

ASBESTOS

Inhalation of asbestos dust is a cause of deadly cancers in lungs and chest linings. Asbestos therefore has been banned from use in buildings.

Whoever is responsible for chapel buildings has a legal duty to manage the risk from any existing asbestos in the building fabric. The current law is the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. The HSE guide: Managing Asbestos in Buildings is provided on this website and should be referred to in connection with these notes.

Only buildings constructed after 01-01-2000 can be presumed to contain no asbestos.

To comply with the Regulations, the person responsible—the dutyholder—has to:

- 1 Survey the inside and outside of chapel premises to draw up a written record of where any asbestos containing material (ACM) is present and its condition. It has to be assumed that all materials contain asbestos unless there is strong evidence that they do not.
- 2 Assess the risk from each ACM (actual or presumed), and measures to be taken to eliminate or manage that risk. Maintain an up-to-date record of the location, condition, maintenance and removal of all ACMs on the premises. Provide this information to anyone liable to work on or disturb the ACM.

To carry out 1 and 2 the duty-holder would need to be, or employ, a person experienced in architectural, surveying or construction work.

- 3 Before any work likely to disturb an ACM (actual or presumed) is carried out a UKAS accredited surveyor must be employed to inspect the ACM, take samples if necessary, and advise on management of the risk, notification of the Local Authority or HSE, and employment of licensed contractors.

Contact the GST secretary with any queries.

27 June 2015