

HSE invites comments on proposed Asbestos Approved Code of Practise.

The Health and Safety Executive are publishing a draft version of the proposed Approved Code of Practise “Management of Exposure to Asbestos in Workplace Buildings and Structures” for consultation with industry and other stakeholders.

Asbestos was used widely as a building material from the 1950s to the mid 1980s, but may be found in any building or structure built prior to 2000. Whilst most asbestos containing materials in good condition present little risk, once they are disturbed they can cause the fibres to be released in to the air where they may be inhaled leading to serious diseases such as lung cancer, mesothelioma and asbestosis.

Asbestos and specifically failures to manage asbestos are unfortunately an issue which the HSE find they are responding to on an increasingly frequent basis.

The Approved Code of Practise will bring much needed clarity to all duty holders, providing useful guidance and information for those with responsibilities to manage asbestos in properties. By proactively introducing this code of practise it is anticipated there will be a reduction in the number instances where there has been a failure to manage asbestos correctly.

Prior to formal approval by the Commerce and Employment Board, the HSE have published the draft version of the Approved Code of Practise “Management of Exposure to Asbestos in Workplace Buildings and Structure” for consultation.

The document is available to [download here >](#)

Written submissions on the draft code of practise are now invited. Comments on these proposals should be received by the department, either in writing or by e-mail to hse@commerce.gov.gg no later than Monday, 1st March, 2010.