

Air monitoring

The Control of Asbestos Regulations (CAR) 2012 gives guidance as to when the monitoring of asbestos airborne fibre concentrations is required.

When work with asbestos or work which may disturb asbestos is being carried out, the regulations require employers and the self-employed to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres. Where this is not reasonably practicable, they must make sure that exposure is kept as low as reasonably practicable by measures other than the use of respiratory protective equipment. The spread of asbestos fibres must be prevented.

The regulations specify the work methods and controls that should be used to prevent exposure and spread. (HSE)

The monitoring of asbestos airborne fibre concentrations can be used to prove the spread of asbestos has been prevented. It can also be utilised to provide a variety of further measurements to assist with asbestos management, including:

- To assess the potential exposure of airborne asbestos.
- To check effectiveness of management control measures.
- To monitor control limits for correct RPE selection.
- To support existing and future risk assessments.

This is achieved using the following HSE approved sampling strategies:

Background air sampling

This sampling strategy is used to ascertain ambient airborne fibre concentrations.

Leak air sampling

This is the measurement of airborne fibre concentrations outside of an enclosure where work with asbestos is being carried out.

Personal sampling

Is used to monitor the exposure of the operative within the enclosure to assist with compliance and assess respiratory protection.

Reassurance sampling

Can be used to ascertain airborne fibre concentrations after remedial measures have been undertaken.