

Asbestos Licensing Unit (ALU)
Asbestos Liaison Group (ALG)
ALG Memo 02/07

ALG memos are produced by the ALG to provide information and guidance to the asbestos industry and other interested stakeholders.

Date: 20 February 2007

Subject: THE ROLE OF VIEWING PANELS AND CCTV

1. Regulations 11(2), 7(5) and 12(1) of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 require:

- a. appropriate work methods to be employed in order to minimise exposure to asbestos,
- b. work to be carried out in accordance with the plan of work, so far as is reasonably practicable and
- c. all reasonable steps to be taken by the employer to ensure that control measures etc. are properly used.

2. The Approved Code of Practice (L143) states that a sufficient number of viewing panels should be installed in enclosures. The purpose of such panels is to allow supervisors, managers and supervisory licence-holders to monitor work, thereby minimising the need to enter enclosures. Viewing panels should be located to ensure that all areas inside the enclosure are visible, as far as reasonably practicable.

3. Where such panels are not reasonably practicable, or where they do not allow good visibility of the active work area, a CCTV system should be installed such that ongoing work can be seen.

4. The installation of viewing panels/CCTV does not replace the need for supervisors and supervisory licence-holders to enter enclosures. Entry will be required on appropriate occasions in order to check compliance with the plan of work and relevant health and safety procedures. CCTV and/or viewing panels do not replace the need for enclosure entry but they may help to reduce the frequency of entry.

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