

Asbestos has been widely used as a building material for many years, particularly during 1950 to 1985 and can be found in a wide variety of forms, being used in all aspects of the construction process. In some cases asbestos containing materials (ACMs) were in use up until 1999.

The long term risks associated with coming into contact with the various forms of asbestos represent serious health risks and accordingly the Health and Safety Executives issued The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 that identifies the legal requirements applicable to asbestos related works and which provides guidance on how to manage the risks associated with asbestos containing materials.

Background information

The use of asbestos materials in construction products is severely restricted today, due to the long-term legacy of illness associated with exposure to asbestos fibres.

There are many forms of asbestos, the main types being:

White asbestos (Chrysotile);

– Brown asbestos (Amosite);

– Blue asbestos (Crocidolite).

Although all types of asbestos are dangerous, both blue and brown asbestos are considered more hazardous and the permitted exposure levels to these types of asbestos are significantly

less than for others.

Asbestos can be found in any number of places within a building. High risk areas where asbestos is likely to exist include (but is not limited to): ceilings and ceiling voids, risers, cupboards, flooring, floor ducts and fire door panels, walls and wall voids and often contained within moulded fixtures and fittings (e.g. toilet cisterns and seats etc). Where asbestos is known or suspected to exist, a risk assessment should be carried out to ensure adequate controls are in place.

Type of Surveys

Two types of asbestos survey are now required under the “Duty to Manage” guidance issued by the HSE:

- 1 Management Survey;
- 2 Refurbishment/Demolition Survey.

GEP Safety Consultants provide a complete asbestos risk management service to assist those who require further re-assurance or simply wish to protect their workforce whilst ensuring compliance with current legislation.

We have specialist resources to enable preparation of asbestos registered management and can make the necessary arrangements for ongoing management or removal of asbestos containing materials.