



## Hazards in Collections eTool – Preliminary Asbestos Checklist

### About this checklist

This checklist is provided by the **Hazards in Collections eTool**. Please refer to the Hazards in Collections eTool's asbestos topic for more information. The authors' museums have found this type of checklist to be useful in conjunction with inspections of historic objects carried out by professional asbestos surveyors.

### How to use this checklist

This checklist is intended to be performed without handling the historic object. The eight questions below refer to the common, useful properties of asbestos. Answer each question 'Yes' or 'No', and if unsure, always assume the answer is 'Yes'. If there are any 'Yes' answers then asbestos containing materials **MAY** be present within the historic object: seek the advice of a professional asbestos surveyor. The examples given are not exhaustive. Be aware that many contemporary materials similar to those named below are now available in asbestos-free versions.

### Warning!

**Do not cause damage to asbestos containing materials. Do not attempt to dismantle objects to see if asbestos is present. The results of this checklist cannot be conclusive; they are an indication of the possibility that asbestos containing materials **MAY** or **MAY NOT** be present.**

#### 1. Does the object require **thermal insulation** to prevent heat escape or **protection from fire**?

Some examples (not exhaustive): loose fill insulation; lagging; spray coatings (e.g. limpet); protection from or insulate very hot liquids or steam inside pipework and cylinders; protection from fires and heat emitted by electronic components, light bulbs and thermionic valves (vacuum tubes); heating elements, hot plates and platens in cooking and heating devices; iron stands and ironing boards; stoves, ovens and gas / electric fires; personal protection from heat and flames (fire blankets, fire hoods, gloves, aprons, suits, helmets etc.); fireproofing in buildings and vehicles (fire partitions, fire doors, stopping, fire curtains, insulation board, ceiling tiles, walls, roofing etc.); protection from sub-zero temperatures; containment of cryogenic materials.

#### 2. Does the object require any form of **sound insulation, vibration dampening, protection from condensation or filtration**?

Some examples (not exhaustive): spray coatings; corrugated asbestos packaging materials; engine compartment linings; exhaust mufflers; acoustic damping materials; anti-vibration mats; operator/driver's cab insulation; vibration protection; vehicle body undercoating; aircraft fuselage insulation; liquid and gas filters.

#### 3. Does the object require any **high pressure or high temperature pipework and connections** for the transport of gases, steam, water, oils or other liquids?

Some examples (not exhaustive): engine gaskets; hot water gauges; steam gauges; steam heat pipe gaskets and lagging, compressed air pipe gaskets and lagging; high pressure pipe connections; valve packing.

#### 4. Does the object contain any **electrical components**?

Some examples (not exhaustive): asbestos impregnated circuit boards; distribution panel back boards; electrical switch / fuse boxes and casings; electrical wiring insulation; electrical cable sleeving; asbestos cloth; asbestos paper flash guards; arc chutes; blast / arc protection; spark plugs.

#### 5. Does the object incorporate any **resin, felt, vinyl or cement based products**?

Some examples (not exhaustive): vinyl floor and wall tiles; mastics; adhesives; asbestos cement profile sheets; cladding; shuttering; asbestos-bitumen roofing, damp-proofing and linings; imitation slate tiles and windowsills (e.g. Etonite); phenol formaldehyde resins (e.g. Bakelite); asbestos impregnated resins and laminates (e.g. Paxolin); thermosetting resonated asbestos fibre (e.g. Durestos).

#### 6. Does the object contain any **friction products**?

Some examples (not exhaustive): clutch plates; brake linings; brake shoes; drive belts; conveyor belts; friction pads.

#### 7. Does the object contain any **textured coatings**?

Some examples (not exhaustive): textured plasters (e.g. Artex); textured wallpapers (e.g. Lincrusta);

#### 8. Does the object require protection from **corrosive chemicals**?

Some examples (not exhaustive): fume hoods; flues; laboratory sinks; gas masks.