

31. ASBESTOS AT WORK

31.1 POLICY

The Company recognises its legal obligations under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. In order to meet its obligation to provide a safe and healthy workplace, the company has adopted the following procedure. Regulation 4 also requires:

- taking reasonable steps to find asbestos-containing materials in premises and checking their condition;
- presuming materials contain asbestos unless there is strong evidence to suppose they do not;
- keeping an up-to-date written record of the location and condition of asbestos-containing materials;
- assessing the risk of exposure to asbestos-containing materials;
- and preparing and putting into effect a plan to manage the risk.

The Company will provide Asbestos awareness training to all operatives following the guidance in HSE INDG 419 "Asbestos Kills: Protect Yourself" and the training will be recorded.

31.2 PROCEDURE

31.2.1 The Company will not use asbestos products in its work, unless insisted upon by clients and subject to very stringent working procedures adopted. Before any work involving asbestos is carried out, the Company's appointed SHE Advisor is to be contacted for further advice.

31.2.2 Asbestos may be encountered in **contaminated ground**, old buildings or fittings and fixtures. If such material is suspected, work liable to disturb the material (excepting only the handling of small amounts of asbestos cement in a non-friable condition) shall immediately cease and further advice sought. In accordance with the current Asbestos at Work Regulations and associated Approved Code of Practice and Guidance Notes it is a requirement that a formal assessment is carried out by a competent person and subsequent working methods agreed, documented and implemented.

31.2.3 The Company will therefore, only employ licensed, experienced asbestos removal contractors to carry out any removal or encapsulation works. Contractors shall be required to submit detailed method statements for approval by the Company before work commences. Method statements shall detail access requirements, provision and maintenance of safe working places, naming of competent persons to supervise each stage of the works on site during asbestos works. Monitoring of such works shall be carried out by an independent competent body, which shall be required to certificate satisfactory completion.