



## **SUBJECT: SURVEY- FOR SURE!**

**RECIPIENTS:** All Services – Including Schools

**ISSUE DATE:** May 2017

**REF:** HSB82

### **Fined for failing to check for asbestos in a basement conversion**

Two family run companies have appeared in court after the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) carried out an unannounced visit on a basement conversion and found that neither firm had undertaken an asbestos survey. The HSE arrived to find that work had been underway for over 8 months and had involved workers from 6 firms. Due to the work that had already been carried out on the building so far, HSE inspectors were not able to evidence if asbestos had been present, due to the fact the workers had already cleared the site and as such, had removed any potential evidence. However, the HSE did find traces of asbestos in the form of fire-retardant textured paint on a section of the building that had not yet been stripped out



Both companies were fined a combined £34,000 with an additional £10,232 in costs after pleading guilty to breaching regulation 4(3) and 5(a) of the Control of Asbestos regulations 2012

A HSE inspector said: “The requirement to have a suitable asbestos survey is clear and well known throughout the industry. Only by knowing if asbestos is present in any building before works commence can a contractor ensure that people working on site are not exposed to these deadly fibres.”

Chrysotile asbestos was finally banned in the UK in 1999, though two other types of asbestos (Amosite and Crocidolite) were banned in 1985. The HSE has predicted that until 2020, around 4,500 people a year will die from diseases caused by asbestos exposure before annual numbers begin to decline, this is because it can take anywhere from 20 to 50 years before symptoms from exposure can be seen.

***Asbestos-related diseases are currently untreatable and preventing future cases remains a priority.***

All LCC property will have had an asbestos survey. Everyone using the building (especially contractors) should be made aware of the location of any asbestos containing material if they are likely to come into contact with it. Provided asbestos containing materials are intact, and cannot be easily damaged, they pose very little risk to health.

For more information see LCC policy G33- Management of Asbestos Containing Materials [here](#)

**If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:**  
[corporatehealth&safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:corporatehealth&safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk)

