isolated area at the Gormanston base, Co Meath

Contractor fined €100,000 for failure to conduct asbestos risk assessment

Breach occurred in relation to part of a Dublin city office building

© Mon, Mar 9, 2020, 18:13 Updated: Mon, Mar 9, 2020, 18:14

Fiona Ferguson



'No logic' to asbestos removal at hospital

by Sean O'Riordan

Asbestos dumps health worries

Navy staff exposed to asbestos fear for families

by Sean O'Riordan

Asbestos blown off Albatros removed

THE CAPTAIN of the Albatros the law arranged for all the asbestos containing items to be removed to be cleared.

HSA demands risk assessment before asbestos removal

Sean O'Riordan

Call for asbestos probe of all older Naval ships

Who pays the bill for asbestos clean-up?

Dublin Inquirer

Local. Independent. Different.



A car passes by the barricades outside the old crown paints warehouses on Tuesday. Credit: Shamim Malekmian

Fires at the old Crown Paints warehouse complex on Malahide Road haven't triggered the release of asbestos into the air: an official at Dublin Fire Brigade said

Asbestos deaths set to hit record levels



THU, 05 JAN, 2017 - 00:00

CAROLINE O'DOHERTY

And safety experts have warned the danger will remain high for another 10 to 15 years, with asbestos finds rising 80% in recent years as the recovering economy sees an increase in building renovations and refurbishments.

Notifications to the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) — which are mandatory when asbestos finds exceed a certain limit in a building about to undergo demolition or renovation works — increased from 164 in 2010 to 290 up to the middle of December this year.

LATEST

Taoiseach sugy breaking Covic

Woman who s on ice awardec

Connacht rebc of life

High Court app firm behind Jo

PODCASTS

Asbestos in the News!

What is Asbestos and where is it found?

- Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral
- Soft and flexible fibers that are resistant to heat and corrosion and are mechanically strong
- Asbestos is an effective insulation material, used in cloth, paper, cement, plastic and other materials
- Over 3000 items containing asbestos
- Its use in Ireland banned 2000-2004 – Other countries still use it!

Where is it Found? – Construction, Industrial, Domestic, Agricultural - Anywhere!



Why do we care? - Asbestos Related Diseases

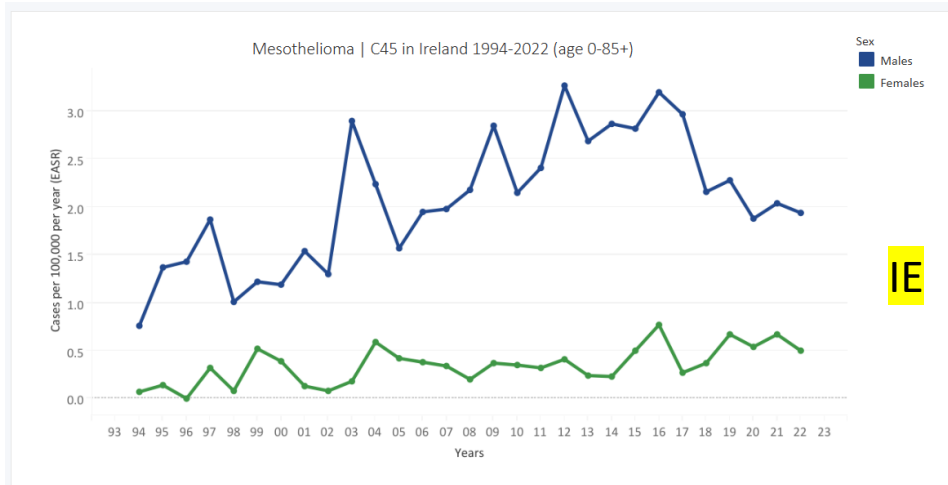
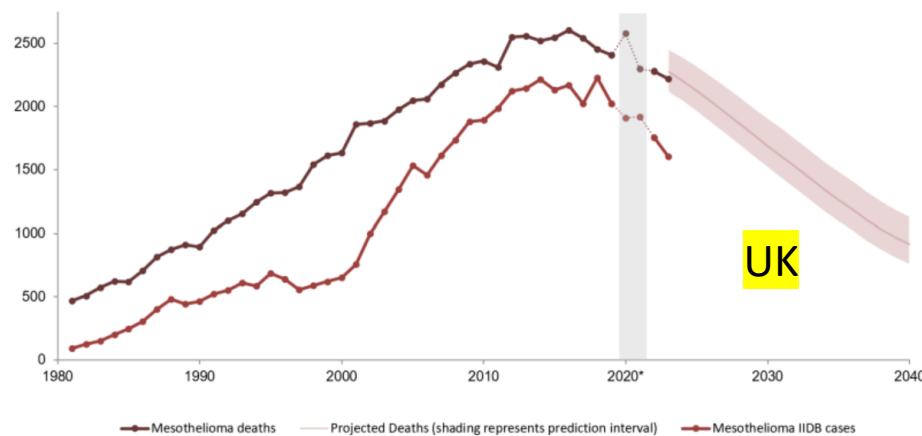


Figure 1 Annual mesothelioma deaths, IIDB cases and projected future deaths to 2040 in GB



UK estimate 5000 pa

There were 26 Work related fatalities in 2022

We estimate 128 people diagnosed with Mesothelioma in the same year

**Mesothelioma is only one disease
Studies estimated that 2x – 4x cases of Asbestosis
and Lung Cancer per Mesothelioma death.**

<https://stopcarcinogensatwork.eu/>



**S.T.O.P.
CARCINOGENS
AT WORK**

Between 4.1 & 7.3 million EU workers exposed to asbestos - over 90,000 people in the EU die of illness related to asbestos exposure p.a.

Prevention of Passive & Secondary Exposure is more important than ever!

Asbestos Workers Directive Amendment and Legislation in place to protect workers



**European
Union**



Asbestos at Work Directive (AWD) Amendment (EU) 2023/2668

Objectives:

- Protection of workers against risks from exposure to asbestos at work (**including passive and secondary exposures**); and
- To achieve a more uniform and better protection of workers across the EU against asbestos through the setting of limit values for this exposure as well as other requirements

The proposal was based on:

- A scientific assessment
- An opinion by the tri-partite Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work also taking account of a socio-economic and feasibility analysis
- A two-stage social partner consultation
- An Impact Assessment



EU Policy - Context for the Amendment

HSA

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

Tackling work-related exposure to asbestos is:

- One of the priorities under the EU OSH strategic framework 2021-2027
- An important action of the cancer prevention pillar of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan



Directive (EU) 2023/2668 - Timelines

On **28th September 2022**, the European Commission proposed a revision of the 2009 Directive on the protection of workers from the risk of exposure to asbestos.

The European Parliament Plenary voted in favour of the updates on **3rd October 2023**.

The Directive was formally adopted on **22nd November 2023**.

Member States had until **21st December 2025** to transpose the directive. The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Exposure to Asbestos) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 was signed into law by Minister Dillion on 18th December 2025.



Asbestos Legislation



S.I. No. 386/2006 - Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Exposure to Asbestos) Regulations 2006 [here](#)

Which was amended by -

S.I. No. 589/2010 - Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Exposure to Asbestos) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 [here](#)

And there is a second amendment –

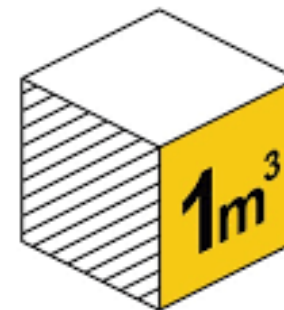
S.I. 632/2025 - Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Exposure to Asbestos) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 [here](#)

Collectively these are now known as –

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Exposure to Asbestos) Regulations 2006-2025 and we recently published and associated Code of Practice [here](#)

Summary of the key provisions from the (Amendment) Regulations 2025

- Reg 4 – Duty of employers to non-employee workers – changed wording
- **Reg 5** - Priority for removal over other forms of treatment, exemptions removed
- **Reg 6 & COP** – Lowered the OELV from $0.1f/cm^3$ to $0.01f/cm^3$ ($0.01f/cm^3 = 10,000$ fibres/ m^3)
- **Reg 9** – Requires enhanced systems of work to avoid release of asbestos dust
- **Reg 10** – Revised requirement for Personal Exposure Monitoring during asbestos work
- **Reg 11** – Requirement for Permit Number in advance of work with asbestos
- **Reg 12** – Reiterates requirement for Asbestos survey and sharing of information
- **Reg 13** – Details actions required if OELV exceeded or accidental disturbance of unidentified ACM's



Summary of the key provisions from the (Amendment) Regulations 2025

- **Reg 14** – To prevent the spread of asbestos, sealed enclosure under negative pressure.
- **Reg 15** – Robust site clearance for reoccupation before other works resume
- Reg 16 – Changed wording
- **Reg 17 & Schedule 7** – Specific training requirements for asbestos workers
- **Reg 20** - Health Surveillance & Exposure Registers all asbestos workers
- Reg 24 – Expanded list of asbestos related occupational disease
- **Reg 25** – Additional employers to keep Occupational Health Registers

Exposure Risk Assessment

Regulation 5a – Risk assessment:

- the nature and degree of exposure
- **prioritising** removal of asbestos or materials containing asbestos
- Control measures to ensure safety of employees (Schedule 2 requirements)

Regulation 5b

Lists work activities which, subject to risk assessment may be exempt from Regulation 11

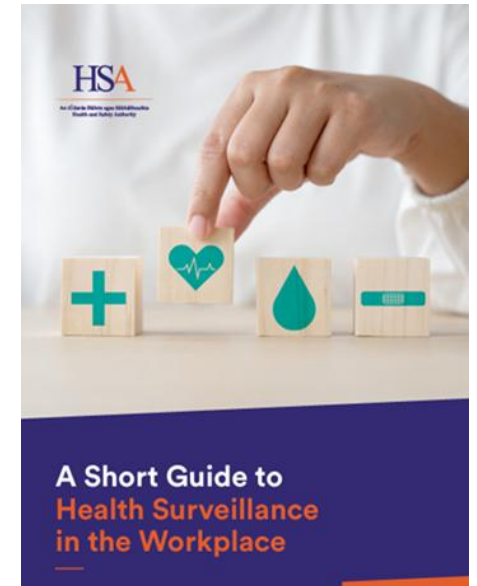
Exemptions that were previously available now removed.

This means:

- All asbestos workers to be under **health surveillance**
- All employers of asbestos workers required to keep **exposure records**
- Encapsulation is now notifiable work

HSA

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority



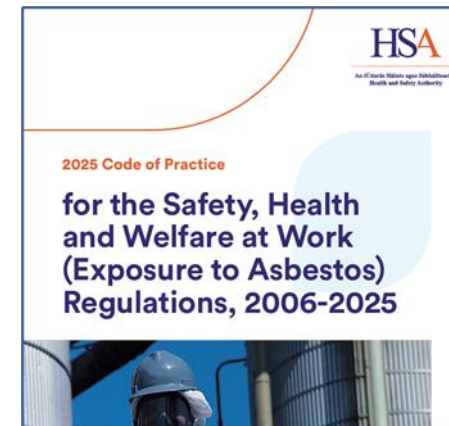
Measurement of Asbestos in Air

Regulation 6

- ‘Exposure Limit Value’ is laid down in the Code of Practice – **0.01f/cm³**

Regulation 10 & COP – **Measurement method** – the existing (WHO) method remains in place results for fibres 5µ x 3µ & L/B Ratio 3:1 (LOQ 0.01f/cm³). (*This method does not ‘see’ fibres less than 0.2 microns*)

Substance	Occupational Exposure Limit Value (8 hour reference period) Fibres/cm ³	Notes
Asbestos	0.01	Only fibres with a length of more than 5 micrometres, a breadth of less than 3 micrometres and a length/breadth ratio greater than 3:1 shall be taken into consideration. This applies until 20 December 2029
Asbestos	0.01	Applies from 21 December 2029 Fibres with a breadth of less than 0.2 micrometres shall also be taken into consideration
Asbestos	0.002	Applies from 21 December 2029

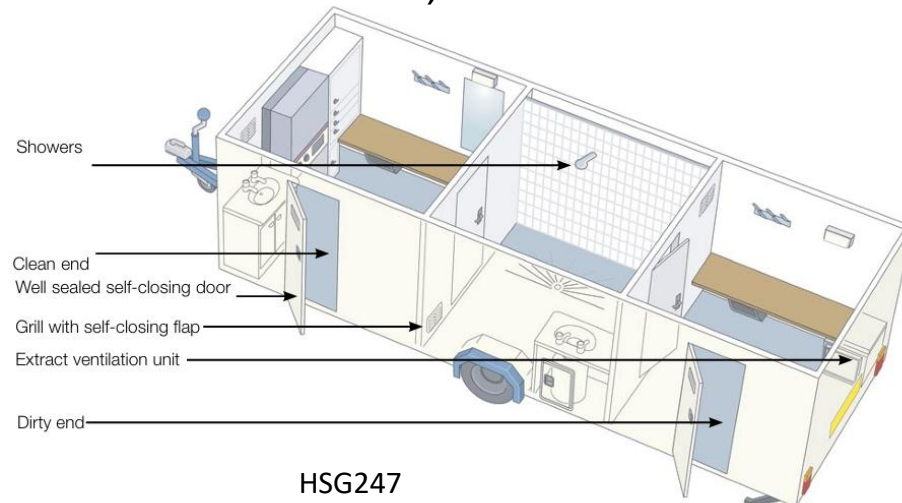


- After 21 December 2029 there will be two values (0.01f/cm³ and 0.002f/cm³) - Depending on the measurement method.



Enhanced Systems of Work

- Regulation 9 – Provision to reduce [exposure] as low level as **technically possible** below the exposure limit value.
 - **Enhanced controls** – safer systems of work for all asbestos work including; dust suppression, suction of asbestos dust at source, continuous sedimentation of asbestos fibres, decontamination etc.
 - With the lower OELV and extra provisions this requires - **More work in sealed enclosures** – (sealed area, 3 stage airlock and negative pressure). (Regulation 14)
 - **Decontamination facilities for all asbestos work** – including showers (as currently, schedule 2)



Where initial RA determines exposure could be $>0.01\text{f}/\text{cm}^3$

- Regulation 10 – requires more personal exposure measurement of asbestos fibres (at regular intervals during specific operational phases)
 - **What are Specific Operational Phases?** - Pre-cleaning/site set up – asbestos removal – fine cleaning – handling and wrapping waste – enclosure removal
- Sampling shall be such that **representative exposure** can be established for an 8-hour reference period (one shift) by means of measurements or time-weighted calculations
 - Full shift sampling or by TWA calculations
 - **Challenges – Contractors and analysts must work together to achieve accurate / representative results.**

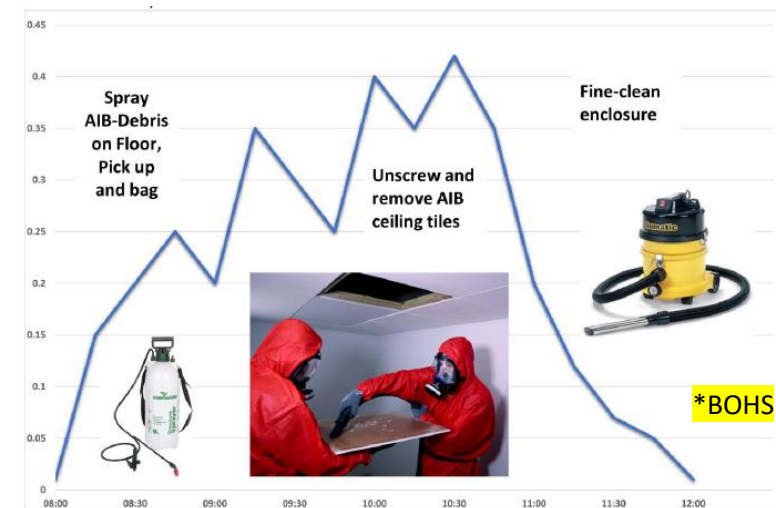


Figure 1. Illustration of an exposure pattern for a working shift.

Notification & Permit Number



An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

- Regulation 11 - Written **Notification** of work with asbestos was **always required** but now a **Permit Number** must be obtained from the authority before the start of the work.
 - With the lower OELV almost all asbestos work will be notifiable
 - To obtain a **Permit Number** asbestos training records must be submitted along with dates of health assessments
 - Notification period reduced to **10 days**
 - H.S.A are required to make the list of those who obtained a permit number
 - Due to the expected higher number of notifications / permit number applications the H.S.A are developing an **online notification portal to allow employers submit notifications – Q3 2026**



Notifiable work activities

The following table provides a non-exhaustive guide to the types of work activities, based on a written risk assessment by a competent person, that should be notified to the HSA under Regulation 11.

Table 19

Non-exhaustive list of notifiable work activities

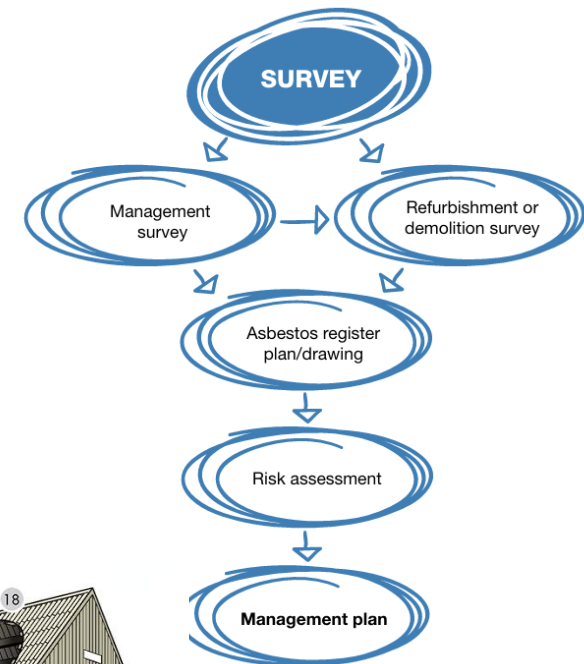
Activity	Comment
Removal or encapsulation of asbestos spray, lagging and AIB materials	These ACMs are very friable when disturbed and strict controls are required. This also includes external AIB soffits.
Removal of asbestos cement corrugated or flat panels where materials are in a degraded state	For asbestos cement roofs/panels with a score ≥ 11 using the asbestos cement algorithm in section 6, and where the extent of the ACM is greater than 10 m ² . These works would not comply with regulation 5 (b).
Cleaning asbestos cement roofs > 10 m ²	This work can give risk to elevated fibre levels
Overcladding of asbestos cement roofs	This work normally requires pre-environmental cleans and disturbance of ACMs, leading to elevated fibre levels.
Encapsulation of asbestos cement roofs with a chemical-based solution	These works normally require a surface pre-clean (elevated fibre levels) and involve significant contact time on fragile roofs.
Remediation of fire-damaged asbestos cement	Exposure to the heat of a fire can cause the cement content of asbestos cement roofing, cladding etc. to violently rupture, discharging asbestos fibres into the atmosphere and spreading debris over a wide area.
Removal of textured coating from concrete substrates	This involves deterioration of the textured coating during removal and does not comply with regulation 5 (b).
Removal of asbestos-containing floor tiles and/or adhesive where significant disturbance is unavoidable	This generally involves deterioration of the floor tiles during removal and aggressive removal of bitumen adhesive. This work does not comply with regulation 5 (b).
Dismantling of boilers containing or suspected to contain ACMs	These works generally involve deterioration of the ACMs during removal or present contaminated dust scenarios.
Removal of CAF/rope gaskets	These works generally involve deterioration of the materials during removal. However a once-off notification can be submitted covering a period of one year where work is an infrequent repetitive task
Removal of vinyl flooring with asbestos backing	These works generally involve deterioration of the materials during removal.
Removal of soil contaminated with friable ACMs or damaged non-friable materials	Works with friable materials must be carried out by a specialist asbestos contractor.
Changing HEPA filters on negative pressure units under controlled conditions	This should only be carried out by a trained competent person. A once-off notification can be submitted covering a period of one year.

Asbestos Identification

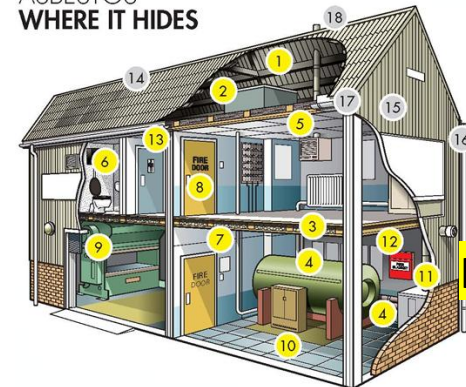
- Regulation 12 - **Before** beginning demolition, maintenance or renovation work on premises built before **31 December 2004**, employers shall take all necessary steps to identify presumed materials containing asbestos.....

- Applies to all workplaces
- Obtain asbestos information in advance
- Where information not available – survey for asbestos in advance of work activities (competent person)
- Share asbestos information with other employers to help them comply with their duties
- Aligns with requirements in Construction Regs.
- ***not a new provision!**

Probably the most important step in protecting people from exposure to asbestos



ASBESTOS
WHERE IT HIDES



Asbestos Exposure

- Regulation 13 - work shall stop immediately where the limit value is exceeded or where ACM's which were not identified prior to the work have been disturbed
- It is very easy to exceed new OELV

0.01f/cm³

- not a new provision
- Regulation 14(1)(a) – provision of **respiratory protective equipment** where exposure is liable to exceed the OELV
 - Handled, worn, adjusted, fit checks & **fit tested**

Table 3

Assessment of average personal airborne concentration of regulated asbestos fibres during removal of ACMs

Product group	Controlled wet removal / good practice (f/cm ³)	Limited controls / dry removal (f/cm ³)
Spray and other insulation products	14.4	358
Asbestos insulating board (AIB) including millboards	0.41	15
Asbestos cement	0.01	0.08
Fillers and reinforcements in a flexible matrix (incl. textured coatings)	0.02	0.08
Jointings (gaskets) and packing	0.05	0.2
Flooring	0.01	0.05
Moulded plastics and battery cases	0.001	0.01

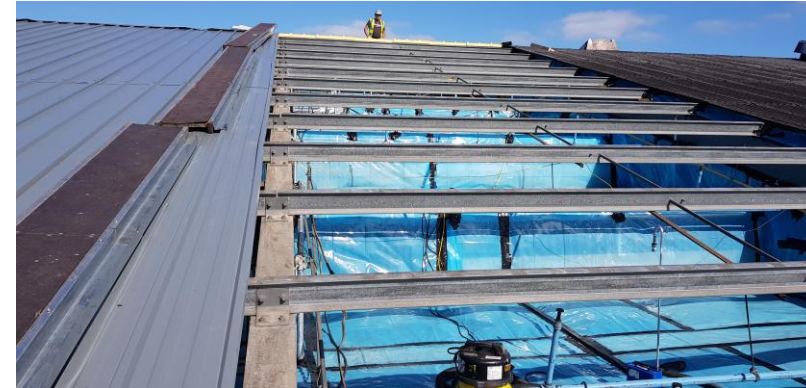
Source: Health and Safety Laboratory (UK)



Control Measures for Asbestos

- Regulation 14(1)(c) –
 - The **spread** of dust shall be **prevented** and for work under confinement – **Sealed Enclosures with Mechanical Ventilation**
- Regulation 18 (No change)
 - Every employer ensure that PPE is disposed of as asbestos waste or adequately cleaned
 - any non-disposable clothing worn underneath must only be decontaminated by a specialist laundry equipped to accept and process asbestos contaminated items
 - Outdoor workers - thermal comfort must be included in the site-specific risk assessment

Not a new provision!



Site Clearance for Reoccupation

- Regulation 15(10) – when the asbestos work is undertaken (demolition, removal, encapsulation) a '**Site Clearance for Re-occupation**' is required. This must be undertaken by a competent person (Reg 15(11)).



- Regarding the competence of the person undertaking the site clearance for re-occupation **the legislation has not changed**, the person must hold the appropriate relevant qualification, knowledge and sufficient experience to demonstrate competence in the required task. This remains the same and applies to both site clearance where visual and where visual and air test is required - H.S.A Asbestos Website [here](#).
- Most work requires air testing by an independent analyst, however, self certification for visual only is possible if competent to do so.
- A clearance certificate with air testing required for the decontamination unit prior to its removal from site.
- Site clearance **must** be completed before other activities resume (including demolition).
- Clearance **indicator** – still $0.01f/cm^3$

Not a new provision!



Asbestos Training

- **Regulation 17 & Schedule 7 – minimum requirements** regarding the content of asbestos training and what should be in the training documentation.
 - Many existing asbestos workers have already undergone upskilling – eg, decontamination procedures and use of showers, enclosure construction, air management and use of negative pressure.



The screenshot shows the HSA website page for 'Asbestos Training Requirements'. The page has a blue header with the HSA logo and navigation menu. The main content area is white with a blue sidebar on the left. The sidebar contains a list of categories: Agriculture & Forestry, Catering and Hospitality, Chemicals, and Asbestos. Under 'Asbestos', there are links for 'Asbestos Introduction', 'Legislation and Guidance', and 'Asbestos Removal'. The main content area has a heading 'Asbestos Training Requirements' and a sub-heading 'Background'. The background text discusses the new Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work (Exposure to Asbestos) (Amendment) Regulations 2025, S.I. No 632, which update the 2006 regulations and include the requirements of Directive (EU) 2023/2668. It also mentions that separate regulations will be referred to collectively as the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Exposure to Asbestos) Reg 2006-2025. The text further states that this is part of broader EU efforts to reduce occupational cancer and ensure safety during work activities, and that the Regulation includes enhanced requirements for training. Overall, the Regulations specify the contents for mandatory training for workers at risk of exposure to ACMs. Together with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, the following training is mandated:

All workers likely to encounter asbestos at work (maintenance, construction, utilities) should have basic Asbestos awareness training, but remember this does not qualify anyone to work with asbestos see [Asbestos Training](#)



Health Assessments, Exposure Register

Table 18

Contents of an Occupational Health Register

• Name and address of registered business,	• Dates and results of any air monitoring,
• Address of asbestos site location,	o Personal sampling – name and job description of person monitored,
• Brief description of asbestos activity, e.g. removal of 10 m ² of AIB ceiling tiles,	o Static sampling – Location of static samples,
• Nature and duration of work activity,	o Length of sampling times in each case,
• Level of exposure (without RPE protection factor) e.g. 4 f/ml,	o Results and interpretations of the results of such sampling, and
• Name and address of each employee,	• Any recommendation from the registered medical practitioner, e.g. fit to work, unfit or fit with restrictions.
• Dates/times of each assessment,	
• Name of assessor,	
• Details of the nature of each assessment of the risk of exposure to asbestos,	
• Details on tests and examinations of RPE and unique identifiers for individual RPE devices,	

Details of contents of an Occupational health Register

- Regulation 20 –

Health Assessments & Surveillance

- Health surveillance is now required for all employees who are, or may be, exposed to asbestos dust at work, with no exceptions for low-intensity or sporadic exposure.
- Health surveillance, including an assessment of the employee's state of health, must be carried out by **a medical practitioner**.
- The assessment of an employee's health, to include the health surveillance must commence **before exposure** begins and at **regular intervals** thereafter (min once every 3 years), and the employer must act on any medical advice given.

- Regulation 25 -

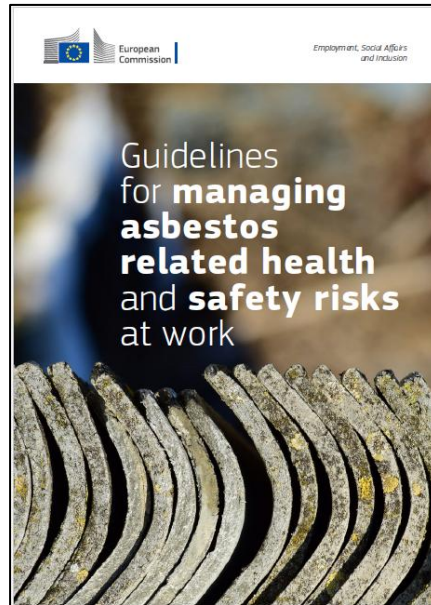
Occupational Health Register

- The employer must also keep and maintain an occupational health register for each employee, recording the required health **and exposure information**, keeping it up to date, and retaining for 40 years because asbestos-related illnesses can develop many years after exposure.

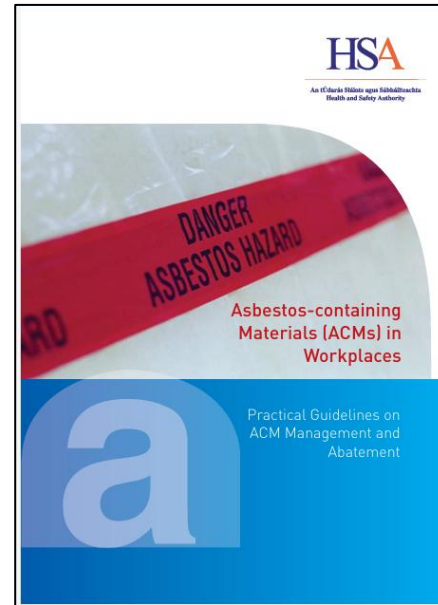
We were asked - Any Guidance Available?



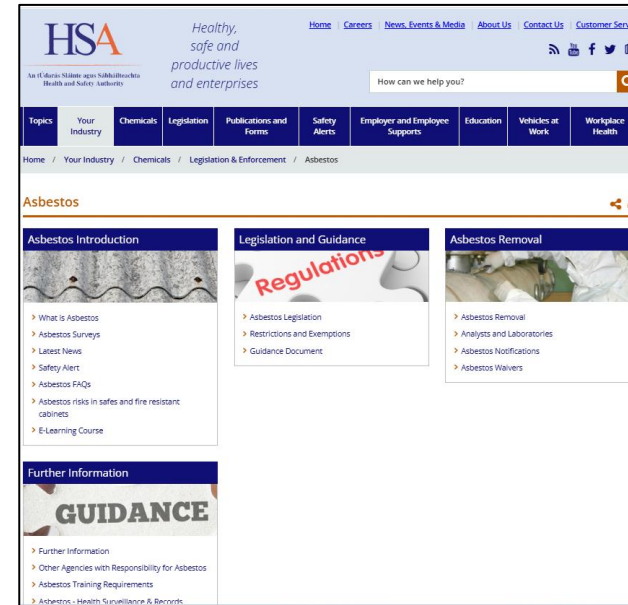
An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority



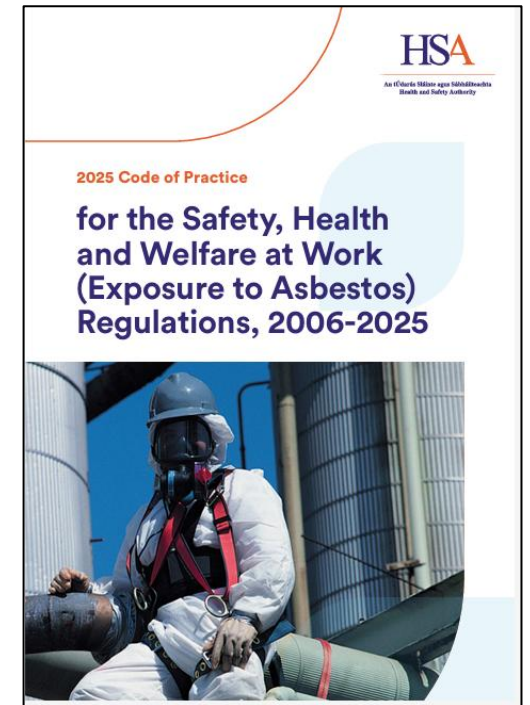
[EU Guidelines 2026](#)



[HSA Asbestos Guidelines 2013](#)



[HSA Website](#)



The Health and Safety Authority will be incorporating many of the elements of good practice set out in the EU Guidelines into the Asbestos Code of Practice in the future. This will be subject to consultation.

Comments & Queries



An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

Site Clearance – as answered earlier whoever undertake the site clearance for re-occupation must be competent!

Notifications – Regulation 5b set out the work activities which may be undertaken without statutory notification. However, all the other provisions of the regulations apply.

Notification & Permit Number Process – Once a notification has been received and processed, a unique permit number will be issued for each notification, to the Notifier before work can commence. This unique permit (ENF) number should be available on site for inspection. H.S.A will be introducing an online portal for notifications later this year, further information will be provided in advance of this.

H.S.A Code of Practice & Guidance – The current code of practice will be expanded taking into account the EU Guidance document incorporating the H.S.A guidelines and will be subject to public consultation prior to publishing. www.besmart.ie was updated prior to the regulations being enacted.

Comments & Queries



An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

The Authority have received queries in relation to the asbestos regulations. These have been responded to directly and / or included on the H.S.A Asbestos Website.

Contractors which previously undertook '*high risk*' asbestos work should have limited impact on their work activities by the new regulations.

The reduced OELV means that a significant proportion of previous '*low risk*' work now is subject to the requirement of the regulations.

All asbestos work presents a risk of exposures to workers and others from passive and secondary exposure. The legislation requires robust controls to be implemented to protect the health of asbestos workers and all others impacted by the work.

This is resulting in a change on how previous '*low risk*' asbestos removal work is undertaken, such as; completion of notification, provision of training, decontamination facilities, air monitoring, clearance testing and health surveillance.

This is all in the context of the previously stated statistics - 90,000 people die in Europe each year because of exposure to asbestos and the cancer prevention pillar of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the legislative mandate for Ireland to transpose the amendment to the AWD.

The Key Take-Aways

To Protect Workers and all other from exposure to asbestos

- Ensure an asbestos survey is in place (to protect all workers) on your construction sites. If there is no survey available – you must get a competent person to do one – and share that information with other contractors who need to know.
- If workers are engaged in ANY asbestos work they must be trained, have health surveillance, provided with suitable decontamination facilities, have personal exposure monitoring programme and exposure registers.
- Most / All* asbestos work is notifiable – Employers must obtain a permit in advance of asbestos work & ensure workers have the minimum training requirements.
- During Asbestos removal work implement controls to prevent the spread of asbestos, passive and secondary exposure. Site clearance by a competent person.
- * contact the H.S.A if in any doubt contactus@hsa.ie



HSA

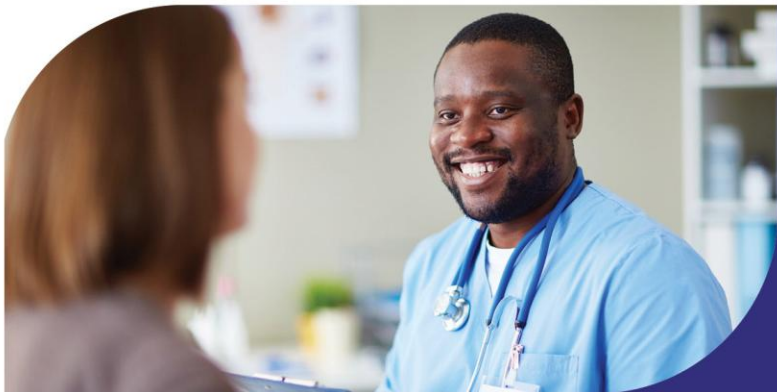
An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority

Go raibh maith agaibh
Thank you

T: 0818 289 389

E: contactus@hsa.ie

W: www.hsa.ie



Q&A

- Have the H.S.A spoken with the Asbestos Survey companies , most reports will not identify asbestos on plaster board and purlines under asbestos sheeting. I have not seen that info on any survey , and the survey companies are sampling products stating that there is NAP yet the H.S.A insist that there is.

We regular communicate with surveyors and review reports and have seen both of those identified. The survey and site-specific risk assessment needs to take account of the asbestos containing material and potentially contaminated areas. If you have a particular concern, then please email contactus@hsa.ie

- What's the point in overalls if the clothing underneath and overalls have to be disposed off as asbestos waste. Just wear clothing and dispose of it.

Clothing is not PPE. The provision and wearing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as coveralls is a legal requirement. The correct use of correct PPE is part of your safe system of work.

Q& A

- If a Permit Number is issued by H.S.A. to a company to proceed with Asbestos Removal Works is this an indication of approval & acceptance of controls outlined for Works to Proceed ?

The permit number is confirmation that the Notifier has submitted the minimum required information. If the circumstances of work change, then a new notification is required. The requirements of the 2005 Act and 2007 Regulations also apply to asbestos removal work. We carry out proactive inspections on notified sites.

Q&A

- Will the inspectorate be considering the establishment of a register of competent contractor and surveyors/analysts in order to reduce/control the risk of work with ACM? Am I right in understanding that HSL AIMS and RICE is outside the EU and is there a legal recognition of this including recognition of BOHS that has been referenced ? Also, should this be made known formally to Employers/Employees in the COP?

The Authority will be publishing a list of those who have obtained a permit number for asbestos removal. Surveyors and Analysts are already on the HSL AIMS and RICE lists. There is information in relation to competency already on our website. There are plans to expand the Code of Practice.

Q&A

- There seems to be a major shortage of DCU's in the country, which is having a major knock-on effect on scheduling, are the Authority aware of this issue

This has been raised with the HSA.

- For works where building is on streets in towns and city's, often there is no location to park a decontamination unit as described. Is there any way of overcoming this as it is a problem?

There are modular DCU units which can be set up inside. Transit arrangements can be put in place. There is also the option to engage with the Local Authority regarding site requirements.

Q& A

- Table 20 of the guidelines give examples of non-notifiable asbestos work. Is this table still valid and can you give examples of non-notifiable work?

A clarification of this was published on our website. Given the lower OELV, nearly all work is notifiable. Removal of one fire door intact is unlikely to require a permit.

https://www.hsa.ie/eng/your_industry/chemicals/legislation_enforcement/asbestos/legislation_and_guidance/guidance_document/

Q&A

- What are the main elements of a decontamination unit used for asbestos work and when is it required?

The provision of an appropriate hygiene unit, usually referred to as a decontamination unit, or DCU, is essential for notifiable asbestos work. A DCU is a three-stage unit with a shower between a 'clean end' and a 'dirty end'. The DCU should be fully cleanable, with adjustable heated shower and separate areas for clean clothing and for discarding contaminated disposable work clothing. The unit should display, in a prominent position in the clean end, a copy of the clearance certificate from the most recent asbestos removal job. A minimum of one shower (decontamination unit) should be available for every four operatives involved in the asbestos work. There should be filtration of waste water to prevent spread of asbestos. Extract ventilation with a HEPA filter produces a flow of air (through grilles) from 'clean end' to 'dirty end' of the decontamination unit. Self-closing doors maintain the separation of the sections. In cold seasons, the clean end should be heated to provide an adequately warm environment for changing.

Q&A

- At what level of asbestos in a material does the regulation kick in? Is there a minimum % or is it one identified fibre in a material?
- We have soils that have come back with 0.01% asbestos as free fibres. Does this constitute an asbestos-containing material? And is there a legal definition of asbestos containing materials?

The Regulations apply to activities in which employees are or are likely to be exposed to asbestos during their work. It is based on risk assessment. Where asbestos is detected, the risk depends on the product type, extent of damage, surface treatment and asbestos fibre type as well as all the circumstances of work.

Q & A

- What level of risk is deemed to be acceptable? We can't get to zero risk, and how does the Exposure risk rating fit into the Code of Practice? The ERR seems to be a cut and paste in the CoP and not very well explained or used? A worked example and an explanation of the meaning would be helpful.

The Exposure Risk Relationship (ERR) for asbestos is part of the ECHA RAC Opinion on scientific evaluation of occupational exposure limits for Asbestos. It was used to set the new OEL. An OEL of 0.01 fibers/cm³ represents an ERR or excess lifetime cancer risk of 12 per 100,000 exposed. The worked example is available [here](#). There are plans to expand the Code of Practice.

Q& A

- The lowering of the OELV is welcomed, but it doesn't prevent exposure to Joe Bloggs, the roofing contractor who is taking a neighbour's roof off. What plans does the HSA have for a campaign to promote force the new Regulations?

Prior to and since the enactment of the legislation, there have been nationwide seminars, news articles and online presentations addressing the topic. Our website has been updated on a regular basis. We have updated the BeSmart online risk assessment tool and also proposed a Safe Pass update. We continue to address the topic both proactively on inspection and also reactively on receipt of complaints.

- Does the new regulation require me to have an asbestos medical to replace asbestos cement slates on a roof and do I need to have a decontamination unit for this activity?

All asbestos workers now require medicals /health surveillance. Decontamination Units are required for all notifiable work. The removal of an Asbestos cement slate roof is now notifiable and requires a permit. [Asbestos Notifications - Health and Safety Authority](#)

Q&A

- Why do we need asbestos regulations if the Carcinogen, Mutagen, and Reprotoxins regulation takes precedent? The CMR regs will always be more beneficial.

There is an Asbestos Directive at EU level which has to be transposed into Irish Law. The Asbestos Regulations have specific provisions which only apply to asbestos, for example the Permit System.

- Can asbestos water pipes be left in the ground once replaced?

This is an EPA and Local Authority matter.

If asbestos waste is created, the EPA, the National Waste Collection Permit Office, the National TFS (Transfrontier Shipment) Office and Local Authorities all have a role. see https://www.hsa.ie/eng/your_industry/chemicals/legislation_enforcement/asbestos/asbestos_introduction/asbestos_faqs/

Q&A

- It would appear that Ireland is one of the only EU Member states that do not receive any Grant Aid or assistance to help with removal methods. Is this situation going to change given the increase in legislation & requirements?
- Has the Inspectorate in conjunction with the dept. of Finance undertaken an impact assessment on the New Regulations due to the significant increase in risk control measures that will have to be achieved?

EU funding is available to support Member States in health prevention, treatment, renovations and safe asbestos removal through the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#), the [European Social Fund Plus](#) and the [European Regional Development Fund](#)