

# GMB Health & Safety Newsletter

## Southend Airport:

Gary Pearce and myself have worked on the asbestos problems at Southend Airport. The level of unsafe asbestos was most disturbing and led to a site visit from a HM Inspector of Health & Safety from the HSE. The report identified contraventions of health and safety law and the London Southend Airport Company were given actions to complete and given an action date by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. A full report was provided by HSE giving their reasons and required action as below:

### MATERIAL BREACHES - NOTIFICATION OF CONTRAVENTION

1) Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, Regulation 10 and Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 10

#### Asbestos awareness training and information

##### Reason(s) for opinion(s):

Whilst investigating a concern raised with the HSE regarding fire officers being potentially exposed to asbestos fibres, it became apparent that some employees who are required to work in locations that contain ACMs were not provided with sufficient information, instruction or training on the risks of asbestos. This may have contributed to the confusion and unease experienced by some fire officers working in the appliance bays who incorrectly presumed they were at risk of exposure. The above regulations require that employees are provided with comprehensible and relevant information on the risks to their health and safety, including the risk of exposure to asbestos. Anyone liable to disturb asbestos during their work, or who supervises such employees, must receive the correct level of information, instruction and training to enable them to carry out their work safely and without risk to themselves or others.

##### You are required to take the following actions:

You should provide asbestos awareness training for all employees that work in, or use, buildings and facilities that contain ACMs. Asbestos awareness training should cover the following topics:

- *The properties of asbestos and its effects on health, including the increased risk of lung cancer for asbestos workers who smoke;*
- *The types, uses and likely occurrence of asbestos and ACMs in buildings and plant;*
- *The general procedures to be followed to deal with an emergency, e.g. an uncontrolled release of asbestos dust into the workplace;*
- *How to avoid the risks from asbestos, e.g. for building work, no employee should carry out work which disturbs the fabric of a building unless the employer has confirmed that ACMs are not present.*

Additional training, at an appropriate level, should also be provided to supervisors, managers and directors to assist them in complying with their legal duties under the regulations and to enable them to effectively carry out their role during any work involving ACMs.

## AUGUST 2017

Dear Colleague

**Welcome to the first E-Newsletter for all GMB Members. It is our intention to produce these newsletters to keep members advised of matters relating to Health & Safety in the workplace. If you have any issues or stories to share with the wider membership then please get in touch. Sharing information and experience is beneficial to us all and will help us to reduce the risks of workplace dangers.**

**Thank you to all those who attended the last Health & Safety Forum. Our next meeting is on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at the Euston Office commencing at 10am. Paul Ward is our guest speaker the subject being Risk Assessments and Education. We are also intending to have a speaker on the subject of stress at work at some point.**

**Shaun Graham  
London Region  
Health & Safety Officer.**

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## Don't lose your voice and rights in the workplace switch your GMB Subs to Direct Debit

GMB will never tell anyone that you are a GMB member, but if you pay your membership contributions through your wages, you now need to transfer to direct debit, as a result of the Governments Trade Union Bill, which is taking away the option of Trade Union Members to continue to have their membership contributions deducted from their wages

If you have not yet transferred to Direct Debit, this can be done either on line by visiting [www.gmb.org.uk/join/join-online](http://www.gmb.org.uk/join/join-online) or you can contact the GMB Hayes Office: 020 8573 6969 to request a conversion to direct debit form is sent to you, which on completion can be returned to GMB FREEPOST.

**Don't lose your rights.**

## Why call UNIONLINE?

If you're a GMB member, and you or a member of your family has an accident of any sort - at work, on the road or elsewhere - call UNIONLINE on 0300 333 0303 for expert advice.

- UNIONLINE is owned by GMB members, and works for GMB members.
- It's the country's first trade union owned law firm.
- Every legal service you need, when you need it.
- As a GMB member, you will keep 100% of your damages award.

For a list of UNIONLINE services visit [www.unionline.co.uk](http://www.unionline.co.uk)

### Free legal advice for GMB members

Legal service	Cost to GMB members*	Cost to GMB member's immediate family†	Typical high street price
Injuries and accidents at work	Free	Free	25% of damages
Animal attacks	Free	Free	25% of damages
Clinical negligence	Free	Free	25% of damages
Criminal injury	Free	Free	Not offered
Industrial disease	Free	Free	25% of damages
Road traffic accidents	Free	Free	25% of damages
Slip & trip	Free	Free	25% of damages



**0300 333 0303**

## Bakkavor Meals

A visit to Bakkavor Meals, Cumberland Site, which led to our health & safety newsletter specifically for the food industry. Our visit to the factory led to a plan of action for health & safety covering 2017. We are looking for Bakkavor to have regular meetings with the health & safety committee on issues that need to be addressed. This specific newsletter for the food industry is available to view on our website

## Schools Support staff have concerns .....

Asbestos is an increasing concern to staff in schools and many of the old schools may still have some unless it has been removed. If you are concerned then please go and see your Headteacher and ask to see the relevant documentation. This should include the asbestos register, the certificate of inspection and the guidance given in that information which is required to satisfy you that all precautions necessary to protect you and your colleagues are in place.

**You have the right to see these documents.**

**If you think you have been exposed to Asbestos then phone Unionline on 0300 333 0303.**



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