

SURVEY FOR SMEs IN CONSTRUCTION SECTOR **(aimed at staff member responsible for Health & Safety of the company)**

The aim of this survey is to gather information about the current levels of asbestos awareness and use of asbestos exposure procedures and/or control measures in SME construction companies.

Section 1 of the survey includes questions about you and the organisation that you work for.

Section 2 includes specific questions related to your current level of asbestos knowledge.

The survey is comprised of multiple choice questions. Please note, there are some questions for which you can choose more than one answer. These are questions 5, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 16.

For the other questions, you must only choose 1 option (those indicated on questionnaire as a "*Single answer*" question).

If there are any questions you do not feel you have the information to answer, please do not select any of the options and move to the next question.

Depending on your answers to each question you may not need to complete the whole survey. Make sure you read each question carefully to see if the following questions are applicable to you.

Your answers are extremely useful to us. They will help us to carry out an analysis of current asbestos awareness in the construction industry and we will use this information to improve asbestos awareness training.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Company Information

Company size (number of employees):

 < 10 10-49 50-99 100-149 150-199 200-249

Company activity:

- Renovation and Retrofitting of buildings
- Dismantling and demolition of buildings
- Repair and maintenance of equipment and facilities
- Dismantling and decommissioning of facilities
- Other: Please specify.....

Geographical scope of activity:

- National (SPAIN)
- Specific regions: Please indicate where

Surveyed personal informationAge (years): < 25 25 - 35 36 - 45 46-55 >55

Education level:

 High School Technical Education University degree

Questions

1. Have you ever heard about asbestos? *(Single answer)*

- Yes, it has been used in several applications in buildings, ships, trains, cars, pipes, tanks, etc., and I have also carried out works exposed to asbestos-containing materials.
- Yes, I know that asbestos has been used in several applications, but I have never found it in our work activities.
- Yes, I have heard about it, but I don't know exactly what it is and I have never found it in our work activities
- No, I don't know anything about it and I have never found it in our work activities.

If you have answered that you don't know what asbestos is, it is not necessary to go further on this survey.

However, if you know what asbestos is, although you have never worked exposed to it before, please try to answer the rest of the questionnaire, indicating how you would act in each issue consulted.

2. What do you know about asbestos hazards? *(Single answer)*

- Asbestos is a harmless material.
- It is a material that can cause mild disease.
- It is a material that can cause cancer and other diseases
- The only type of asbestos that is hazardous is the one not absorbed in a cement matrix (friable).

3. Do you know how asbestos can enter the human body? *(Single answer)*

- By absorption (through skin)
- By inhalation (through respiratory tract)
- By ingestion (through digestive tract)
- By injection (through cuts and/or wounds)

4. Do you know which are the current asbestos uses in Europe? *(Single answer)*

Survey for SMEs workers in construction sector

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. Project No. 540447-LLP-1-2013-1-ES-LEONARDO-LMP

- Asbestos use is banned but it can be found during maintenance, repairing, dismantling or demolition works in buildings or facilities.
- Its extraction is banned but asbestos-containing products can be manufactured.
- Asbestos use is banned but it is allowed to import asbestos-containing materials from other non-European countries

5. Do you know how to identify asbestos-containing materials in a building or in a facility)? (More than one answer can be chosen)

- I don't know how to identify asbestos-containing items in buildings or facilities.
- I only recognise some asbestos-containing items such as fibre cement panels on roofs
- Yes, I can recognise asbestos-containing materials in ceilings, floors, walls, sidings, roofs, pipes, insulation, etc.
- In case of doubt, my company requests asbestos analysis in a specialised laboratory.

6. How do you act for handling asbestos-containing materials?

6.1. When asbestos-containing materials are identified in the work area: (Single answer)

- An external company specialized in asbestos handling and removal is always called
- Depending on the type of asbestos found and also the work particularities involved, asbestos handling and removal is requested to an external specialized company or is done by our own staff.
- Our company is the one responsible for asbestos handling and removal

If you answered 'An external company specialized in asbestos handling and removal is always called' you do not need to answer any further questions.

6.2. If your company is the one responsible for asbestos handling and/or removal (always or sometimes), please, indicate how you proceed before start working: (More than one item can be chosen)

- Preparing an asbestos working procedure and an asbestos clean-up and decontamination procedure
- Preparing an asbestos work plan to be submitted to the competent authority for its approval
- Acquiring the most appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for asbestos exposure and keep PPE stock enough for the works in process

Survey for SMEs workers in construction sector

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. Project No. 540447-LLP-1-2013-1-ES-LEONARDO-LMP

- Having a kick-off meeting to organize works
- Signalizing properly the work area, warning asbestos hazards and restricting entry of unauthorised personnel

7. Which preventive actions do you apply for handling asbestos-containing materials? (*More than one item can be chosen*)

- Constantly moisten asbestos-containing materials using water pressure (water blasting)
- Previous pulverization of low pressure encapsulant product in the asbestos-containing materials
- As far as possible, avoiding cutting asbestos-containing materials
- Using power cutting equipment such as radial arm saws or drills instead of hand tools, such as hand saws or cutting chains.
- Using suitable vacuum cleaner equipment to capture asbestos fibres produced while performing works with asbestos exposure.
- Avoiding eating and drinking at the workplace, preventing food and beverages in the workplace, prohibition of smoking.
- For friable asbestos, confinement of the work area, work on depression, installation of a filtration system and air extraction

8. Which kind of PPE do you use to prevent inhalation of asbestos fibres? (*More than one item can be chosen*)

- We use no air filter respirators
- We use any mask to prevent particulate matter inhalation (dust)
- We use particulate filter masks (air-purifying respirators) with protection grade P3 (maximum) to protect the respiratory tract when handling non-friable asbestos (asbestos bounded into a matrix that holds the fibres)
- When working with friable asbestos (asbestos fibres are free and can be released easily), we use a full face air-supplying respirator.

9. Which other PPE are used to protect workers from asbestos? (*More than one item can be chosen*)

- Non-porous material protective gloves
- Waterproof overall fitted with hood, adjustable to wrists, ankles and hood.

- Waterproof boots (*Wellington boots*) higher than the knee or safety boots with polyethylene over-boots
- None, respiratory protective equipment is enough.

10. Do you verify compliance with the exposure limit values by monitoring asbestos concentration? (*Single answer*)

- No. Measurements of asbestos concentration are not carried out in the work area.
- Yes, personal monitoring is carried out by sampling while works with asbestos are being performed
- Yes, environmental monitoring is carried out by sampling when works with asbestos are finished.
- Yes, both personal and environmental monitoring of asbestos concentration is carried out.

11. Which preventive measures do you apply after manipulating materials containing asbestos? (*More than one item can be chosen*)

- Using aspiration equipment to clean the working area, storage area and restrooms.
- All the tools, work equipment, PPE and other resources are cleaned with water
- Selecting easy to clean work equipment and tools, although they are not required to have CE marking

12. Which organizational measures are implemented to reduce the asbestos exposure of workers? (*More than one item can be chosen*)

- None
- The number of workers exposed is the lowest
- The company has the necessary breaks and role rotations

Other: please specify

13. Does the company keep a nominal ratio of workers involved in the work? (*Single answer*)

- Yes, with their names and identification number
- No, it is not considered necessary

14. Are there specific decontamination units available for after executing asbestos work? (Single answer)

- Yes, there is a separate locker room: a container for disposables, a shower for personal hygiene and cleaning non-disposable materials, and a filtration system for cleaning water
- No, we use the usual locker room and showers

15. Asbestos-containing materials are considered which type of waste? (Single answer)

- They are assimilated as urban waste as it is generated at homes
- They are a hazardous waste because it has harmful components to health and the environment
- They are considered inert waste like other construction and demolition waste, such as concrete, bricks, tiles, etc.

16. What do you do with the remains of asbestos-containing materials? (More than one item can be chosen)

- Pulverizing on them encapsulant product
- Placing them into a closed and sealed container
- Tagging them with any label to warn of their toxicity
- Sending them to a waste landfill with any other inert waste; special treatment is not required for asbestos waste.
- Storing them with other construction and demolition waste, to be separated later on at the final disposal
- Their transportation and treatment are made by a specialized company
- Registering the delivery of the remains and keeping records of the official documentation required
- Other. Please specify.....

17. How do you handle disposable PPE and aspiration equipment filters? (Single answer)

- We treat them with the same precautions we treat all other asbestos waste
- We treat them similarly to urban waste because the amount of asbestos fibres is minimal

18. Do you know the legal requirements for handling asbestos-containing materials? (*Single answer*)

- Yes, I know perfectly the requirements of European, national and local level legislation.
- I know the general requirements.
- No, I don't know the legal obligations concerning asbestos.

19. Regarding asbestos risk prevention training:

19.1. Have you had specific training to prevent the risks of asbestos? (*Single answer*)

- No, I have only had general training in risk prevention.
- Yes, I had a course in which I learnt about the risks of asbestos in a brief and theoretical way.
- Yes, I had a specific theoretical and practical course on asbestos hazards and preventive measures that should be applied during its handling, transportation and disposal.

19.2. If you have had specific training on asbestos, when was the most recent course? (*Single answer*)

- Last year More than one year ago More than 2 years ago
- More than 3 years ago More than 5 years ago

20. On which issues do you think your training on asbestos could be improved? Please, prioritize in order of importance (1=least important 10=most important):

- ___ Knowledge of asbestos hazards to health and the environment
- ___ Identification of asbestos-containing materials
- ___ Work procedures
- ___ Limit values for asbestos exposure. Environmental and personal exposure monitoring and sampling
- ___ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- ___ Work area signage

- _____ Clean-up and decontamination procedures
- _____ On-site management of waste containing asbestos
- _____ Transportation and final disposal of asbestos-containing waste
- _____ Other: Please specify.....