

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

Update on Asbestos in Operational Premises

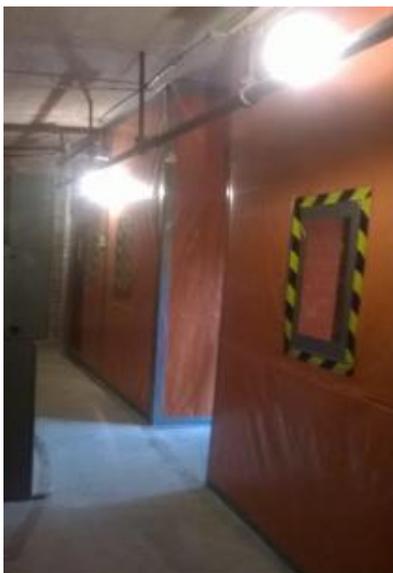
1. LV Distribution Boards clad with asbestos containing materials (ACMs)

As operational staff in South Yorkshire will know we have a number of LV distribution boards clad with an asbestos composite material (ACMs). Many of these ACMs have been damaged in the past, through removal and LV fuse replacement, and airborne asbestos fibres are likely to have been produced. We have subsequently carried out air test whilst staff have been operating on these LV distribution boards and have found that any fibre release is well below any control limits specified in The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

However, it is company policy that those who operate, i.e. remove/replace fuses, fit generators and test, on such boards are fully trained in non-licensed asbestos work and wear appropriate PPE and RPE. **Asbestos awareness training is not sufficient to operate on these boards.**



To alert staff where these LV distribution boards are present we have erected a chain link barrier around them and fitted labels to warn operators of the presence of asbestos and to remind them to wear appropriate PPE and RPE.



In some cases these LV distribution boards will be fully enclosed by the erection of visqueen barriers. These can be found where the rest of the substation has been cleaned by asbestos abatement contractors and the LV distribution board is fully contained to allow the rest of the substation to be declared as clean by the asbestos analyst and to prevent possible recontamination of the substation when fuses are removed or inserted. Entry to these enclosures is restricted to those that have been trained to carry out non-licensed asbestos work and are wearing appropriate PPE/RPE and Redhills MUST be contacted before entering the area. However, this should not delay necessary actions to check/replace fuses, i.e. you should not have to wait for their attendance. Redhills can be contacted on tel. no. 03300 245244 24hrs a day.

Anything more major than this activity such as fitting a generator WILL require their attendance; so it is vital you make contact at the earliest opportunity.

Site visitor logs have been placed in substations in South Yorkshire where we have LV distribution boards clad with ACMs and If you have any cause to go to these sites, you should book yourself in and out to provide a record of your visit.

The asbestos plan kept within the substation should reflect that the substation is clear apart from any ACMs within electrical switchgear including the LV distribution board.

We have now found a number of LV distribution boards clad with ACMs in the West Yorkshire area. These will be barriered off and labelled in the same way as the LV distribution boards found in South Yorkshire. Some staff have been trained in West Yorkshire for non-licensed asbestos work but more will be trained if the need is identified. We

are not confident we have identified all of these LV distribution boards in West Yorkshire so need local staff and inspectors to tell us where they are installed. Pictures are included at the end of this brief showing examples. Please inform Martin Waddinton, Restoration Manger, West Yorkshire, if you come across or know of such LV distribution boards.

2. LV Distribution Boards Previously Clad with ACMs.

In South Yorkshire we are aware there are a number of LV distribution boards which were previously clad with ACMs that are now clad with plywood or another non asbestos containing material. We believe that when the ACMs were replaced this was not done in a controlled manner and there are likely to be asbestos fibres on the LV distribution boards and entrapped in the cable trenches below.

We are currently carrying out asbestos sampling on these LV distribution boards and if any are found to be harbouring asbestos fibres these will be treated the same manner as those currently clad with ACMs. Barriers will be applied and those carrying out operations on them will be required to be trained for non-licensed asbestos work and wear full asbestos PPE and RPE. As with the LV distribution boards still clad with ACMs these boards will be fully enclosed where the rest of the substation is cleaned.

3. LV boards clad/containing well bound composite asbestos materials

In addition to the LV distribution boards discussed above we are aware that there are other boards clad with materials similar to Bakelite for example. Such materials may contain asbestos but the asbestos is so well bound and the boards are designed such that **normal operations would not damage the cladding** to an extent any fibres could be released. (It is not necessary to interfere/remove any cladding to operate on the boards.) We do not envisage any operational restrictions on such boards but labelling is under consideration. We know such LV distribution boards exist in the Grimsby region but there may be others dotted about the company.

4. Surveying Update

We are now reaching a point where all our operational premises will have been surveyed by accredited asbestos surveyors and asbestos short form report should be located at each site.

The surveys generally did not include cable trenches and substation basements so if there is a possibility of the presence of asbestos in any of these locations a refurbishment survey is required before any work in them can be carried out.

The asbestos surveyors were not authorised / qualified to inspect electrical components so the surveys will always presume asbestos is present within electrical equipment. This should not prevent normal operation of such equipment as any asbestos present will be contained within the equipment and present no possibility of the release of any asbestos fibres.

As an example, all the surveys will presume asbestos to be present in LV ceramic distribution fuses. We have been assured by our LV distribution fuse suppliers, Lawson, that their fuses do not, and have never, contained asbestos.

5. Abatement Update

A programme of abatement works is currently under way to remove any asbestos containing materials that could be disturbed during our normal operation of the distribution system. Where surveyors consider a substation should not be accessed without wearing appropriate PPE/RPE an access restriction is placed on the substation and abatement works are carried out as an emergency with the time scale generally governed by the limits imposed by providing adequate notification to the HSE.

LV distribution boards are not normally cleaned during the above works due to the restrictions for working on live LV distribution boards. As stated above, where this is the case these LV distribution boards will be screened off from the rest of the substation to enable the substation to be declared clean by an analyst and to avoid any recontamination of the substation. A programme is in place to remove these LV distribution boards from the system with 18 replaced in 2015. The programme aims to replace 40 per year through 2016 and ongoing until there are none left on the system and the risk from them is removed.

Old Heaters. - As part of a programme to replace old VIR wiring in substations old heaters are being replaced. Some of the old heaters may contain asbestos so they are normally labelled and left on site by the wiring contractors pending removal by Rhodar, our asbestos abatement contractors. We have had occasions where this process has



broken down and heaters have been left on site with our abatement contractor unaware. If you come across redundant heaters that are not labelled, i.e. indicating our abatement contractor may not be aware they need collecting, please report their presence via the 159 line using option 2.

6. Work in Operational premises

Before any operations are carried out in operational premises the on-site asbestos report should be checked to make sure your task does not risk the disturbance of any asbestos. If any obtrusive works, i.e. those involving disturbance to the fabric of the building, walls, floor, ceiling, doors, or windows, or access to cable trenches or basements, are to be carried out, a refurbishment survey should be undertaken of the parts of the building you are likely to disturb or access.

7. Contacts

Asbestos surveyors

During normal working hours contact [Phil Wignall 07921 112066 \(Mobex 716 1718\)](tel:07921112066) *Out of hours contact:*

- Northeast Lucion 0845 0344326
- Yorkshire Redhills 03300 245244

Abatement Contractor

During normal working hours contact [Russ Pearce 07834 575677 \(Mobex 716 2352\)](tel:07834575677)

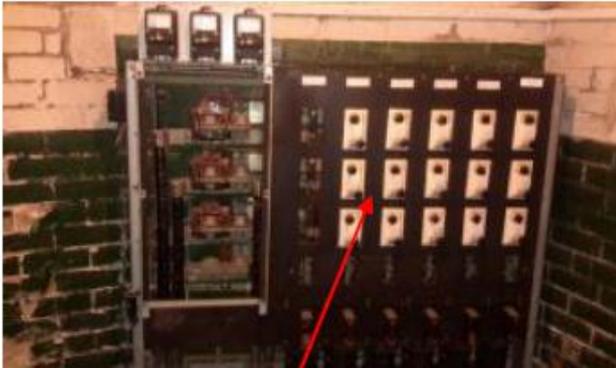
- Northeast and Yorkshire Rhodar 0843 3205127 out of hours request National Key Accounts
01132 055373 office hours
Email: npg@rhodar.co.uk

8. Examples of LV Distribution Boards clad with Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) in West Yorkshire. (pictures extracted from asbestos survey reports)

N-210665 WESTVILLE ROAD 4021

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Photographs



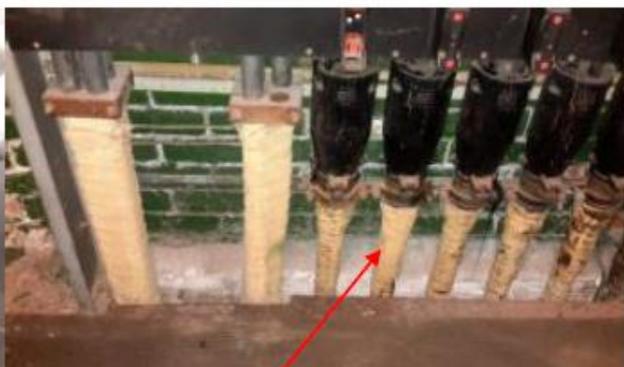
LV shrouding and cartridge fuses are presumed to contain asbestos.



Transformer cover panel contains asbestos.



Blanking panel presumed to contain asbestos as per the transformer cover panel.



Cable wrap known to contain asbestos. Sampled as part of Redhills Management survey N-65393.

N-210665 ARUM STREET 568

Photographs



No asbestos identified in LV cover panels.



However asbestos previously identified in transformer cover panels as per Redhills Management Survey N-76604.



Phase barriers presumed to have an asbestos content as per the transformer cover panel.



End shield presumed to have an asbestos content as per the transformer cover panel.



Cable shield presumed to have an asbestos content as per the transformer cover panel.