

Asbestos disposal

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Issued by	Paul Turner, Head of Policy and Safety
Applicable to	All operational colleagues and contractors

Loose, unbagged/unwrapped asbestos containing material (ACM) was found in the asbestos waste container at the Blackburn depot. Inadequately wrapped ACM's were also visible. This significantly increases the potential for exposure to asbestos fibres, particularly if the ACM's break up.

All works and disposal of asbestos shall be carried out in accordance with Code of Practice 670.

This states that ACM waste, which includes ancillary equipment and personal protective equipment used whilst undertaking the asbestos works, shall be double-bagged using the asbestos waste bags available in stores and deposited in an asbestos waste container.

When ACM's are disturbed or damaged, they can release small respirable fibres. Breathing in high concentrations of asbestos fibres can lead to asbestos-related diseases such as asbestosis and mesothelioma. The likelihood of exposure is significantly reduced by taking all precautions as outlined in Code of Practice 670.

This includes ensuring that all ACM's that are placed within company or private vehicles are double-bagged or wrapped using asbestos waste bags available in stores. Without this mandatory precaution, the risk of the ACM's breaking up in transit and releasing fibres is significant; this would necessitate the thorough decontamination of the vehicle.

