

ASBESTOS

Because of its excellent properties as a material, asbestos was widely used in buildings until the late twentieth century. In 1993, however, its use was prohibited in the Netherlands. Since then, no products containing asbestos have been manufactured. But the material can still be found in older buildings and systems. If it is damaged, exposed during renovation or demolition work or affected by fire, asbestos presents a serious danger to human health and the environment.

Work safely or don't work at all There are strict procedures when working on installations and systems. After all, there's a risk for noxious substances to be released. Therefore read the Permit to Work carefully and check if the described control measures have been taken.

Then take the precautionary measures which belong to your job. Always be alert to prevent highly concentrated noxious substances from being released. When in doubt: always ask or stop working!

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ASBESTOS / CERAMIC WOOL

Because of its excellent properties as a material (strong, durable, isolating and cheap), asbestos was widely used in buildings until the late twentieth century. In 1993, however, its use was prohibited in the Netherlands. Since then, no products containing asbestos have been manufactured.

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CERAMIC WOOL

At locations exposed to intense heat, such as steam pipes, ceramic wool is usually the only practical substitute for asbestos. But ceramic wool also poses a serious health hazard. Therefore this material is subject to the same working procedures and regulations as asbestos.

Please note: Whether asbestos or ceramic fibres are hazardous can only be determined at laboratories. When in doubt, contact specialized companies and stop working. Very

often survey reports have already been made of sites where asbestos is present. These are known to the site manager who will consider this before releasing the Permit to Work.

DAMAGING TO HEALTH

No danger: in tied situations (plate or blanket)

Danger: release of microscopic fibres by

- Grinding
- Milling
- Cutting
- Drilling
- Scouring



Please note: a high concentration of respirable ceramic fibres can be expected when removing old insulation which has been exposed to high temperatures.

Most well-known disease: mesothelioma.

DETRIMENTAL TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Asbestos and ceramic fibres are hazardous when they are released into the air or when they end up in surface water.

WORKING WITH ASBESTOS OR CERAMIC WOOL

An asbestos survey report + a working plan – certified company (certified asbestos removal company).

Carrying out activities – certified personnel employed by a certified company.

Supervision - a certified employee (an asbestos removal supervisor).

Final review - qualified party (other than the removal company).

THE SITE MANAGER:

- holds a toolbox meeting
- secures the installation, if necessary
- isolates the workplace
- takes care of workplace handover using the Permit to work and the Task Risk Analysis

PREVENTING EXPOSURE TO FIBRES

In all cases:

- make sure that you stay upwind from the workplace, as far as possible
- when working with these materials in an enclosed space, make sure that absolutely no fibres are left behind and turn off the ventilation
- if fibres are deposited, collect them using a special
- asbestos vacuum cleaner. Never use an ordinary vacuum cleaner, as this will not pick up the fibres safely

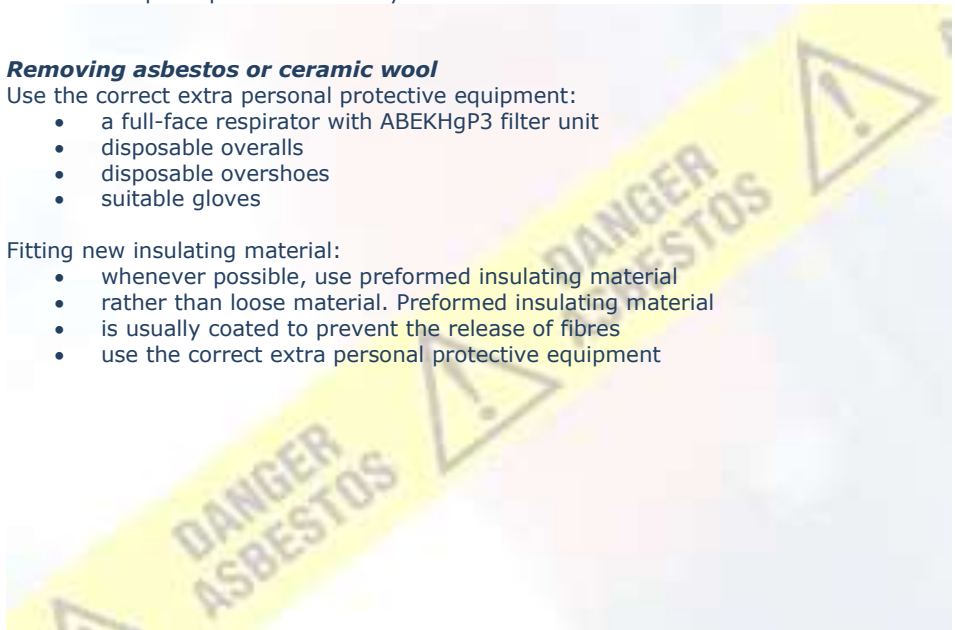
Removing asbestos or ceramic wool

Use the correct extra personal protective equipment:

- a full-face respirator with ABEKHgP3 filter unit
- disposable overalls
- disposable overshoes
- suitable gloves

Fitting new insulating material:

- whenever possible, use preformed insulating material
- rather than loose material. Preformed insulating material
- is usually coated to prevent the release of fibres
- use the correct extra personal protective equipment



QUESTIONS? MORE INFORMATION?

You can always approach the site manager/supervisor

LMRA Last Minute Risk Analysis

Ask yourself the following questions:

Do I know what I need to do?

Is the workplace safe?

Are all safety procedures explained to me?

Am I familiar with the hazards of my work (assignment)?

Do I have proper safety equipment (PPE)?

Do I have the right tools?

Are my tools certified?

Have I done everything possible
to minimize the risk?

If anything goes wrong,
do I know what I'm
supposed to do?

All YES: start (of continue) the activity.

If NO or in doubt: go to your supervisor and discuss the situation.