

RISK ASSESSMENT · UNITED KINGDOM · 2026

Asbestos Awareness Risk Assessment

UK template for a CAR 2012 non-licensed asbestos risk assessment — refurbishment & demolition surveys, NNLW, decontamination.

An asbestos awareness risk assessment under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR 2012) is the document that records whether asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) are present in a work area, whether the planned work will disturb them, and — if so — whether the work is non-licensed, notifiable non-licensed (NNLW), or licensed. Getting this categorisation wrong is one of the most heavily penalised failures in UK construction.

Document structure a reviewer expects

- 1. Building age and survey status**
Construction date, R&D; survey reference and date (mandatory for pre-2000 buildings), asbestos register extract.
- 2. ACMs in the work area**
Specific ACMs identified, their location, condition (Material Assessment Score), and whether the planned work will disturb them.
- 3. Work categorisation**
Licensed / NNLW / non-licensed — with justification against CAR 2012 Schedule 3 thresholds.
- 4. HSE notification (if NNLW)**
Form ASB5 reference, notification date (at least 14 days before work commences).
- 5. Work method (reg 11 hierarchy)**
Avoid / enclose / wet methods / H-class extraction / RPE — applied in order with justification for the chosen control.
- 6. RPE and PPE**
FFP3 / half-mask P3 / powered TH3 — face-fit records, disposable coveralls (Type 5), gloves.
- 7. Decontamination procedure**
Decon unit (3-stage for licensed, 1-stage acceptable for short non-licensed), bag and double-bag protocol, transit waste route.
- 8. Waste consignment**
Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 — consignment note, EWC code 17 06 05*, licensed waste carrier.
- 9. Competence and surveillance**
Operative Asbestos Awareness / Non-Licensed Work training (annual under reg 10), medical surveillance for NNLW operatives (reg 22, 2-yearly).

Common reasons reviewers reject this document

- Pre-2000 building with no R&D; survey referenced.
- Work categorisation (licensed / NNLW / non-licensed) not stated, or stated incorrectly against CAR 2012 Schedule 3.

- NNLW work with no record of HSE ASB5 notification.
- Wrong extraction class — M-class extraction specified instead of H-class (only H-class meets CAR 2012 for asbestos).
- FFP2 RPE specified — non-compliant for asbestos work, minimum is FFP3 / P3.
- No medical surveillance record for NNLW operatives.
- Asbestos Awareness training older than 12 months at the date of work.

UK regulation reference

Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 SI 2012/632

The statutory framework — duty to manage, categorisation, work method hierarchy, training and surveillance.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/632/contents/made>

L143 — Managing and working with asbestos (ACoP and guidance) HSE L143

Approved Code of Practice for CAR 2012; the benchmark for non-licensed and NNLW work.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l143.htm>

HSG264 — Asbestos: The survey guide HSE HSG264

Reference for the Refurbishment and Demolition (R&D;) survey required before intrusive work in pre-2000 buildings.

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg264.htm>

Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 SI 2005/894

The waste consignment regime — asbestos waste code 17 06 05*, licensed carrier and disposal records.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/894/contents/made>

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a Refurbishment and Demolition (R&D;) survey before any work?

Yes for any intrusive work in a building constructed before 2000. CAR 2012 regulation 5 requires it. A Management Survey is not sufficient for intrusive work — it identifies ACMs in accessible locations to manage them in place, but does not cover the depths an R&D; survey reaches. Carrying out intrusive work on a pre-2000 building without an R&D; survey is a CAR 2012 breach.

What's the difference between non-licensed and NNLW work?

Non-licensed work involves bonded ACMs in good condition, short-duration tasks below the CAR 2012 Schedule 3 thresholds — e.g. drilling a hole through cement-asbestos sheet. NNLW (notifiable non-licensed work) sits above the Schedule 3 threshold but below licensed work — e.g. removing a small area of textured coating, or sanding an AIB panel. NNLW requires HSE notification (ASB5), medical surveillance, and a 40-year record retention regime.

What RPE is required for non-licensed asbestos work?

FFP3 disposable as a minimum for short-duration tasks; half-mask with P3 cartridge for longer or higher-exposure work; powered respirator TH3 for higher-risk NNLW. FFP2 is not acceptable for asbestos work. All tight-fitting RPE requires face-fit testing under HSE OC282/28.

Can I use M-class extraction for asbestos work?

No. CAR 2012 and L143 specify H-class (high efficiency) extraction for asbestos — M-class is insufficient because the filter efficiency does not meet the standard for fibres in the asbestos size range. Using M-class extraction is one of the most common non-compliances on small refurbishment jobs.

How often must asbestos awareness training be refreshed?

Annually under CAR 2012 regulation 10. The HSE position is that any operative who may encounter asbestos (which includes most construction operatives working on pre-2000 buildings) must have current Category A Asbestos Awareness training. NNLW operatives also need Category B (Non-Licensed Work) training, also

annually.

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