

Method Statement & Risk Assessment

Working in Soil Containing Trace Asbestos ($\leq 0.001\%$)

1. Scope of Works

This method statement applies to excavation and handling of soils confirmed by laboratory analysis to contain trace concentrations of asbestos fibres ($\leq 0.001\%$ w/w). Although risk is considered low, this does not remove the requirement for appropriate management under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR) and CIRIA C733.

2. Key References

- CIRIA C733: Asbestos in soil and made ground: a guide to understanding and managing risks
- Control of Asbestos Regulations (CAR) 2012
- CDM Regulations 2015

3. Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment

Hazard	Risk	Controls	Residual Risk
Airborne asbestos fibres	Exposure through inhalation leading to long-term health effects	Wet-working methods, PPE, site controls, air monitoring visit	Low
Dust dispersion off-site	Public or environmental exposure	Damping down, barriers, buffer zones, stockpile covers	Low
Worker cross-contamination	Fibres spread on clothing, tools or vehicles	Disposable overalls, strict hygiene protocol	Low

4. Site Preparation

Demarcate asbestos working zone with barrier fencing and signage. Install wheel washing system. Set up changing space with washing facilities and disposal area for used overalls etc. Conduct toolbox talk covering asbestos awareness and method statement.

5. Working Method

Excavation:

- Dampen soils prior to and during excavation using fine mist spray.
- Use a 360° excavator with enclosed cab.
- Avoid dry-sweeping, compressed air or high-pressure water jetting.

Soil Handling:

- Minimise soil disturbance as much as possible after the cut and fill.
- Any stockpiles to be <1.5 m high and kept damped.
- Movement of soil minimised and routes kept damped.

Backfilling/Reuse:

- Soil is to be reused on-site, It will generally be covered with the new buildings or hard standings.
- Following cut and fill, a clean capping layer will be laid onto the surface.
- In landscaped areas soil shall have a geotextile barrier membrane and clean cover system.
- No reuse is permitted if visible ACM is present, unless remediated and revalidated.

6. Air Monitoring

Appoint a UKAS-accredited analyst to carry out initial background monitoring, to validate the Working Method. CIRIA C733 Table 5.3 outlines that where airborne levels remain below 0.01 f/cm^3 , controls are considered adequate. Monitoring visit to be carried out at the commencement of cut and fill, when the disturbance of the ground will be greatest.

7. PPE

Disposable overalls, nitrile gloves, and steel-toe safety boots. FFP3 disposable masks.

8. Waste Handling

It is not intended to remove soils from site, however, soil containing <0.001% asbestos and no visible ACM is non-hazardous under WM3 and CIRIA C733 (Section 5.4), but must still be tracked. Any material to be removed from site to be consigned using Duty of Care documentation. If ACM fragments are found, classify as hazardous and isolate immediately.

9. Emergency Procedures

Fibre release incident: stop work, damp down area, notify site supervisor. Review RAMS before restart.

Health incident: Call emergency services, provide information on potential asbestos exposure.

Cross-contamination: Remove material with Type H vacuum or wet cleaning. Dispose of clean-up waste appropriately.

10. Training & Supervision

Operatives to hold Asbestos Awareness Training in line with Regulation 10 of CAR 2012.

Toolbox talks delivered daily.

11. Review and Sign-off

Method statement reviewed before mobilisation and updated if site conditions change. Air monitoring results reviewed with Analyst on day of monitoring visit to ensure controls are satisfactory. Documentation to be retained in Health and Safety File in accordance with CDM 2015.

Prepared by: _____

Reviewed by (Principal Contractor): _____

Date: _____