

ASBESTOS REMOVAL WORKS – WET DROP METHOD

WET DROP ASBESTOS REMOVAL WORKS

Historical data has proven that with sufficient wetting, the mechanical reduction of asbestos cement roof and side sheeting is the least likely method to cause significant operative and environmental exposure to asbestos fibres.

This method reduces time spent working at height but is often not suitable where the work area is adjacent to public area. Where this method is to be employed, the following controlled procedures should be implemented:

- The predicted drop zone must be considered as an exclusion and respirator zone which is clearly delineated and must be clear of all debris, extrusions and obstructions to facilitate a thorough environmental clean on completion of the works.
- The sealing of drains and establishment of a containment system is essential to ensure that there is no possibility of any contamination of water courses or surface water catchments.
- An adequate supply of water must be established, preferably through a holding tank, which will enable the introduction of a surfactant solution to damp the AC sheeting being removed.
- Water sprays must be focused on the area of AC sheeting to be removed by way of machine mounted jets and/or ground based equipment.
- Work should be carried out on a bay-by-bay system, cutting and dropping the sections of roof or side sheeting to the ground. Breakage of the sheets should be kept to a minimum, so far as is reasonably practicable. Fallen sheets should not be driven over.
- The cleaning up of AC debris, ideally, should be carried out using a rubber tyred loading shovel fitted with a plain edged bucket. Operatives assisting with the clean-up works must have non-licensed work training and be trained in the safe working procedures and be equipped with suitable PPE & RPE. The shovel operator will wear the appropriate PPE including an FFP3 filtered face fitted mask and follow all the correct decontamination as the plant does not have a HEPA filtration unit operating within the cab.
- A routine of decontamination must be established at the end of each shift and before any meal, fatigue, toilet, comfort breaks.
- The resultant debris must be loaded into a sound, secure (gaps sealed) and lockable container for disposal by a licensed carrier at a registered disposal facility in accordance with the Hazardous Waste Regulations and EA/SEPA protocols.
- Background reassurance and personal monitoring should be carried out at key points around the working area with results monitored and recorded. Should monitoring identify any increase in fibre levels, which may increase operative or public exposure, work should be stopped and the system of work reviewed prior to recommencement.
- All waste water run-off must be contained and disposed of as contaminated wastes. If foul water drains are present then these may be packed with filter material and the water run-off allowed to filter through to the drain.