

# em2

## asbestos essentials

### Non-licensed tasks

This information will help employers and the self-employed to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

It is also useful for trade union and employee safety representatives.

Only carry out this work if you are properly trained and have the right equipment.

#### Remember:

- Asbestos fibres can cause lung cancer and lung diseases.
- Read the safety checklist on the task sheet.
- You must be trained to work safely with asbestos materials.
- Young workers are at special risk due to lack of experience.



*Asbestos sticks in your lungs.  
The younger you are, the longer it  
remains to cause damage.*

## Training

### Equipment and method sheet

### What this sheet covers

People that carry out any work on asbestos materials must be trained and supervised properly.

You need training even if you worked with asbestos in the past.

#### Procedures

- For information on training providers see 'More help'.

#### Training, supervision and information

- Training must include detailed information on:
  - recognising asbestos;
  - how asbestos can affect your health;
  - the added dangers of smoking;
  - the uses and likely locations for asbestos in buildings;
  - what work you are allowed to do by law;
  - what the law requires you to do;
  - procedures to protect yourself;
  - what methods to use;
  - what equipment you need to do the job properly;
  - how to choose, use and look after personal protective equipment;
  - recognising and dealing with other dangers, such as work at height;
  - decontamination of yourself and work areas;
  - emergency procedures; and
  - waste disposal.
- Refresher training is needed every year, or more often if:
  - work methods change;
  - the type of equipment used changes; or
  - the type of work changes a lot.
- Supervise the task – make sure workers follow the rules.

#### Information for others

- Tell all other workers that may be nearby what you are doing, where and why.
- Tell them about other risks from the work, eg changes in fire exits.

## MORE HELP

- **More asbestos pictures –**  
[www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/gallery.htm)
- **Help to decide if work is licensed**  
– [www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/licensing/index.htm)
- **More information about training –**  
[www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/training.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/training.htm)
- **Help finding a training provider –**
  - the Asbestos, Safety, Health, Environmental, e-Learning Association (ASHEeLA) – [www.asheela.org](http://www.asheela.org)
  - the Independent Asbestos Training Providers (IATP) – [www.iatp.org.uk](http://www.iatp.org.uk)
  - the United Kingdom Asbestos Training Providers (UKATA) – [www.iatp.org.uk](http://www.iatp.org.uk)
  - other organisations also offer training.
- For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit [www.hse.gov.uk/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/). You can view HSE guidance online or order priced publications from the website. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.
- These equipment and method (em) sheets and task (a) sheets can be downloaded free from [www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm)
- See sheet a0 for details of more guidance.

This document is available at [www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm)

© *Crown copyright* If you wish to reuse this information visit [www.hse.gov.uk/copyright](http://www.hse.gov.uk/copyright) for details. First published as part of *Asbestos Essentials Task Manual 2001*.

Published by the Health and Safety Executive 04/12

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.