

a33

asbestos essentials

# Replacing an asbestoscontaining fuse box or a single fuse assembly

#### Non-licensed tasks

## **Essential information**

Important: You must read sheet a0 Introduction to asbestos essentials

Also read the following sheets:

em0 Risk assessments and plans of work

em1 What to do if you discover or accidentally disturb asbestos during your work

em2 Information, instruction and training

em4 Using a Class H vacuum cleaner for asbestos

em6 Personal protective equipment (including RPE)

em7 Using damp rags to clean surfaces of minor asbestos contamination

em8 Personal decontamination

em9 Disposal of asbestos waste

#### What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice when you need to remove a single asbestos-containing fuse assembly or an asbestos-containing fuse box.

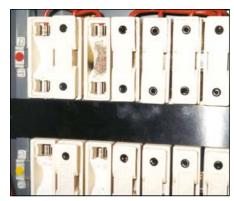
## Preparing the work area

- Have a competent electrician isolate and lock off the electricity supply, and test to show that the system is not live.
- Restrict access minimise the number of people present.
- Close doors. Use tape and notices to warn others.
- Ensure adequate lighting.

## **Equipment**

- 500-gauge polythene sheeting and duct tape
- Warning tape and notices
- Class H vacuum cleaner (BS 8520) see sheet em4
- Screwdriver
- Non-asbestos replacement fuse box
- Bucket of water and rags
- Asbestos waste bag
- Clear polythene bag





Old-style fuse boxes contain asbestos inside the fuse assemblies and must be handled correctly

## Other hazards

Work at height – see www.hse.gov.uk/work-atheight. Take precautions to avoid falls.

Electrical hazards – see www.hse.gov.uk/electricity. Get a competent electrician to isolate and reconnect electricity supply.

There may be other hazards – you need to consider them all.

## Personal protective equipment (PPE) - see sheet em6

- Provide:
  - disposable overalls fitted with a hood;
  - boots without laces (laced boots are hard to decontaminate);
  - respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

#### **Procedure**

- Instead of a single fuse assembly, can you replace the whole fuse box?
- Protect nearby surfaces from contamination. Cover with 500-gauge polythene sheeting and fix with duct tape to non-asbestos surfaces.
- Check if the fuse box is attached to asbestos insulating board (AIB).
- Vacuum clean around and inside the fuse box.

#### Removal: Fuse box

- Remove connections and carefully unscrew using 'shadow vacuuming' – see sheet em4.
- Place the screws in the waste bag.
- Loosen and remove the fuse box. Put it in the asbestos waste bag.
- Vacuum clean and/or wipe all surfaces.
- Install the new fuse box attach it to a non-asbestos surface.
- If the fuse box had been attached to AIB, see sheet a6 to repair minor damage.

#### Removal: Fuse assembly

- Unplug the fuse carrier and put it in the asbestos waste bag.
- Vacuum the fuse holder with the Class H vacuum cleaner.
- Unscrew the connections.
- Unscrew the fuse holder with 'shadow vacuuming' see sheet em4.
- Put screws and the fuse holder in the waste bag.
- Vacuum and wipe clean the connectors.
- Install the non-asbestos replacement assembly.

## Cleaning and disposal

- Clean the area and equipment with the Class H vacuum cleaner and damp rags.
- Put used rags, polythene sheeting and other waste in the asbestos waste bag and tape it closed.
- Put the asbestos waste bag in a clear polythene bag and tape it closed.
- Disposal see sheet em9.





After cleaning, put used rags, polythene sheeting and other waste in the asbestos waste bag and tape it closed

## **Personal decontamination**

See sheet em8.

## Clearance and checking off

- Visually inspect the area to make sure that it has been cleaned properly.
- Clearance air sampling is not normally required.
- Get the premises owner, dutyholder or client to check off the job.

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