



burtonenvironmentalserviceslimited

# AsbestosNews

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*From*

*Burton Environmental Services Ltd*



*Edited by Steve Shutler – Technical Director*

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If you have any suggestions for topics that you would like to see included in future editions of “AsbestosNews” then we would be delighted to hear from you. Just email [steve.shutler@bes-online.com](mailto:steve.shutler@bes-online.com)

## Current Asbestos Use (Figures kindly supplied from International Ban Asbestos Secretariat)

Where exactly is asbestos being used ....

### Leading Asbestos-Consuming Nations

Country	Amount (metric tons)	Signatory to ILO Asbestos Convention	Global Ranking
China	531,190	No	1
Russia	292,541	Yes	2
India	272,856	No	3
Kazakhstan	151,231	No	4
Brazil	143,123	Yes	5
Thailand	140,861	No	6
Ukraine	124,130	No	7
Uzbekistan	63,246	No	8
Vietnam	60,657	No	9
Indonesia	40,542	No	10
Zimbabwe	34,409	Yes	11
Kyrgyzstan	24,056	No	12
Total	1,879,659		

Some of the top users are both producers and consumers such as China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Brazil and Zimbabwe. There is only one country that mines asbestos but does not use it in any significant amount. In fact, in 2006, Canada exported 290,345 tons, 50,000 more than it mined.

### Leading Asbestos-Exporting Nations

Country	Amount (metric tons)	% of Global Exports	Global Ranking
Russia	632,459	47	1
Canada	290,345	21	2
Kazakhstan	212,306	16	3
Brazil	132,196	10	4
Zimbabwe	65,659	5	5
South Africa	19,725	1	6
Total	1,352,690		

ANSWER: *Canada, of course!*

## ***British Lung Foundation Supports HSE “Hidden Killer” Campaign***

The British Lung Foundation had carried out a survey of 399 tradespersons as part of their activities to support Action Mesothelioma Day. Disappointingly three quarters had not received asbestos awareness training, less than a third were aware that the substance can cause cancer and only 12% knew that asbestos could potentially lead to their death.

The BLF chief executive said “ It is a great worry that those most at risk of this cruel cancer know so little about a killer that could be lurking in the building they’re working on today. We want mesothelioma to become a disease of the past, but until people put their health first, become asbestos aware, and protect themselves against asbestos, that goal cannot be reached”.

The HSE “Asbestos: the Hidden Killer” campaign is supported by the BLF. Details of the campaign are given on the HSE web site which includes an online video

**Mesothelioma: This isn't just an old man's story** at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/campaign/video.htm>

The video is informative, thought provoking and well worth watching.

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## ***Telephone and interview survey on management of asbestos - Spring 2008***

A HSE commissioned research survey by Ipsos -MORI is running this spring. HSE has engaged independent researchers at the Institute of Employment Studies IES, along with Ipsos-MORI to carry out telephone interviews, which may be followed -up by face to face interviews. This research will feed into HSE's evaluation of the requirements in the Asbestos Regulations to manage asbestos in non domestic premises. The duty came into force in May 2004 under the 2002 Regulations and is now contained as regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006. All data provided to HSE during this research will be completely anonymised and will not be traced back to any individual or organisations.

The HSE say that if you are contacted it would be very helpful if you could contribute with as much detail as you are able. All data provided to HSE will be completely anonymised, so HSE will not be able to identify anyone who contributed.

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## ***Edinburgh Council Receive Improvement Notice Regarding Asbestos Management***

**Edinburgh Council is to spend £1.9million** over the next two years on surveying its properties for asbestos and developing an asbestos database.

The action follows an Improvement Notice and a Council admission that its records were “inadequate”. The Council has 1100 premises.

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## ***Increased Fines for Health and Safety Offences Expected by End of Year***

A private Members Bill increasing penalties for safety offences and sponsored by Keith Hill MP, has passed through the committee stage in the House of Commons unamended. After consideration by the Lords it is expected to return to the Commons and gain assent in July or October this year.

The Health and Safety (Offences) Bill intends to increase the maximum fine available to Magistrates to £20,000 for most health and safety offence. It would also provide for imprisonment for most offences and increase the number of cases being referred to the Crown Court.

Supporting the Bill, Andrew Selous, Conservative for South West Beds, said that on the grounds of inflation alone there was a good case for the increases.

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## ***Prosecutions Reported in the Media***

**King's College Cambridge and Geoff Cunningham**, their Clerk of Works, have both been prosecuted for putting the safety of painters at risk. Cambridge Magistrates were told that the Clerk deliberately misled the painting staff regarding the presence of asbestos while they were painting the underside of a balcony on 29 November 2006. The work disturbed the asbestos and dust fell on the workers.

The HSE had visited the college shortly before the incident and had told Mr Cunningham that he must arrange for all relevant trades staff to be given asbestos awareness training. The work was completed before the training started and once the painters attended the course they realised what had happened. The Clerk resigned 24 hours after the incident was brought to light as he had details of the asbestos from a type 2 survey report from 2003.

Geoff Cunningham was fined £1000 with £500 costs for contravention of section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and King's College was fined a total of £16,000 with £14,500 costs for various offences under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006.

Following the case the prosecuting HSE Inspector said that the prosecution demonstrated the need to act upon survey report findings and put a proper asbestos management plan in to place.

The College is reported as having felt let down by the Clerk and now has a proper system. A new Clerk has recently been appointed.

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## ***Technical Issues***

### ***Decontamination Facilities - Design***

In previous issues of AsbestosNews we have looked at the available techniques for the removal of asbestos. Most of these methods will result in contamination of the operatives with asbestos fibres and it is important that personal decontamination takes place before the operative removes his respiratory protective equipment. Equally there must be no chance that asbestos fibres can be taken home.

Regulation 23 of The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 stipulates that adequate washing and changing facilities (hygiene facilities) must be provided for asbestos workers and the accompanying Approved Code of Practice L 143 and chapter 8 of the Licensed Contractors Guide HSG247 clarifies their design and construction . In particular they need to have:-

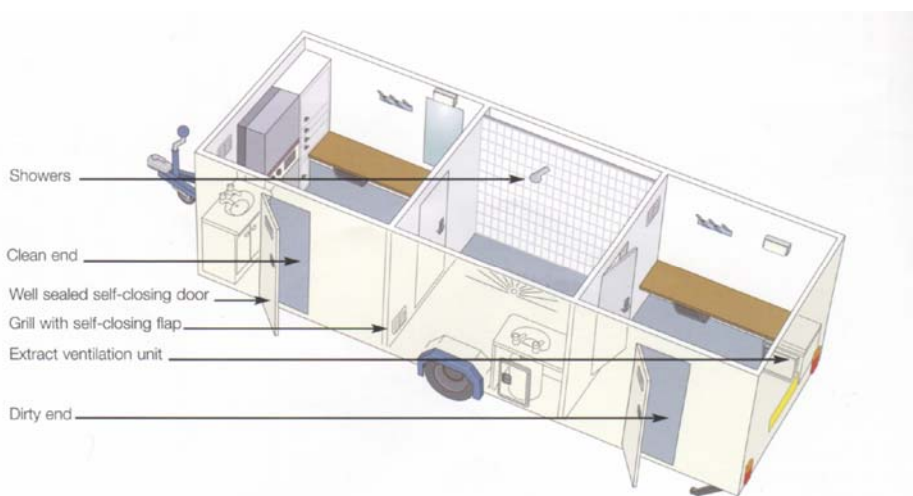
- Separate changing rooms for dirty and clean areas with a shower located between the 2
- Self closing air-tight doors
- Adequate seating
- Air extraction with HEPA filtration
- An easily cleanable design
- Heating lighting and internal ventilation passing to the “dirty” end
- Sufficient space and storage
- Hot and cold water, soap, shampoo, nail brushes and individual towels
- A filter on the waste water
- A wall mounted mirror in the “clean” end
- An electricity supply via a 30 mA trip
- Identification notices on the “Clean” and “Dirty” entrance doors

Obviously the facilities need to be properly maintained which includes a 6 monthly examination and test of the HEPA filtered ventilation plant and to be kept clean.

The unit needs to be on site and operational throughout works until the final certificate of reoccupation is issued. Before the unit is taken to the next site a clearance air test is required to confirm that it has been properly cleaned.



**Purpose built hygiene facilities used by BES**



**Internal layout of hygiene facilities (Courtesy of HSE)**

Next month – the procedures when using decontamination facilities

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**Complementary entry to the Safety & Health Expo (13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008) – Courtesy of Burton Environmental Services Limited**



For the second consecutive year Burton Environmental Services will be exhibiting at the Safety and Health Expo at the NEC Birmingham. This year's show promises to be bigger and better than ever with in excess of 22,000 visitors expected to attend the vast array of trade stands, live demonstrations and seminars.

Asbestos will have its own dedicated area including the "Asbestos Theatre" where asbestos related seminars will be held. Steve Shutler has been invited to present a seminar and has chosen the theme of "Assessing the Competence of Asbestos Removal Contractors" – a very topical issue in light of the increasing emphasis on CDM clients to thoroughly vet contractors that they appoint.

We very much hope that you will be able to attend the Expo and BES would be delighted to forward complementary tickets to clients, AsbestosNews readers and their colleagues. All you need to do is drop us an email with a postal address and number of tickets required, following this link [expotickets@bes-online.com](mailto:expotickets@bes-online.com)

We obviously look forward to seeing you on Stand B74, Hall 9.

The Safety and Health Expo has a very informative web site at <http://www.safety-health-expo.co.uk>

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## **Useful Background Information**

This month AsbestosNews is recommending the web site from the British Lung Foundation at [www.lunguk.org](http://www.lunguk.org). The site contains much useful information about the respiratory system in general and some parts would be useful as an educational tool for children and young adults.

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## **Services from B.E.S**

BES has been known for efficient and **cost effective asbestos removal** for many years. However our service extends much further:-

- Surveys – Type 1, 2 & 3
- UKAS accredited sample analysis
- Asbestos risk assessment
- Asbestos management plans
- Awareness training



*Committed To Making Britain Safer*

Please do not hesitate to discuss your requirements and to obtain a free, no obligation quotation.