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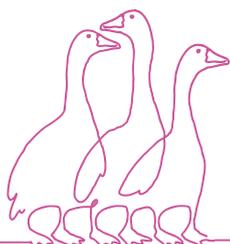
Managing asbestos risk in schools

Recently a committee of MPs warned that nearly a quarter (23%) of schools in England have not notified the government of how much asbestos they have in their buildings and how they are managing the risks, despite schools being asked to provide this information to the Department for Education by 31st May 2018.

Who is responsible for managing asbestos in schools?

Regulation 4 of The Control of Asbestos Regulations (CAR) 2012 requires dutyholders to “manage the risks from asbestos in non-domestic premises”. For the majority of schools, the dutyholder will be the employer, although who the employer is varies with the type of school:

- Local authority: community schools, community special schools, voluntary-controlled schools, maintained nursery schools and pupil referral units
- School governors: academies, free schools, voluntary-aided and foundation schools
- Proprietor, governors or trustees: independent schools
- In situations where budgets for building management are delegated to schools by the local authority, the duty to manage asbestos will be shared between the schools and the local authority.



What a dutyholder is required to do?

A dutyholder should be sufficiently competent to carry out their duties or seek specialist assistance to ensure that the following is implemented in the school for which they hold a duty:

- Assess the risks posed by asbestos containing materials (ACMs)
- Establish and maintain a written Asbestos Management Plan (AMP), detailing the process and procedures for managing the risks from ACMs
- Maintain an asbestos register for the school that is up-to-date and details the location and condition of the ACMs
- Regularly inspect the ACMs for any visible signs of damage
- Provide all staff with asbestos awareness training to ensure no asbestos is disturbed or damaged, i.e. such as pinning work to walls, and ensuring any damage is reported
- Provide information on the location and condition of the asbestos to any contractor or visitor who may potentially disturb these materials.

Dutyholders should be aware that from our experience the levels of competence within the asbestos surveying industry is enormous, meaning that even schools that have had a survey conducted may not have identified all the asbestos containing materials.

For more information on asbestos management and how 4see can help you please contact us on 01327 811166 or visit our website at www.4see.co.uk/.



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