

ASBESTOS HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM STANDARDS for working with debris waste in Beirut

C. PPE REQUIREMENTS WHEN COMING INTO CONTACT WITH ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS

Personal protective clothing and equipment is an essential line of defence for minimising the risks presented by contact with asbestos when elimination and isolation of the hazard is not practicable. It is essential that workers receive prior training on the use of personal protective equipment.

WHAT IS PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)?

PPE is clothing or equipment which provides protection to the user from a potential hazard.

WHAT PPE MUST BE WORN WHEN ASBESTOS IS OR MAY BE PRESENT?

If asbestos or asbestos containing materials are present, or there is a possibility of presence, the following should be worn:

- **Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)** should be used by those designated to handle asbestos whenever practicable – to avoid inhaling asbestos fibres
- **Overalls** disposable, to avoid the risk of carrying asbestos fibres away from the worksite on clothing
- **Footwear** – appropriate for the work being undertaken (see next page for details).

WHAT PPE IS REQUIRED

Although controls must be in place to prevent or reduce exposure to asbestos fibres when working with ACMs (see Appendix A), when exposure cannot be avoided the last line of defence against dangerous exposure is the use of appropriate PPE. The following details the levels of PPE recommended for work with asbestos materials, from that which provides the best protection to the minimum standard required.



Figure 1: Full face covering

Respiratory Protective Equipment

For long periods of continuous use in demolition related works, effort must be made to use the highest level of mask available and practical in the circumstances. Figure 1 shows the type of mask, covering the whole face, which should be used by those working significant amounts of time with or in close proximity to ACMs. Full face masks should conform to BS EN 136 standard with P3 filter and should be used by licensed operators.



Figure 2: Reusable face covering

If a full-face mask is not available to those needing to clear debris containing or potentially containing ACM, then a face mask covering nose and mouth should be used. Figure 2 shows a reusable mask (applicable standard EN140 with P3 filter), covering nose and mouth, which would be suitable for those working for regular periods in debris clearance.



Figure 3: Basic disposable face covering

Figure 3 shows the minimum standard face mask that must be used by anyone working with or near ACMs if higher level masks are not available. This equipment should be suitable for most short-duration non-licensed work, especially for open-air debris removal and disposal activities.

The mask used should be of FFP3 or FMP3 standard and should be used at all times when in close proximity to ACMs. When using FFP3 (applicable standard BS EN 1827) or FMP3 (applicable standard BS EN 149) masks, these should be properly disposed of at the end of each day and a new mask worn the following working day.



Figure 4: Safety goggles

Safety Goggles

Should one of the masks shown in Figure 3 or Figure 6 be used, then it is recommended that safety goggles are used, meeting BS EN 166 standard) as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 5: Wellington boots

Footwear

Appropriate footwear is an important part of the PPE required when working with asbestos contaminated debris. It is recommended that Wellington Boots designed specifically for this purpose be worn by everyone involved in this work. Wellingtons should be EN ISO 20345:2011 compliant, to provide solid sole protection from penetration and steel toe caps. An example of this footwear is shown in Figure 5.

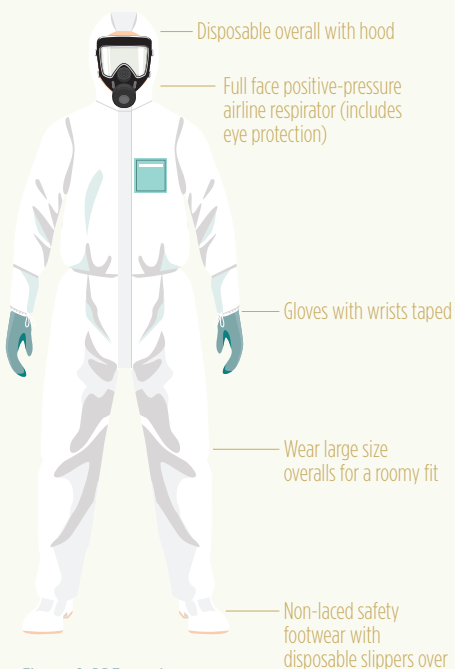


Figure 6: PPE requirements when working with asbestos

Full PPE for High Risk Work

Figure 6 shows the necessary full PPE required when working to clear ACMs. This is the level of PPE necessary for trained people spending significant amounts of time working to separate and dispose of ACMs who will therefore have a high level of exposure to asbestos over a sustained period. Disposable overalls should be Type 5/6 (relevant standard BS EN ISO 13982+A1). Gloves should be Type 5/6 single use and be appropriately disposed of at the end of each day. Footwear should be solid sole, ankle high wherever possible. Wellington boots (see Figure 5) or non-laced pull-on footwear is preferable as these are easier to clean. Disposable overshoes should be used if non-laced footwear is not available. Disposable overalls, gloves and overshoes should be treated as hazardous and disposed of with other asbestos waste.