
Guidance for Other Trades and Live Enclosures

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GUIDANCE FOR OTHER TRADES AND LIVE ENCLOSURES

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There can be exceptional circumstances where licensed asbestos removal contractors need the services of other trades (plumbers, electricians, lift engineers, excavator drivers etc.) in order to allow work activities to continue in a safe and effective manner.
- 1.2 This article describes a common sense approach that will ensure that health and safety legislation is complied with. It is based on the Asbestos Liaison Group's technical discussions on this subject (Technical Working Group minutes and appendices are available on the HSE [website](#)).

2. KEY POINTS

A "live enclosure" means an enclosure / work area where licensed asbestos work is being undertaken.
Entry into live enclosures will usually be avoided by appropriate planning.
When entry is unavoidable, asbestos work must be stopped and the area cleaned before other trades can enter. Other trades' personnel shall be:
Suitably trained (including personal decontamination).
Wearing appropriate RPE and PPE.
Accompanied by the licence holder at all times (excluding personal decontamination within the decontamination unit).

3. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 Licence holders will be aware of the main legal duties placed on them with regard to preventing / controlling the exposure and spread of asbestos. The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR 2012) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 are particularly relevant to all licence holders.
- 3.2 The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 places very broad general duties on employers. Employers have a duty to take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of:
- Employees **and**
 - Others who may be affected by the employers' work. This includes other trades who are not directly employed by the licence holder but are likely to be affected by the on-going work.

- 3.3 The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015) place very clear duties on contractors to communicate and coordinate effectively with each other, sharing relevant information and ensuring that significant risks are managed effectively.

4. AVOIDING THE NEED TO ENTER LIVE ENCLOSURES

- 4.1 The starting position is that entry into an enclosure by a non-licensed contractor can, and should be, avoided as far as possible. The need for other trades to enter enclosures can normally be avoided through careful planning, coordination and cooperation with the client and other contractors. For example, in most scenarios either:

- Arrangements can be made to allow other trades to complete their work prior to notified asbestos work starting, with no disturbance to the asbestos and / or
- The work can be programmed to coincide with 'shut downs'. In these situations, services can be isolated and the risk of any need for trades to carry out additional works, such as isolations etc., is removed.

- 4.2 Where entry of other trades into a live enclosure is unavoidable, the licensed contractor has control of the working area and the expertise regarding associated risks. The licensed contractor has a responsibility to ensure employees of other trades are adequately informed, trained and that they use appropriate personal and respiratory protective equipment (RPE / PPE). In effect, the contractor must assume responsibility for the health and safety of the other trade as if they were one of their own employees.

5. INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING

- 5.1 Before other trades enter a live asbestos removal enclosure they must receive sufficient information, instruction and training. As a minimum, this training should include practical instruction in:

- The correct use of RPE and PPE.
- Correct personal decontamination techniques – they must be able to follow the full decontamination process as they would not be escorted through the decontamination unit.
- Information about the activities being undertaken in the enclosure and any other significant risks, including non-asbestos risks.
- Any other particular emergency procedures relevant to the job / site.

- 5.2 This level of information, instruction and training can be provided by a competent member of the licensed contractor's team and a record of the training delivered should be kept within the site file.

6. ACTIONS REQUIRED BEFORE ALLOWING ENTRY

- 6.1 Before allowing trades to enter the enclosure, asbestos removal work should stop and the area should be cleaned as far as reasonably practicable. Asbestos removal work should be “on hold” until trades have completed their work and exited the asbestos area.

7. WHAT DO OTHER TRADES NEED TO DO?

- 7.1 They should be accompanied by the asbestos contractor’s supervisor at all times to ensure they conduct themselves in a safe manner.
- 7.2 Other trades entering the enclosure will have to wear RPE and will have to be fit tested to ensure suitable RPE is selected. This does not cause any difficulty where the work is planned. In the case of genuine emergency works other RPE, which does not require face fitting should be used, such as hoods / powered visors.
- 7.3 Although other trades will be entering into a “live” enclosure, they will not be involved in any asbestos work and no asbestos removal work will be taking place. When properly planned and controlled, exposure to asbestos is not expected to be significant and there will be no requirement for health surveillance.