

FITZGERALD CONTRACTORS LIMITED

Asbestos Policy

The hazard associated with working with Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) is that when disturbed, asbestos fibres are released. Asbestos Fibres are known to be the cause of asbestosis (asbestos induced lung fibrosis), mesothelioma (cancer of the pleura or lining of the lung) and bronchogenic lung cancer.

It is therefore essential that all legislation and procedures are complied with fully in order to protect everyone. Fitzgerald's policy is to use only licensed contractors for all works associated with notifiable ACM regardless of type or location.

Precautions

Prior to commencement of works to a previously developed site, or works of a demolition or refurbishment nature, the Contracts Manager must liaise with the Client, Safety, Health & Environmental team or specialist contractors to ensure an appropriate survey is undertaken to ascertain if any asbestos based materials are present. Any suspicious materials will be sampled and sent for analysis.

Training

Information, toolbox talks, instruction and training will be given to all employees and other persons affected, relevant to the specific project including:

- *Visual identification of potential ACM's*
- *The health risks associated with asbestos*
- *Reporting procedures*
- *Their responsibilities*
- *Emergency Procedures*

Based upon the analysis report an assessment will be made by a specialist contractor as to the best method to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres.

In all cases this will involve the use of specialist contractors with a license issued by the HSE for the removal of asbestos containing materials. A copy of the contractor license must be provided to the site management before work starts.

Before work starts the licensed contractor must produce a written method statement for approval by the Fitzgerald team, approval will be given in writing.

The method statement must include the following details as a minimum:

- *Method of removal*
- *Type of enclosure*
- *Testing of enclosure (smoke testing will be witnessed)*
- *Negative pressure arrangements*
- *Decontamination procedures*
- *Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) and personal protective equipment (PPE)*
- *Air monitoring arrangements*
- *Removal of waste*
- *Copies of consignment notes*
- *Clearance certificates*

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Asbestos Policy (Cont.)

It is imperative that the licensed Contractor works to the agreed method statement. If there needs to be a change in the working method this change must be approved in writing.

Notification

If the survey report from the Client/Professionals indicates that the material to be removed is an ACM and requires a 'Licensed Contractor' then 14 days prior notice of the work starting must be given to the HSE. This notice must be issued by the Licensed Contractor with copies to the Fitzgerald team.

References

- *Health and Safety at work act 1974*
- *The control of asbestos regulation 2006*
- *ACOPS: As appropriate and as issued by the H.S.E*
- *The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007*