

Asbestos

The DAC wish to encourage PCCs not to be overwhelmed by the 'Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002' (CAW) and in particular their responsibilities in regard to their 'Duty to Manage' as set out in those regulations.



It is the DAC's opinion that the regulations simply ask that a written record is made (and kept up to date) together with simple, perhaps diagrammatic, plans recording the position of Asbestos (ASB) and Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM).

The record should also make a judgement about the condition of the material and how it is to be managed.

THE REGULATIONS DO NOT REQUIRE REMOVAL OF THE MATERIAL - ITS PRESENCE MUST BE MANAGED

THE AIM OF THE REGULATIONS IS TO ALERT CONTRACTORS ETC TO THE LIKELY PRESENCE OF ASBESTOS IN THE MATERIAL OR WITHIN THE AREA IN WHICH THEY ARE WORKING SO THAT THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS CAN BE EFFECTED.

Expert Advice

Many companies have developed the skills required to prepare CAW reports. There are also companies setting up specifically to prepare CAW reports. Both these can prove to be an expensive way of achieving the aims of the CAW.

The need for a full inspection should not be avoided. A competent person with some building material knowledge should be able to prepare a basic report. There may be such a person in the congregation.

Keeping of Records

The Parochial Church Council should keep a written record of the presence of both asbestos and materials that may contain asbestos (if in doubt err on the side of '*may be an asbestos containing material*'). Where appropriate, photographs could be included.

eg:

ROOM	LOCATION	MATERIAL	MANAGEMENT	RISK LEVEL
Vestry	Vinyl floor tiles	ACM	Sealed and polished	Low
Boiler room	Boiler flue	ASB	Painted	High (if disturbed)