

ASBESTOS

STILL A KILLER

Despite a ban on its use, asbestos continues to kill. Asbestos caused over 5,000 deaths in the UK last year and the figure is rising.

Today, one and a half million workplace premises in the UK still contain asbestos with many workers still at risk from exposure to this deadly dust. These include caretakers, maintenance staff, and those who install equipment such as telephones, computers and electrical equipment.

The new Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 will help to reduce exposure to this killer, but UNISON safety representatives can help to ensure this happens.

More details on the new regulations can be found in the Asbestos Information Sheet on our web site at www.unison.org.uk

Safety representatives checklist

- Is a system in place for identifying and locating materials likely to contain asbestos?
- Are written records on the location of asbestos up-to-date and accessible?
- Are they always referred to before any building or maintenance work is planned or carried out, however minor?
- Are all contractors aware of the organisation's procedures on asbestos? How is this managed?
- Is the condition of any asbestos left in place regularly monitored?
- If asbestos is to be removed is a plan in place to deal with its safe removal?
- Is the risk of exposure to asbestos assessed and a written record kept?
- Are safety representatives consulted over asbestos risk assessments, results of any surveys carried out and control measures?
- Is information, instruction and training given to staff about asbestos risks and the precautions needed?
- Are procedures in place to inform employees who have been exposed to asbestos?



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Designed, produced and printed by UNISON Communications - 1 Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9AJ.
www.unison.org.uk; CU/January 03/13123/quantity20.000. Print ref: 6415.