

TO APPROVE THE ISSUE OF A LICENCE FOR WORK WITH ASBESTOS TO MASTERS SCAFFOLDING LIMITED

SUMMARY

A renewal application for a licence under Regulation 3 of the Asbestos–Licensing (Jersey) Regulations, 2008 (Asbestos Regulations), has been received from Masters Scaffolding Limited.

As a new applicant, Masters Scaffolding Limited had undergone a formal assessment of its management arrangements and asbestos competencies by the Health and Safety Inspectorate and been able to demonstrate appropriate systems are in place and a one-year licence was granted under the Asbestos Regulations in May 2024.

Masters Scaffolding have been working on a large asbestos removal project at the Power Station, and we have conducted inspections that confirm they are working to satisfactory standards. The Minister is therefore requested to consider issuing a further two-year licence under the Asbestos Regulations, to Masters Scaffolding 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.

Masters Scaffolding Limited a local scaffolding company, has applied for a licence under Regulation 3 of the Asbestos Regulations to undertake scaffolding work which is ancillary to licensable work with asbestos-containing materials. As a new licence applicant, to support the company with its application has engaged a specialist health and safety advisor and specialist asbestos advisor to provide independent monitoring and supervision of licensed works. It will be working closely with the main licensed contractor who will undertake the actual asbestos removal works.

The process for licence application and renewal is carried out in accordance with the policy set out in 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. The policy states that subject to a satisfactory assessment interview new applicants be granted a one-year licence.

The licence would be subject to the five standard conditions typically placed on licences that are issued that require:

- the licence to be made available for inspection
- the Inspectorate to be notified of the work at least 14 days before work commences
- the preparation of a suitable and sufficient Plan of Work for the work
- all work to be supervised by a competent employee
- all asbestos waste to be disposed of in an approved manner.

The licence issued to Masters Scaffolding Limited would contain a further additional condition as follows:

- limiting the application of the licence to scaffolding activities which are ancillary to licensed asbestos removal work and where it is foreseeable that the scaffolding activity is likely to disturb the asbestos.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Master Scaffolding Limited be granted a licence, subject to the conditions above, to carry out scaffolding work which is ancillary to licensable work with asbestos, where it is foreseeable that the scaffolding activity is likely to disturb the asbestos. The licence would be valid for a two-year period, commencing from date of signature.



Elaine Harbour
Director of Health and Safety