

Guidance Document

G1339

**Asbestos
information and
control**

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MAYOR OF LONDON



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1 Purpose

The purpose of this guidance document is to provide guidance on the essential elements that need to be considered, if the presence of asbestos is suspected in any location, or if the work planned may cause disturbance to such substances.

2 Scope

This guidance document applies to Stations DLO Lifts and Escalators.

3 Background information on Asbestos

3.1 What is Asbestos?

Asbestos is the general name given to a group of naturally occurring fibrous minerals. The three main types of asbestos – Chrysolite, Amosite and Crocidolite are usually called white, brown and blue respectively. However the colour and appearance of asbestos can be misleading and only analysis can identify the particular type involved. All types of asbestos are hazardous but blue and brown are more dangerous and less common than white. The law now bans the use, supply and importation of asbestos in the UK and Control Limits for exposure have been set.

3.1.1 What are the hazards and risks?

When airborne asbestos fibres are inhaled some may become deposited permanently in the airways. This may eventually lead to the lung tissue becoming cancerous. There is some asbestos present at background levels in any environment but frequent exposure to the fibres or exposure at high levels increases the chance of disease. It is therefore important to avoid as far as possible breathing in asbestos fibres.

There may be a risk of asbestos fibres being released into the air if:

- the material is disturbed (for example if it is in a prominent position and prone to accidental damage) or if it is abraded or handled
- the surface of the material is damaged, frayed, scratched or flaking;
- surface sealants are peeling or breaking off
- the material is becoming detached from its base (this is a particular problem with pipe and boiler lagging and sprayed coatings)
- protective coverings designed to protect the asbestos are missing or damaged
- there is asbestos dust or debris in the immediate surrounding area.

Anyone present in an environment where airborne asbestos fibres are present may be affected.