



**BEESWIFT**  
FOCUSED ON SAFETY

Product Code

CM1314

Available in Sizes

**ONE SIZE**

Available in Colours



White  
CM1314

# DATASHEET

## ASBESTOS AT WORK POSTER



- User friendly text and clear instructions show employees how to prevent accidents and injury whilst maintaining a healthy working environment
- Durable laminated construction with full colour illustrations
- Compiled by qualified health and safety practitioners
- Size 59 x 42cm (A2 Paper size)

### Asbestos at Work

Asbestos related diseases cause over 4000 deaths a year in the UK and the number is rising.

#### 1. What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is a building material which was used widely between 1950 and 1980 for a variety of uses, but mainly for insulation and fire proofing. Asbestos is only dangerous when damaged and the asbestos fibres become airborne. Any building built before 2000 may contain asbestos.

Asbestos can be typically found in the following forms:

1. Textured coatings on spray
2. Asbestos cement, usually in embedded form
3. For roofing and gutters
4. Vinyl Floor Tiles
5. Ceiling Tiles
6. Pipe Lagging
7. Chalking Panels

**The Danger**

Asbestos is made up of millions of tiny fibres so small they cannot be seen by the naked eye but which can be inhaled. It is these fibres which if inhaled can be dangerous to health. Asbestos fibres are present in very small quantities in the UK environment and these do not pose a significant health problem. However you are exposed to high levels of asbestos particles as a result of working in close proximity to damaged or broken asbestos then the chance of inhaling an asbestos related disease is much greater.

#### 2. The Law

Asbestos is regulated in the UK by the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 which came into effect on 13 November 2006.

- The regulations place an onus on the user of all types of asbestos and places a duty of care on those responsible for managing existing asbestos installations where they are in good condition.
- The regulations also place a mandatory requirement for training of those likely to come into contact with asbestos at work.
- A written record of training and asbestos management may require a licence to be issued by the Health & Safety Executive.

#### 3. Health Effects

The tiny asbestos fibres are inhaled into the lungs damaging the lungs and causing disease to develop. There are three main diseases caused by inhaling asbestos fibres.

**Asbestosis:**

A chronic lung disease. It is fatal and usually caused by heavy and prolonged exposure to asbestos fibres.

**Mesothelioma:**

A form of cancer affecting the cells of the mesothelium, the protective sac which surrounds the body's vital organs. It is a fatal disease. It is caused by inhaling asbestos fibres. Deaths from this form of asbestos related cancer are still rising and are expected to peak in 2015 at around 2500 deaths a year in the UK.

**Asbestos-related lung cancer:**

Asbestos has long been regarded as a major contributor to death caused by lung cancer and it is thought that it may be responsible for as many as 2000 deaths per year in the UK.

#### 4. Assessing the Risks

Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 places a duty to manage on those involved in the running of non-domestic premises such as schools, public buildings and workplaces.

This duty may be either the owner or the person in control of the building or both depending on the arrangements.

**In order to comply the duty holder must:**

1. Find out whether the premises contain asbestos, and, if so, where it is and what condition it is in. If in doubt, materials must be presumed to contain asbestos;
2. Assess the risk; and
3. Make a plan to manage that risk and act on it.

**Who is most at risk?**

Those involved in the demolition and building works are most at risk from damage or broken asbestos containing materials. Removal of asbestos and its disposal may also be at risk from cutting through asbestos materials.

#### 5. Protection

The 2006 Regulations place a new lower control limit on safe exposure levels at 0.1 fibres per cubic centimetre of air measured over 4 hours.

Work being carried out with asbestos may require a licence from the HSE depending on the level of exposure to fibres. Employees are required by the regulations to provide adequate and regular training to those who are or may be exposed to asbestos.

**If a risk assessment has been carried out and it is identified that operatives are likely to be exposed to asbestos fibres the following should occur:**

1. The employer should try to prevent exposure if at all possible.
2. Should this not be possible the employer should provide breathing masks and protective clothing to the operatives in order to reduce the level of exposure to below the control limit. These should also be adequately washed and changing facilities.
3. The employer should also ensure that the control limits are not exceeded, however if they are the employer should take suitable arrangements to deal with incidents and emergencies.
4. It may be necessary to carry out air test sampling to assess the risk and this should only be carried out by an HSE accredited organisation.

#### 6. Health Records

All employees who are regularly exposed or likely to be exposed during their work should be assessed regularly as to their health.

The employer should provide for the employees to be monitored as to their health by a doctor at least every two years depending on their health.

A health record should be kept for at least forty years.

The employees should be informed immediately of any signs of disease or if health likely to have been adversely affected.

