Removing pins and nails from an asbestos insulating board (AIB) panel

What this sheet covers
This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove pins or nails from an AIB panel.

Preparing the work area

- Can you do this work from ground-level?
- Restrict access - minimise the number of people present.

Equipment

- Thick paste, eg wallpaper paste or shaving foam;
- permanent sealant;
- filler;
- pliers;
- paint brush;
- bucket of water and rags; and
- waste bag, eg 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
  - protective gloves. Select single use gloves.
- A respirator is not normally required.

Procedure

- If the nail/pin is flush with the surface, removal will damage AIB. Either paint over it, or get an HSE-licensed contractor for removal.
- Apply a generous amount of paste/foam around the nail/pin.
- Extract the nail/pin with pliers and put it in the waste bag.
- Wipe off remaining paste/foam with a damp rag and put it in the waste bag.
- Put filler in the small hole and paint over it.

Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the area with damp rags.
- Put used rags, paint brush, gloves and other waste in the waste container and tape it closed.
- The waste is less than 0.1% asbestos. It may be disposed with general refuse.
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.

OTHER HAZARDS

Take precautions to avoid falls. Must you work from a ladder? Where necessary, erect an access platform.
There may also be other hazards - you need to consider them all.

SAFETY CHECKLIST

✓ Can you avoid disturbing asbestos by doing the job in some other way?
✓ Do you need a licence for the work?
✓ Always follow all legal requirements.
✓ Follow the task guidance sheet.

Caution:

- Don't sweep up dust or debris - use a Class H vacuum cleaner or damp rags.
- Don't take used overalls home.
- Don't reuse disposable PPE.
- Don't smoke.
- Don't eat or drink in the work area.

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.

This document is available at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm

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Published by the Health and Safety Executive 04/12