



Lift & Escalator Industry Association

# Safety notice Asbestos

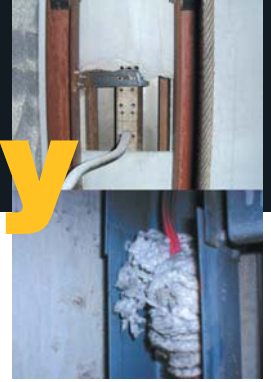
- ▶ ALL FORMS OF ASBESTOS CAN CAUSE ASBESTOSIS, LUNG CANCER OR MESOTHELIOMA.
- ▶ THE LARGEST GROUP OF WORKERS AT RISK ARE BUILDING WORKERS, PARTICULARLY . . . MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR.
- ▶ ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF CANCER THERE WILL BE 500,000 ASBESTOS RELATED DEATHS IN WESTERN EUROPE OVER THE NEXT 35 YEARS.



**“Asbestos is the most serious occupational health problem in terms of fatal diseases that this country faces.”**

Nick Brown, HM Government's Minister responsible for Health and Safety.





## LEIA Safety Notice – Asbestos

### a new duty to manage

**This Safety Notice has been compiled by the Lift and Escalator Industry Association, to make lift, escalator and building owners and occupiers aware of the legal requirement to prevent exposure to asbestos.**

Because of its high tensile strength and its chemical, electrical and heat resistance qualities, asbestos was used extensively as a building material – particularly from the 1950s through to the mid 1980s. Although some of this material has been removed over the years, there are many thousands of tonnes of asbestos still present in buildings.

Asbestos was used by the lift and escalator industry up to the early 1990's. It was particularly used as a fire insulator in lift doors and surrounds and also as a brake material on machines and as an insulator around electrical components.

However, experience shows that the main source of exposure to lift engineers comes from the asbestos contained in the building structure. The lagging around pipework and damaged fire insulating walls in lift shafts and machine rooms are seen as some of the principal sources of such exposure.

**In order to control exposure to asbestos fibres, the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 places responsibility to manage the risk of exposure to asbestos on “duty holders” namely:-**

- ▶ **Those who have, because of a contract or tenancy, responsibilities for the maintenance of the premises or**
- ▶ **Where there is no contract or tenancy, the person in control of the premises.**

*In order to prevent exposure to asbestos to maintenance personnel attending premises it is imperative that the above action is taken as early as possible and the information conveyed to all contractors including your lift or escalator maintenance company.*

*The use of material published by the Health and Safety Executive is acknowledged in the preparation of the above Safety Notice.*

The duty to manage asbestos is contained in Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 and requires the duty holder to:-

- ▶ Take reasonable steps to find if there is asbestos in the premises, its amount and what condition it is in;
- ▶ Presume materials contain asbestos, unless there is strong evidence to suppose they do not;
- ▶ Make a written record of the location and the condition of Asbestos Containing Materials [ACM's] and presumed ACMs and keep it up to date;
- ▶ Assess the risk of the likelihood of being exposed to asbestos from these materials;
- ▶ Prepare a plan that sets out in detail how the risk from the material is going to be managed;
- ▶ Take the steps needed to put the plan into action – this may include the repair or removal of any material that contains or is presumed to contain asbestos, because of its location, condition or likelihood of disturbance;
- ▶ Review and monitor the plan and the arrangements made to put it in place;
- ▶ Provide information on the location and condition of the material to anyone who is liable to work on or disturb it.

