

Asbestos – Beware of the Risks

It is claimed more than 170 deaths annually can be related to Asbestos Exposure. Many more than falling from heights accidents but being a silent killer, it does not get the attention until now. Properties pre-Jan 2000 are all potentially sites where Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) are used. Roof cladding, roof insulation, Soffits, wall cladding, ceilings, switchboards, cable insulation plus many for instances can all be ACMs.

Worksafe NZ appear to be very hot on this topic and are pushing to convict those involved in various trades where asbestos is present. A recent fine in February of over \$50000 was handed out to a sales person where he did not even realise there was Asbestos present.

The Health and Safety at Work (Asbestos) Regulations 2016 is a very comprehensive document and details the do's and don'ts around this issue. It is not expected you know the entire document but you and your staff including all those associated with a worksite should know the dangers of Asbestos and identify the potential of ACMs present, know how to mitigate the dangers and have a comprehensive Asbestos Management plan in place.

There are courses available in person and online to assist you which may save yours and your associates health and also your bank account. SEANZ urge you to upskill in this area because as members we expect you to work to the highest of quality which includes Health and Safety.

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