



burtonenvironmentalserviceslimited

# AsbestosNews

*Edition 8 May 2008*

*From*

*Burton Environmental Services Ltd*



*Edited by Steve Shutler – Technical Director*

## **In This Edition**

- Accidental and Occupational Exposure to Asbestos – Revised HSE Guidance
- When is Accidental Exposure to Asbestos a Notifiable Dangerous Occurrence?
- Substantial Compensation for Asbestos Victims
- Asbestos Olympics?
- Substitutes for Asbestos-Cement construction products
- Technical Issues - The procedures when using decontamination facilities
- Andrea Bysh joins Burton Environmental Services
- Burton Environmental Services opens new South West office
- Recommended web site of the month
- Services From B.E.S

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)

## ***Accidental and Occupational Exposure to Asbestos Revised HSE Guidance***

Over the past few years the editor of *AsbestosNews* has been asked to advise clients following accidental disturbance of asbestos which may have resulted in exposure of workers or of the general public. Similarly concerns are often expressed by building trades personnel during asbestos awareness training when they think back to working conditions in the 1960s and 1970s.

Revised guidance is now available from the HSE which attempts to quantify the risks of such exposure and to provide advice to those affected.

The first revised document is aimed at enforcement officers – The level of risk from occupational exposure to Asbestos: Guidance for HSE and LA staff when responding to enquiries, OC 265/48 Version 3 <http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/fod/oc/200-299/265-48.htm>

This document has links to revised guidance which is tailored to assist:-

- Employees and members of the public who may have been exposed to asbestos
- Employers of exposed persons
- General practitioners who may be approached by concerned patients.

The publications now place more emphasis on lower levels of exposure which the HSE consider could still lead to disease, particularly where there is a pattern of repeated exposure. This typically occurs among trades such as electricians, plumbers and carpenters.

Again it is confirmed that there is no effective post-exposure prophylaxis for the effects of inhaled asbestos fibres and no generally available techniques for determining individual lung burdens of asbestos fibres – other than post mortem.

---

## ***When is Accidental Exposure to Asbestos a Notifiable Dangerous Occurrence?***

The recently issued guidance referred to above clarifies when exposure to asbestos becomes notifiable to the HSE as a “Dangerous Occurrence”. This question has previously been rather difficult to answer as theoretically we are all exposed to a continuous background level of airborne asbestos fibres from a number of sources including deterioration of ACMs in buildings, from friction components of old vehicles and natural sources.

The guidance advises the employer that the following activities should be reported to the HSE’s Incident Centre (tel 0845 3009923) when they take place, or are repeated (without effective controls) for more than the periods of time given below:-

### **Activity**

- Use of power tools (to drill, cut etc) on most ACMs;
- Physical disturbance, such as knocking, breaking, smashing of a licensable ACM e.g. sprayed coating, lagging, asbestos insulating board (AIB);
- Manually cutting or drilling AIB;
- Aggressive physical disturbance of asbestos cement (AC), e.g. breaking or smashing.

## Period of Time

- Sprayed coatings (excluding textured decorative coatings) or loose lagging: 15 minutes
- Insulation: 30 minutes
- Asbestos insulating board: 60 minutes
- Asbestos cement: 8 hours.

---

## ***Substantial Compensation for Asbestos Victims***

Three reports have recently been received of substantial compensation awards for workers who have developed asbestos related diseases following exposure at work.

- Kenneth Chapman, aged 74, who worked for the New Southern Railway (part of British Rail) as a train driver, fireman and boiler cleaner, has been awarded £180,000 following diagnosis of mesothelioma.
- An unnamed worker at Prestwich Unemployment Benefits Office was awarded £170,000 again after contracting mesothelioma
- Peter Guy, who developed asbestosis due to work in a Liverpool shipping yard in the 1960s, was awarded £20,000

With the current annual death rate from asbestos related diseases running between 3,000 and 4,000 such case obviously represent the 'tip of the iceberg'.

---

## ***Asbestos Olympics?***

by Laurie Kazan-Allen

The announcement made on July 13, 2001 by the International Olympic Committee that Beijing had been elected as the Host City for the 2008 Olympics set alarm bells ringing in the IBAS office. Knowing that China is the world's largest consumer of asbestos, we wondered whether the "Green Olympics," as they were being promoted, would be constructed with white asbestos?



Olympic "bird's nest" Stadium, Beijing.

Unfortunately, emails sent to the official Olympics website and the International Olympic Committee remained unanswered. As work on the Olympics progressed, China's reliance on asbestos increased. Between 2001 and 2006, nearly 3 million tons of asbestos were used; annual consumption increased by 35% over this period.

## ***Substitutes for Asbestos-Cement Construction Products***

by Barry Castleman

Substitutes for these asbestos products are not limited to products that simply replace asbestos with another material (e.g., PVA and cellulose in fiber-cement roofing sheet). There are also a number of wholly different products that can replace the asbestos products. A number of substitutes for asbestos-cement products are included in the following table.

<b>Asbestos Product</b>	<b>Substitute Products</b>
Asbestos-Cement Corrugated Roofing	Fiber-cement roofing using: synthetic fibers (polyvinyl alcohol, polypropylene) and vegetable/cellulose fibers (softwood kraft pulp, bamboo, sisal, coir, rattan shavings and tobacco stalks, etc.); with optional silica fume, flyash, or rice husk ash  Microconcrete (Parry) tiles Galvanized metal sheets Clay tiles Vegetable fibers in asphalt Slate Coated metal tiles (Harveytile) Aluminum roof tiles (Dekra Tile) Extruded uPVC roofing sheets Recycled polypropylene and high-density polyethylene and crushed stone (Worldroof) Plastic coated aluminum Plastic coated galvanized steel.
Asbestos-Cement Flat Sheet (ceilings, facades, partitions)	Fiber-cement using vegetable/cellulose fibers (see above), wastepaper, optionally synthetic fibers Gypsum ceiling boards (BHP Gypsum) Polystyrene ceilings, cornices, and partitions Façade applications in polystyrene structural walls (coated with plaster) Aluminum cladding (Alucabond) Brick Galvanized frame with plaster-board or calcium silicate board facing Softwood frame with plasterboard or calcium silicate board facing.

Asbestos-Cement Pipe	<p><i>High Pressure:</i>  Cast iron and ductile iron pipe  High-density polyethylene pipe  Polyvinyl chloride pipe  Steel-reinforced concrete pipe (large sizes)  Glass-reinforced polyester pipe</p> <p><i>Low Pressure:</i>  Cellulose-cement pipe  Cellulose/PVA fiber-cement pipe  Clay pipe  Glass-reinforced polyester pipe  Steel-reinforced concrete pipe (large diameter drainage)</p>
Asbestos-Cement Water Storage Tanks	Cellulose-cement Polyethylene Fiberglass Steel Galvanized iron PVA-cellulose fiber-cement
Asbestos-Cement Rainwater Gutters; Open Drains (Mining Industry)	Galvanized iron Aluminum Hand-molded cellulose-cement PVC

---

## ***Technical Issues***

### ***The procedures when using decontamination facilities***

In edition 7 of AsbestosNews we looked at the design of decontamination units (DCUs), often referred to as hygiene facilities. We now review the personal decontamination procedure.

The decontamination process will depend upon whether the unit can be attached directly to the enclosed working area or if “transiting” arrangements are necessary because the unit can not be brought sufficiently close to the enclosure. In this instance we will consider the more preferable direct connection. It is however important when this arrangement is used to construct a short tunnel with an air vent and a single stage airlock to prevent the filtered air extractor in the DCU drawing airborne fibre from the working enclosure in to the “dirty end” of the DCU.

Figure 8.2 Hygiene unit directly attached to the enclosure

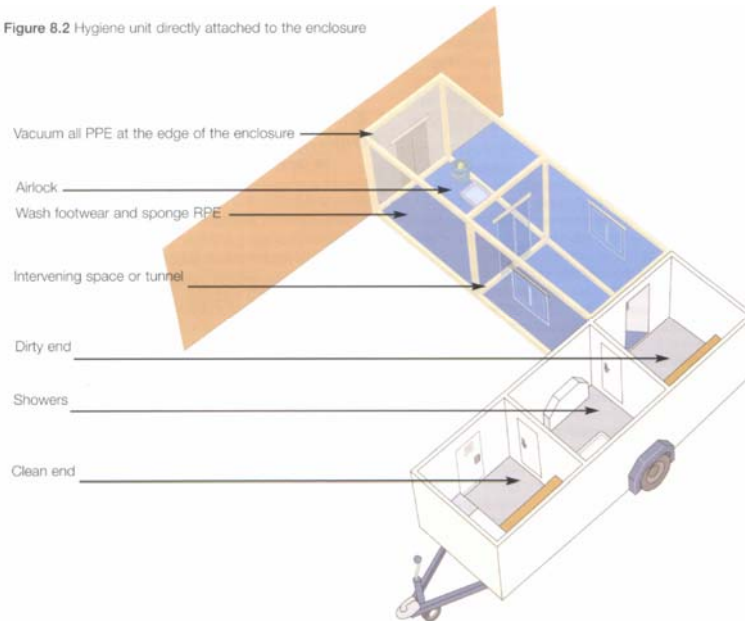


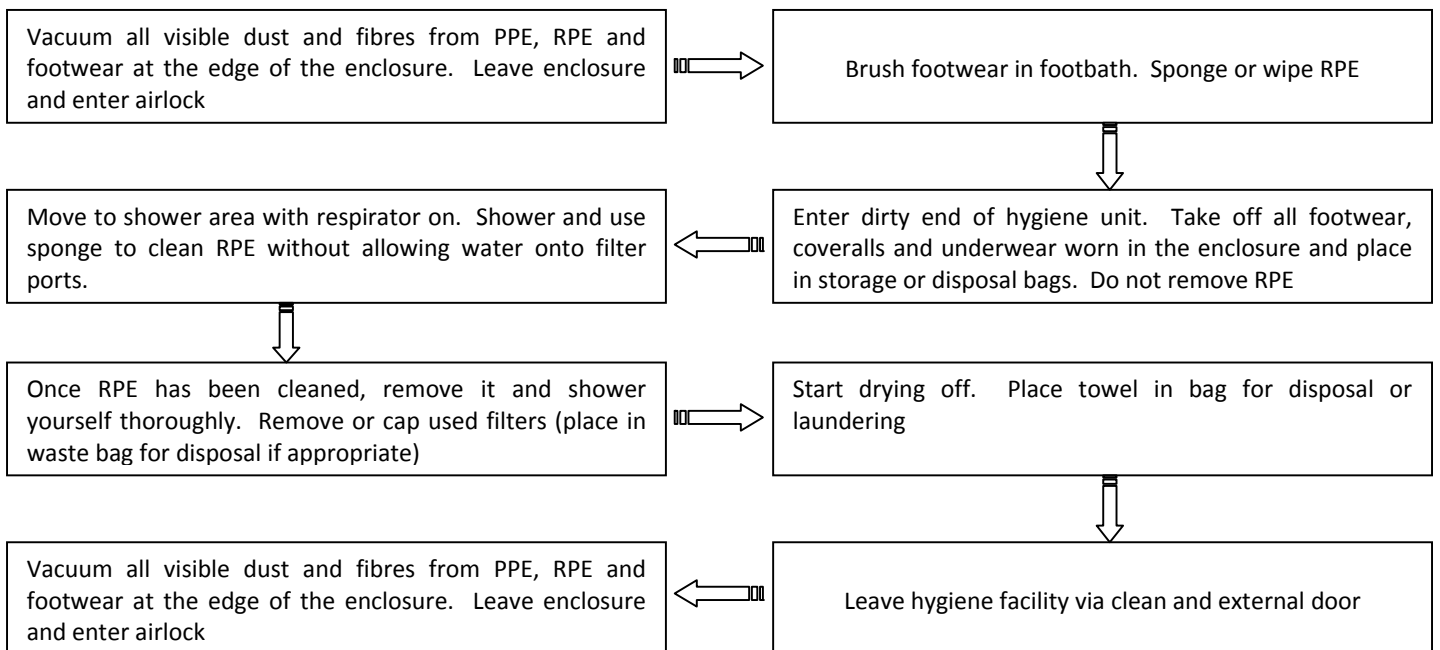
Illustration taken from HSE publication Asbestos: The licensed contractors guide, HSG 247

Decontamination problems can be reduced by careful working procedures within the enclosure. The procedure is then in two stages:-

- Preliminary decontamination within the enclosure and airlocks
- Final decontamination within the DCU

Operatives leaving the working area should follow the following procedure

### Leaving enclosure



---

## ***Andrea Bysh joins Burton Environmental Services***

We are very pleased to have been joined by Andrea Bysh who has been appointed as Safety and Environmental Manager.

Andrea is one of a very select band of women working within the asbestos contracting industry with both professional asbestos and safety qualifications.

Andrea has also previously worked within the waste disposal industry and having spent her formative years in Germany is a fluent German speaker.

Andrea can be contacted via [andrea.bysh@bes-online.com](mailto:andrea.bysh@bes-online.com) or on 07827 321509



Andrea Bysh

---

## ***Burton Environmental Services Opens New South West Office***

This month marked the opening of our South West Regional office in Portishead near Bristol.

The office is managed by Jon Reynolds who lives locally. Jon, who has a background in the asbestos removal industry, is responsible for business development and marketing.

The office is in a very pleasant environment with extensive parking and an air conditioned meeting room where we will be offering asbestos awareness training.

He can be contacted via [jon.reynolds@bes-online.com](mailto:jon.reynolds@bes-online.com) or on 01275 390490



Jon Reynolds



Kestrel Court, Portishead, Bristol

---

## ***Recommended web site of the month***

This month we are recommending an American web site – that of the on line library of Oklahoma State University  
<http://www.pp.okstate.edu/ehs/links/asbestos.htm>



The site has excellent information regarding asbestos and brings together resources from throughout the USA.

---

## ***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



T: 01283 517 374  
F: 01283 500 360

E : info@bes-online.com  
W: www.bes-online.com

*Committed To Making Britain Safer*

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