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Asbestos Health and Safety Policy

ASBESTOS HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

1. Introduction

Asbestos is the single greatest cause of work-related deaths in the UK.

This policy provides basic details of our approach to working in an environment where asbestos is known to exist or may be discovered whilst our employees are working there.

2. Aims

The aims of this Policy are:

1. To provide a healthy and safe system of work so that those who may be exposed to asbestos at work know what to do to protect themselves and others.
2. To ensure full cooperation and compliance with Client provisions and safety systems whilst our staff are working on site.

3. Policy

It is highly unlikely our employees will be exposed to asbestos containing materials (ACM's) in the course of normal activities.

Buildings in the UK of a certain age may contain some ACMs in the fabric of the building. Clients are required by law to maintain Asbestos Risk registers and make these known to personnel working on their sites.

Where this is the case, sufficient consideration should be made of the presence of ACM's in the Risk Assessment which is prepared for the tasks to be undertaken on a particular project.

Before commencement of work Guardian staff must review the contents of the Site Asbestos Register. Where an asbestos management plan or other procedures are in place as part of the Client's safe system of work, Guardian staff must adhere to same where it is applicable to their activities.

If asbestos is present on site, Guardian staff must not work in any area or in any activity if there is a danger of the ACM being disturbed.

If there is any doubt as to whether this principle may be breached, the policy governing all site staff is as follows:

STOP WORK immediately and observe the following rules:

1. Do not disturb the material in question
2. Withdraw yourself and your equipment from the area
3. Report the situation immediately to the appropriate site manager or client representative
4. Do not re-enter the area until you are instructed that it is safe by a member of the Client's management team.

4. Work on Equipment known to contain Asbestos

From time to time Inspectors may be required to work on equipment such as fuseboards, distribution equipment and fuse carriers that contain asbestos. The operation for instance include the withdrawal of fuse links and carriers to enable inspection and testing to take place.

It should be noted that normally the type of asbestos in use in these situations is of a type which is of low risk to health.

Inspectors are made aware of the types of asbestos in use and the risks associated with each type. (see section 5 – Training).

In such cases the Inspector will determine from inspection of the distribution board, carriers and the general location, whether a withdrawal of the fuse is likely to cause deterioration of the asbestos material. Evidence of debris, dust or other damage will indicate that further damage will incur if the fuse is withdrawn or covers removed/opened.

Where it is determined that fuses cannot be safely withdrawn, or covers opened etc., the inspection and test will be carried out as far as is reasonably practicable without the equipment being disturbed. The limitation will be brought to the attention of the client by endorsement on the relevant test record.

If it is determined that fuses can be withdrawn without causing damage or deterioration, the Inspector will be able to complete the normal inspection and tests which will include the partial dismantling operation described above.

Under no circumstances will ACM's that are used as flash or arc shields be disturbed. This is in accordance with HSE Guidance ALG Memo 105 from the Asbestos Licencing Group and HSE Guide A33.

If the Inspector is in any doubt, the provisions described in section 3 of this policy will apply.

5. Training

All site staff will undergo UKATA Asbestos Awareness Training renewable annually to ensure that staff know how to identify ACM's and the precautions to be taken.

In addition all managers, supervisors and influencers will also undertake similar training.

All staff are inducted into the requirements of this policy and the approach to asbestos safety in the workplace herein.

Where members of staff have had their annual training expire, they will not be allowed to work on site until the training has been renewed.

6. Compliance

Failure to comply with the provisions of this Policy may result in Disciplinary proceedings.

7. Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Management

This policy is endorsed and signed 06/01/2026



Billy Sutherland
Operations Director