

Newsflash - 2018 19

30th October 2018 - Internal

Every employee and contractor, working for Northern Powergrid, should go home at the end of each shift uninjured and in good health after a productive days work

Old style Service Termination Security Labels.

Further to Safety newsflash 2018-14 which raised awareness that some of the older style service termination cut-out security labels (YEB) attached to our equipment in order to identify illegal intrusion, may contain asbestos fibres.

This update gives guidance on the safe method of interaction with proven asbestos (old YEB) anti tamper/security labels. The assessments have confirmed that some YEB labels contain Chrysotile (White) asbestos. Assessments on other similar labels, namely, NEEB, Northern Electric, YE, YEDL etc. labels have been carried out; these have proven to be NON-ASBESTOS. Where non-asbestos labels are encountered, these procedures need not be followed, if in doubt, treat labels as asbestos.

Working on equipment that contains YEB security labels

The assessments carried out have shown that when cutting these labels or causing minor damage via carefully tearing the labels that exposure to respirable asbestos fibres is maintained to well below those considered injurious to health and **the use of asbestos PPE and RPE is not required.**

However, no attempt should be made to remove the labels from any item of equipment or surface as this causes substantial damage to the label and increases potential fibre release. Where possible, labels should be left intact and undamaged.

There are no additional PPE requirements other than live working PPE when removing or replacing the cut-out fuse. If the security label has not previously been disturbed and remains intact, carefully cut/slice the label using a thin non-conductive implement such as a plastic card or approved blade.

Meter operators should report any Northern Powergrid cut-outs that have a security label affixed using code Category C11 so that work can be programmed to replace the cut-out and remove the asbestos containing apparatus.

Any service equipment removed by Northern Powergrid staff or approved contractors that has security labels present/attached should be sealed in bags which must be labelled with 'Asbestos'. Where items are to be disposed of, these should be double bagged (red then clear bags) as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of HAS/012-002.

Where evidence of previous damage/label removal is observed, and residue/damaged pieces of label are present, an adhesive tape should be applied over the label fragments/residue area before handling/removing them.

As a precaution, clean tools and the surface of the surrounding area using tack wipes/wet wipes, these used wipes should be placed in the bag along with the unit/s removed.

Storage and handling

Where equipment is being stored ready for disposal, it shall be double bagged in accordance with asbestos waste requirements (a red plastic bag inside a clear robust plastic bag) and stored in a segregated area. All materials should be transported in accordance with the hazardous waste requirements. Bagged items shall be handled with care to avoid rupturing the bags.

Only authorised Northern Powergrid contractors shall remove the asbestos labels.

Remember exposure to and inhalation of asbestos fibres is potentially hazardous and should be avoided.

