Version 1.0

Safety Alert

Recent incidents involving Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM)

Background

Over the last 2 weeks there were a number of incidents in ESB Networks involving Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) which prompted the development of this safety alert aimed at Network Technicians who may encounter ACM's, in order to:

- Raise general awareness around Asbestos.
- Remind staff of the Asbestos Management documents and control measures currently in place.

The presence of ACM is a legacy issue which affects ESBN premises, particularly those constructed in the 1960's – 1980's. Breathing in air containing asbestos fibres can lead to asbestos-related diseases (asbestosis and lung cancer).

The majority of ACM pose a low risk to Networks Staff, contractors and visitors if left undisturbed. However, if an ACM is disturbed accidently it may result in an uncontrolled release of asbestos fibres. This may create a risk to persons present and those who enter the area at a later date.

Some recent examples of ACM's encountered by Networks Staff include:

Fire Doors lined with Asbestos Insulating Board with localised damage	**Compressed asbestos fibre (CAF) gaskets to a Brown Boveri DB45m Circuit Breakers.**	**Asbestos Insulating Board ceiling panels disturbed during the installation of emergency lighting.**

For further information on Managing Asbestos, please view the:

- Company Standard: Management of Asbestos DOC-040919-FDP
- Guide: Managing Asbestos in the Workplace DOC-031019-FEM

In accordance with the Management of Asbestos documents, Networks Technicians are required to:

- Attend Asbestos Awareness Training. **Note**: Asbestos awareness training for ESBN NTs, Supervisors and Managers is under development at present and will be rolled out in 2021;
- Consult the ESBN Asbestos Register to familiarise yourself with the location of any ACM in an ESBN premises – speak to your supervisor if no information is available;
- Ensure you consider ACM's when conducting work activities interacting with building fabric / electrical assets;
- Stop work immediately and inform your supervisor if you encounter or disturb a suspected ACM.

For further information on this safety alert, please contact the ESBN Asbestos Coordinator at
asbestoscoordinator@esb.ie or richard.king@esb.ie

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