

Environmental Essentials Case Study – Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust



Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust are fully aware of their duty to manage asbestos containing materials in accordance with Regulation 4 of the CAW Regulations 2002.

As part of their continuous asbestos management programme the Trust commissioned Environmental Essentials to undertake a condition survey at the Trusts' largest site in St Asaph, North Wales. In addition to this we were also employed to assist and oversee the complete review of the Trusts' Asbestos Management Plan (Policy & Procedures)

Condition Survey

Sprayed asbestos coating/insulation had previously been identified as fire protection to structural steelwork throughout the site. This material was also randomly mixed with MMMF insulation (of an identical appearance) which has resulted in an enforced Permit to Work system which relies heavily upon asbestos survey data and colour-coded CAD drawings. The condition survey was considered crucial to the ongoing management of the asbestos containing materials and the effectiveness of the Permit to Work system.

The survey was managed throughout by an experienced senior member of staff (holding the BOHS Certificate of Competence) and needed to be conducted in the most discreet manner due to the delicate nature of the Hospital's operation. The site inspection also required the surveyors to constantly obtain additional samples from unconfirmed/suspect insulation materials which were added to the survey register.

The resulting report contained details regarding current material condition status, reasons for condition changes, photographic evidence, up-dated risk assessments and recommendations for remedial actions. Most importantly the confirmed types of insulation was recorded and colour-coded within the site CAD drawings which are used to highlight hazardous zones within the ceiling voids to management, maintenance staff and contractors and prevents inadvertent exposure to asbestos fibre concentrations.

Client comments

'By employing Environmental Essentials to assist us with these tasks we have received a valuable, independent service which provides us with the confidence to plan maintenance works and capital projects without exposing our workforce and the general public to the dangers of asbestos'

Frank Chesworth – Technical & Specialist Services Officer



Review of Asbestos Management Plan (AMP)

Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust had implemented a structured AMP several years ago. The purpose of this review was to assess the effectiveness of the policies and procedures which were implemented to manage asbestos containing materials across a number of sites.

A meeting was conducted by estates management, H&S and ourselves. Critical processes such as personnel compliance, control of maintenance and capital projects were reviewed as well as the overall progress of the timetable for implementation.

Record keeping was also an important area considering the amount of remedial works that had been undertaken during the review period. The outcome of which raised questions as to how the existing survey database should be imported into the Trust's proposed facilities management system.

The review resulted in some minor administrative changes being made to the AMP with regards to the compliance procedures and highlighted the ongoing need for induction training for new maintenance employees.