

a20

asbestos essentials

Non-licensed tasks

Essential information

Important: You must read sheet **a0** *Introduction to asbestos essentials*

Also read the following sheets:

em0 Risk assessments and plans of work

em1 What to do if you discover or accidentally disturb asbestos during your work

em2 Information, instruction and training

em6 Personal protective equipment (including RPE)

em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination

em8 Personal decontamination

em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

Laying cables in areas containing undamaged asbestos materials

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to run cables through an area containing intact asbestos lagging, insulation, insulating board or coating.

If you need to remove an asbestos insulating board (AIB) ceiling tile for access, see sheet **a2**.

This sheet is *not* appropriate where damaged asbestos material is present, or for cabling over a suspended AIB ceiling. Use an HSE-licensed contractor for such work.

Preparing the work area

- Ensure safe access.
- Restrict access – minimise the number of people present.
- Close doors. Use tape and notices to warn others.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

Equipment

- 500-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Adhesive spray
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag

Personal protective equipment (PPE) – see sheet **em6**

- Provide:
 - disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
 - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate);
 - respiratory protective equipment (RPE).



Procedure

- Wherever possible, use existing cable trays or conduits, or fix cables to non-asbestos surfaces.

Other hazards

Work at height – see www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height. Take precautions to avoid falls.

There may be other hazards – you need to consider them all.

- If there is no alternative to running cables near asbestos, protect the surfaces with 500-gauge polythene sheeting secured with adhesive spray or duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Avoid drilling through asbestos-containing materials.
- Avoid fixing cables to anything that contains asbestos.
- Ensure that cabling only runs over the protected sections.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the equipment with damp rags.
- Put debris, used rags, polythene sheeting and other waste in the asbestos waste bag and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste bag in a clear polythene bag and tape it closed.
- Disposal – see sheet em9.

Personal decontamination

See sheet em8.

Clearance and checking off

- Visually inspect the area to make sure that it has been cleaned properly.
- Clearance air sampling is not normally required.
- Get the premises owner, dutyholder or client to check off the job.

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