

# **SECTION 3(2)**

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**ASBESTOS AT WORK**

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## **Introduction**

The legislation, codes of practice, guidance notes etc. that apply to the various types of asbestos are extensive and a bibliography of the current documents can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm>

Asbestos is a natural mineral made up of many small fibres. There are three main types Crocidolite (Blue), Amosite (Brown) and Chrysotile (White). Although they are generally referred to by colour, this is not a positive means of identification and the coloration varies greatly according to such factors as age, use and the way in which the asbestos has been treated.

Asbestos has been widely used throughout industry as well as in the home, in building materials and consumer goods. It is particularly used to resist heat and/or fire protection. Some asbestos materials are easily damaged and thus release dust.

Asbestos materials are not in themselves harmful, but breathing asbestos dust is dangerous.

## **Who Has A Duty To Manage Asbestos?**

1. Every person who has, by virtue of a contract or tenancy, any obligation of any extent in relation to the maintenance or repair of non-domestic premises or any means of access there to or egress there from.

or

2. In relation to any part of non-domestic premises where there is no such contract or tenancy, every person who has, to any extent, control of that part of those non-domestic premises or any means of access there to or egress there from and where there is more than one duty holder, the relative contribution to be made by each such person in complying with the requirements of this regulation will be determined by the nature and extent of the maintenance and repair obligation owed by that person.

Thus, the Council and those responsible for day-to-day management of a particular site have a duty to manage asbestos risk.

In practice, in each Council owned or maintained building there is a designated Responsible Person who is responsible for a variety of building related matters and in the context of the Regulations that person will be the 'duty holder'. However, it is not expected that the duty holder will possess any specialist technical knowledge of building matters and, to that end, full technical support and assistance is available via the surveyors of the Building Group within Bracknell Forest Council.

## **Asbestos register**

The Building Surveyor's Section of Corporate Services have previously organised Asbestos surveys and registers at a majority of the council establishments.

If you suspect that Asbestos may have been damaged at your work place then please contact The Construction and Maintenance team and The Corporate Health & Safety team immediately.

[http://boris.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/corporate-services/property/construction\\_and\\_maintenance.htm](http://boris.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/corporate-services/property/construction_and_maintenance.htm)

<http://boris.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/corporate-services/human-resources/health-and-safety-health-and-safety-at-bfbc.htm>