Replacing an asbestos-containing fuse box or a single fuse assembly

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove a single asbestos-containing fuse assembly or an asbestos-containing fuse box.

Preparing the work area

- Have a competent electrician isolate and lock off the electricity supply, and test to show that the system is not live.
- 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;
- Class H vacuum cleaner (BS 8520) - see sheet em4;
- screwdriver;
- non-asbestos replacement fuse box;
- bucket of water and rags;
- asbestos waste container, eg labelled polythene sack; and
- clear polythene sack.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) - see sheet em6

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

Old style fuse-boxes contain asbestos inside the fuse assemblies and must be handled correctly
**Procedures**

- Instead of a single fuse assembly, can you replace the whole fuse box?
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Check if the fuse box is attached to asbestos insulating board (AIB).
- Vacuum clean around and inside the fuse box.

**Removal - fuse box**

- Remove connections and carefully unscrew using ‘shadow vacuuming’ - see sheet em4.
- Place the screws in the waste container.
- Loosen and remove the fuse box. Put it in the waste container.
- Vacuum clean and wipe all surfaces.
- Install the new fuse box - attach it to a non-asbestos surface.
- If the fuse box had been attached to AIB, see sheet a6 to repair minor damage.

**Removal - fuse assembly**

- Unplug the fuse carrier and put it in the asbestos waste container.
- Vacuum the fuse holder with the Class H vacuum cleaner. Un螺丝 the connections.
- Unscrew the fuse holder with ‘shadow vacuuming’ - see sheet em4.
- Put screws and the fuse holder in the waste container.
- Vacuum and wipe clean the connectors.
- Install the non-asbestos replacement assembly.

**Cleaning and disposal**

- Clean the area and equipment with the Class H vacuum cleaner and damp rags.
- Put used rags, polythene sheeting and other waste in the asbestos waste container and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste container in a clear polythene sack 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, duty-holder or client to check off the job.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Download and follow these advice sheets from www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm:

em1 What to do if you uncover or damage materials that could contain asbestos
em2 Training
em4 Using a Class H vacuum cleaner for asbestos
em6 Personal protective equipment (PPE)
em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination
em8 Personal decontamination
em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

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This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.