

Estates and Facilities Alert

Reference: EFA/2017/006 Issued: 07 December 2017 Review Date: 07 December 2023

Supply of CNA 2000 pipeline gaskets: presence of asbestos



Summary

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation revealed that G&H Engineering Services manufactured CNA 2000 pipeline gaskets containing asbestos between 2006 and 2010. G&H Engineering Services alerted their customers by letter in 2011 but affected gaskets have subsequently been located in healthcare premises. HSE wrote to potential customers directly on 30 October 2017 (see appendix for copy of letter) to highlight the issue.

Action

- Bring this notice to the attention of all appropriate managers and staff
- Follow the advice provided in the HSE letter (see appendix)
- Be aware that you may need to act to update your asbestos register and consider whether to have these gaskets removed or leave them in situ.

Action by

- Estates Managers, Health and Safety Managers, Asbestos Managers

Deadlines for action

Actions underway: 21 December 2017

Actions complete: 08 February 2018

Device details

Manufacturer: G&H Engineering Services

Model: CNA 2000 pipeline gaskets

Colour: Dark blue

Manufacture date: Between 2006 and 2010

Problem / background

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigated a concern in 2011 that recently manufactured pipe gaskets had been found to contain asbestos. The gaskets known as CNA 2000 (dark blue in colour) were manufactured by a company called G&H Engineering Services between 2006 and 2010 from material directly imported from China which contained asbestos.

HSE is completely satisfied that G&H Engineering Services were not aware that the gaskets contained asbestos and that they had received confirmation from the manufacturer that the material that was supplied to them was asbestos free. G&H Engineering subsequently wrote to their customers in 2011 to alert them to the potential hazard. However, HSE now believe that this letter may not have been fully-

circulated further down the supply chain. Hence on 30 October 2017 HSE wrote to G&H Engineering customers (see appendix for copy of letter) that may have been supplied with or used affected gaskets raising awareness of the issue and asking them to forward the letter further down the supply chain if necessary

HSE advise that whilst fitted as a gasket, the asbestos is contained within a tight matrix of material and contained by the pipework and the risk of exposure is very low. Greater potential for risk arises when the gasket is replaced and the material is disturbed during the removal process. HSE advise that asbestos registers may need updating and to consider whether to have these gaskets removed or leave them in situ.

The HSE website Asbestos Essentials website contains all the relevant information you will require on how to manage the safe removal and disposal of the gaskets:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/essentials/index.htm>

In particular the safe system of work to be adopted when removing and disposing of the gasket is at the following link:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/a25.pdf>

HSE contacts

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Distribution

Estates Managers, Risk Managers, Health & Safety Managers, Asbestos Managers

Enquiries

This alert has been compiled under a partnership arrangement by the organisations below and it has been distributed across the UK. Enquiries should be directed to the appropriate Regional Office quoting the alert reference number.

England

Enquires should quote reference number EFA/2017/006 and be addressed to:-
nhsi.mb-defectsandfailures@nhs.net

Reporting adverse incidents in England

Defects or failures should be reported on this system: <http://efm.hscic.gov.uk/>

The web-based D&F reporting system is managed by the NHS and Social Care Information Centre on behalf of the Department of Health. For further information on this system, including obtaining login details, please contact the efm-information Helpdesk. Tel 0300 303 5678.

Northern Ireland

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Northern Ireland should be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre, CMO Group,
Department of Health
Tel: 028 9052 3868 Email: niaic@health-ni.gov.uk
<http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/niaic>

Reporting adverse incidents in Northern Ireland

Please report directly to NIAIC using the [forms on our website](#).

Scotland

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Scotland should be addressed to:

Incident Reporting and Investigation Centre (IRIC)
Health Facilities Scotland, NHS National Services Scotland
Tel: 0131 275 7575 E-mail: nss.irc@nhs.scot

Reporting adverse incidents in Scotland

Use our [online report form](#) or download the [PDF form](#)
Independent facilities which only provide private care should report to the [Care Inspectorate](#).

Wales

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Wales should be addressed to:

Simon Russell, Principal Engineer, NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership – Specialist Estates Services, 4th Floor, Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff CF14 3UB

Tel: 029 2090 4100
E-mail: Simon.Russell@Wales.nhs.uk

Appendix

**Health and Safety
Executive**

Field Operations Directorate

David Garry Stimpson

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garry.stimpson@hse.gov.uk

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Head of Operations
Mr Barry Baker

30 October 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

SUPPLY OF CNA 2000 PIPELINE GASKETS – PRESENCE OF ASBESTOS

I am writing to you because you may have been supplied with pipeline gaskets that contain asbestos, and/or may have had these gaskets installed in your premises.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigated a concern in 2011 that recently manufactured pipe gaskets had been found to contain asbestos. We found that gaskets known as CNA 2000 (dark blue in colour) were manufactured by a company called G&H Engineering Services between 2006 and 2010 from material directly imported from China which contained asbestos.

HSE is completely satisfied that G&H Engineering Services were not aware that the gaskets contained asbestos and that they had received confirmation from the manufacturer that the material that was supplied to them was asbestos free. G&H Engineering subsequently wrote to their customers in 2011 to alert them to the potential hazard. However, we now believe that this letter may not have been fully circulated further down the supply chain.

G&H Engineering or their customers have identified that you may have purchased, supplied or used these CNA 2000 gaskets. If you supplied or provided these gaskets to other customers or distributors, you should forward them a copy of this letter.

Whilst fitted as a gasket, the asbestos is contained within a tight matrix of material and contained by the pipework and the risk of exposure is very low. Greater potential for risk arises when the gasket is replaced and the material is disturbed during the removal process. You may need to act to update your asbestos register and consider whether to have these gaskets removed or leave them in situ.

The HSE website Asbestos Essentials website contains all the relevant information you will require on how to manage the safe removal and disposal of the gaskets:

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In particular the safe system of work to be adopted when removing and disposing of the gasket is at the following link:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/a25.pdf>



Health and Safety
Executive

Alternatively contact me on garry.stimpson@hse.gov.uk for further information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Garry Stimpson'.

David Garry Stimpson
HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety