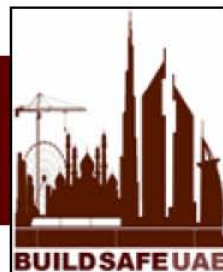


SAFETY ALERT #416



Dated: Sunday, 28th FEBRUARY 2010

Title: ASBESTOS FOUND DURING REFURBISHMENT



Asbestos Insulating Board Ceiling Tiles



Asbestos Cement Partition Walls



Braided Asbestos Pipe Insulation to Fire Pump Exhaust

Investigation Findings: Whilst carrying out refurbishment works within a commercial property, suspect fibrous materials were encountered during the renovations. Works were stopped after an inspection by the company HSE manager visually identified the fibrous materials. Samples of the suspect materials were collected and analysed by an accredited laboratory, and confirmed the presence of asbestos. Upon return of the sample results a fully intrusive asbestos survey was commissioned.

Contributing Factors which Resulted in Accident: Prior to the refurbishment works within the property, an asbestos survey had not been undertaken. The employees undertaking the refurbishment works were unaware of what Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) looked like, nor the hazards associated with them, and had not received any formal asbestos awareness training.

Corrective & Preventative Action: All forms of asbestos fibre (Blue, Brown and White) are known to be carcinogenic to humans, and can cause fatal respiratory diseases if inhaled. **In the UAE it is a LEGAL REQUIREMENT to provide employees with a safe working environment, with the correct PPE and RPE and training to enable them to carry out their job.**

Prior to refurbishment or demolition of any structure, it is always prudent to ensure that an asbestos assessment has been undertaken. ACMs are a common building material in the UAE, and have been known to have been found in buildings both old and new.

Individuals undertaking work that may expose them to asbestos fibre must be provided with formal awareness training, they must be made aware of the risks of asbestos, and finally they must be provided with the appropriate protective equipment to undertake the job.

Risk assessment required, control measures such as SSOW / Workplan in place with close supervision by competent trained persons.