



FLAMINGO LAND LTD. HEALTH AND SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Guidance on the Removal of Asbestos Cement Products

Dismantling and demolishing buildings, roofed or clad with asbestos cement sheet, presents special problems, especially if they are old and crumbling. Many asbestos cement products, such as roof sheets, cladding, drainpipes and gutters are located at height and therefore present a risk of falls. Asbestos cement sheet is a fragile material, and **people must not walk on it**. You cannot rely on it to support the weight of a person.

In order to minimise exposure and control the spread of asbestos, you need to consider the following general precautions.

- 1 Where reasonably practicable, remove the asbestos cement before the rest of the structure is demolished.
- 2 Where possible, avoid further breaking the sheets.
- 3 Keep the material wet when working on it.
- 4 Where possible, lower the material onto a clean hard surface.
- 5 Remove waste and debris from the site as soon as possible to prevent it being crushed underfoot or by moving vehicles.
- 6 Do not bulldoze asbestos cement or sheets into piles.
- 7 Do not dry sweep asbestos cement debris.
- 8 Dispose of the waste debris safely.

Manual dismantling methods

If asbestos cement sheets are in good condition and it is reasonably practicable to produce a safe system of work and provide safe access, they should be taken down whole. Roof sheets should preferably be removed from underneath with mobile elevating work platforms, for example cherry pickers.

When adopting this method, the sheets should not be dropped or damaged. Methods such as careful transfer to covered skips, or wrapping intact in polythene sheeting, provide the best form of disposal.

Other dismantling methods

If the sheets are disintegrating or the risk of falls is too great, demolition techniques such as deliberate controlled collapse should be used. This will give rise to low levels of exposure for the equipment operators, and to those who subsequently load the waste for disposal.

When adopting this technique the work area must be continually sprayed with water to suppress the spread of asbestos fibres. The roof sheeting should be broken into the building in a controlled manner onto the floor or hard standing, for instance by using excavators etc. Before and while loading



the debris it should be kept damp by spraying with water.

Licensing

This type of work, with asbestos cement, does not require removal by a licensed contractor.

Waste

Asbestos waste must be consigned to a site which is authorised to accept asbestos waste.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Health and Safety Department.