

Safety Information Message

Reference: SIM2401

Issued: 31 January 2024

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HSE campaign: Asbestos – Your Duty

Summary

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched a campaign aiming to improve understanding of what the legal duty to manage asbestos involves. HSE wants everyone with responsibility for buildings to ensure they comply with the law and prevent exposure to asbestos. IRIC is raising awareness of HSE's campaign as it applies to the health and social care estate in Scotland.

Action

1. Direct this notice to all appropriate managers, staff and users.
2. Access the HSE 'Asbestos – Your Duty' campaign materials [here](#).

Background Information

Buildings that people use in their daily lives, such as workplaces, schools and hospitals are the focus of a new HSE campaign to keep people safe from asbestos.

HSE's campaign *Asbestos: Your Duty*, launched on Monday 15th January 2024, aims to improve understanding of what the legal duty to manage asbestos involves.

The HSE wants anyone with responsibilities for buildings to do everything they are required to do to comply with the law and prevent exposure to this hazardous substance, which was widely used in post-war construction before it was completely banned in 1999.

Organisations responsible for premises built before the turn of the century, and especially those built between 1950 and 1980 when the use of asbestos in construction was at its peak, must carry out the necessary checks and understand their legal responsibilities. People who visit or work in these buildings will not be exposed if asbestos is properly contained. But it can become dangerous when disturbed or damaged.

Updated information, new templates (including an asbestos management plan template), and explanatory videos can be found on HSE's website (see Reference section) to help anyone who is unsure of their legal duties or just need to refresh themselves on what they need to do.

HSE will check how asbestos is managed when visiting a range of buildings (like schools and hospitals) requiring those responsible for managing asbestos risks to ensure they have the right arrangements in place.

Suggested onward distribution (may not include all affected departments)

Estates and Facilities Managers
Risk Management

Health & Safety Managers

Occupational Health

References and other resources

1. [HSE press release, "Keep people safe from the future dangers of asbestos, regulator warns."](#)
2. [HSE Asbestos: Your Duty guidance materials](#)
3. [HSE video on the duty to manage asbestos](#)

Information about IRIC

Incident Reporting & Investigation Centre (IRIC), Facilities Division, NHSScotland Assure
NHS National Services Scotland, Tel: 0131 275 7575, email: nss.irc@nhs.scot

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IRIC remit: general information about adverse incidents, safety alerts and IRIC's role can be found in [CEL 43 \(2009\)](#), *Safety of Health, Social Care, Estates and Facilities Equipment: NHS Board and Local Authority Responsibilities*, issued 30 October 2009.

To find safety alerts:
scan the QR code or [click this link to visit our website](#)



To report an incident:
scan the QR code or [click this link to visit our website](#)



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