

Working with Asbestos

Some asbestos related work can be carried out by non-asbestos licensed staff and is called non-licensed work, but they must be trained/competent and use suitable precautions. The introduction of the updated Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 has introduced a new category of **Notifiable Non Licensed Work** that since April 2015 includes the requirement for medical surveillance to be put in place for those staff who work on asbestos in this category in addition to that required by licensable work.

For further details of the type of work that can be carried out on asbestos containing materials that is either non-licensed or Notifiable Non Licensed, please go to the Health and Safety Executive's web page and see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/regulations.htm>.

On high-risk materials such as pipe insulation and asbestos insulation board, a licensed contractor must be used.

Asbestos Removal

For identified asbestos that is not in a good condition (or liable to damage because of vulnerable position) and is not practical to repair, enclose or encapsulate, removal is then the only option. Asbestos will also have to be removed if the area is due to undergo refurbishment or the building itself is to be demolished.

Selecting an asbestos removal contractor

For the removal of asbestos:

- contact the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA). ARCA can provide contact details of several local asbestos removal contractors - <http://www.arca.org.uk/>; or
- contact the Asbestos Control and Abatement Division (ACAD) <http://www.tica-acad.co.uk/> for asbestos removal contractors
- ensure company is accredited through a Safety Scheme in Procurement, e.g. CHAS (see www.chas.gov.uk for further details) to show they have a suitable health and safety management system.