

TO APPROVE THE ISSUE OF A LICENCE FOR WORK WITH ASBESTOS TO TFM FACILITIES MANAGEMENT LIMITED

SUMMARY

The licence granted to TFM Facilities Management Limited (TFM) under Regulation 3 of the Asbestos–Licensing (Jersey) Regulations, 2008 (Asbestos Regulations), is due to expire on 31 January 2024. An application has been received from TFM to renew the licence.

TFM have held a licence since January 2019. The first two licenses were of one-year duration to allow reassessment of their developing in-house competence and experience in this specialist area. The last licence was granted for three years in 2021.

Over the last three years TFM Facilities Management Limited is considered to have performed to a satisfactory standard. The Minister is therefore requested to consider issuing a further three-year licence under the Asbestos Regulations, to TFM Facilities Management Limited, for work with licensed asbestos materials.

BACKGROUND

Asbestos is a class 1 carcinogen, and exposure to airborne asbestos fibres can lead to a range of diseases including fatal lung cancers.

As a result of concerns over potential exposure to asbestos in the workplace, the States introduced Regulations in 1997 which restrict work with certain asbestos-containing materials to those who are licensed. The original 1997 Regulations were replaced by the Asbestos Regulations, which came into force on 5 February 2008.

Regulation 3 of the Asbestos Regulations provides for the Minister to issue licences for work with asbestos insulation, asbestos insulation board and asbestos coatings, and permits the Minister to determine the period of the licence and attach such terms and conditions to the licence that the Minister considers appropriate.

TFM Facilities Management Limited, was set up specifically to undertake work with asbestos-containing materials and has held a licence since January 2019. Initially the first two licenses were of a one-year duration to allow reassessment of their developing in-house competence and experience in this specialist area. The last licence was granted for three years in 2021. The company has now applied to renew its current licence, which expires on 31 January 2024.

The process for licence application and renewals is carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety Inspectorate document '*Asbestos Licence Assessment Guide*' which assesses the applicant against benchmarks drawn from legal standards, good practice as described in the Jersey and UK Approved Codes and industry best practice, and the licence applicant's own operating standards.

Following a formal assessment of the company's management arrangements and asbestos competencies, including a review of inspections of paperwork and live asbestos removal work undertaken through over the last three years, it is considered appropriate to issue the applicant a three-year licence.

Five standard conditions are placed on all licences which are issued. These conditions require the licence to be made available for inspection, the Inspectorate to be notified of the work, the preparation of a detailed Plan of Work for the work, the need to ensure that all work is supervised by an appropriate member of staff and that the asbestos waste is disposed of in an approved manner.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that TFM Facilities Management Limited be granted a licence, subject to the five standard conditions, to carry out work with asbestos, for 3 years commencing on 1 February 2024.

Elaine Harbour
Director of Health and Safety