

ENVIRONET NEWS

The electronic newsletter for improved environmental and health & safety performance

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CONTAMINATED LAND EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT (CLEA)

In March 2002, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency (DEFRA) published a series of reports that provide a scientifically based framework for the assessment of risks to human health from land contamination.

The new Soil Guideline Values have been developed to assess whether the soil concentration of a particular contaminant poses a significant risk to human health or the environment.

The soil guideline values are a tool that can be used to assess the risks posed to human health from exposure to soil contamination resulting from land use.

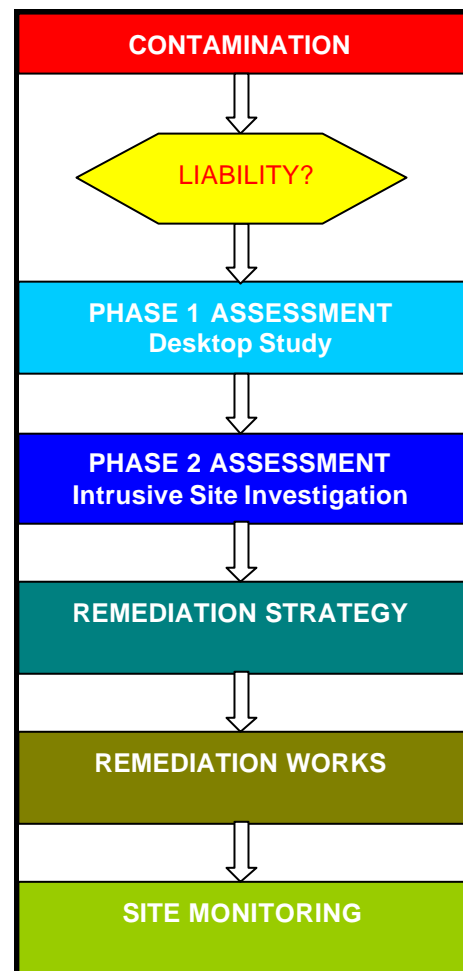
The values represent 'intervention values', which indicate to an assessor that soil concentrations above this level could pose an unacceptable risk to the health of site users and that further investigation and/or remediation is required. Soil Guideline Values combine both authoritative science and policy judgements.

Soil Guideline Values have been derived using the CLEA model according to three typical land uses:

- Residential (with and without vegetable growing).
- Allotments.
- Commercial / industrial.

Where applied appropriately, exceeding a Soil Guideline Value suggests the need for either further investigation and/or remediation.

The Soil Guideline Values will supersede ICRL values (Interdepartmental Committee on the Redevelopment of Contaminated Land) in respect of assessing risks to human health.



Environet offers a complete professional service to reduce your contaminated land liabilities, from site assessment, to remediation and on site monitoring. In addition to working with our clients during site acquisition, divestiture and development, we also work with insurance companies in the clean up of pollution incidents.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT OF ASBESTOS

There has been much controversy in the press recently regarding new regulations on the duty to manage asbestos, which are due to come into force in July 2002.

There have also been a recent court cases that have made it easier for asbestosis sufferers and their dependents to claim compensation from previous employers.

The new Regulation is not intended to enforce the removal of asbestos containing material (ACM's) but seeks to greatly reduce the risk to employees, building occupiers and maintenance workers from exposure to asbestos fibres by ongoing assessment and management.

This regulation will require property management companies, building owners and building occupiers, etc to develop and maintain an asbestos register for each property. The register should detail the presence, type, and condition of any ACM and provide a risk assessment relative to each ACM. A requirement for an asbestos survey will also exist for property developers where the demolition of existing buildings is required prior to redevelopment.

The current UK guidance outlines three types of survey, Type 1, 2 & 3, one or more of which may be required for a site.

A Type 1 (Presumptive) survey is used to determine, by visual inspection, the location and condition of any ACM's associated with a building, but defers the necessity to sample and analyse for asbestos. Any risk assessments carried out can only therefore be based on assumptions that suspected materials may contain asbestos and without confirmatory sampling additional management costs may be incurred. Access to all areas of the buildings are sought, including service risers, roof space etc. Any areas that cannot be accessed may be considered to potentially include ACM's.

A Type 2 (Sampling) survey follows the same procedures as the Type 1 survey above, but representative samples of suspected ACM's are collected to prove or disprove the surveyors

assumptions. This therefore allows a more definitive risk assessment to be carried out. Type 1 and 2 surveys maybe undertaken simultaneously if the size of the site allows.

A Type 3 (Pre-demolition/refurbishment) survey is required to sample and identify, as far as is reasonably practicable, all ACMs within a site, and therefore may involve some destruction of the building fabric to gain access to all areas. The survey is used to estimate the quantity of asbestos present prior to removal. It does not therefore contain an assessment of the condition of the asbestos present.

In practice for building management purposes, a Type 1 survey is undertaken with limited sampling. If a building contains significant amounts of asbestos a full Type 2 survey with more extensive sampling would be recommended. Where demolition or refurbishment works are planned, a Type 3 survey would be required.



Photo showing broken cladding of "Asbestos Containing Material"

Asbestos surveys should only be undertaken by personnel qualified to BIOH (British Institute of Occupational Hygiene) P402 "Building Surveys and Bulk Sampling for Asbestos" and have direct experience of the assessment for asbestos containing materials.

If your buildings do not have adequate Asbestos Registers, it may be appropriate to consider commissioning surveys to protect the health of your employees and others and to reduce liabilities, particularly from civil claims.

CONTRACEPTIVES IN SEWAGE BLAMED ON FISHY SEX CHANGES

Recent research funded by the Environment Agency suggests that some male fish in rivers that receive effluent from sewage treatment works develop female characteristics. About one in ten of the male fish tested were sterile, whilst just under half had actually developed eggs within their reproductive organs.

Synthetic oestrogen, used in the contraceptive pill, discharged within urine is thought to be the cause. The Agency is now seeking a collaborative programme with the water industry to research technologies that will remove these mimicking chemicals from sewage waste water.

For those men of you who may be alarmed at these findings, do not fear, there is no evidence to suggest that drinking the water will effect your fertility or other less mentionable habits!

INCREASED FINES FOR PACKAGING WASTE OFFENCES

The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 1997 as amended impose a number of legal obligations on companies that handle in excess of 50 tonnes of packaging and have a turnover in excess of £2 million.

A number of companies have been successfully prosecuted under the packaging waste regulations within the last 12 months.



Stylo Barrett Shoes, whose brands include Barretts and Hush Puppies was fined £15,000 for failing to register with the EA.

Fines totalling £96,000 were handed out to the Lear Corporation (UK), Lear Corporation UK Interior Systems and Lear Corporation (Nottingham) after pleading guilty to up to 24 charges.

THE CONTROL OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED A SUCCESS STORY

In a recent TV programme, Alan Titchmarsh informed viewers about "Weeds from Hell". It came as no surprise that his only recommendation if you were to find Japanese Knotweed in your garden was to sell up and move somewhere else!

In our May 2001 issue we reported on a Japanese Knotweed control and eradication programme devised by Environet being implemented on a development site in Cardiff.



Photo showing Knotweed in May - by October this could be 2.5-3m high

The herbicidal treatment programme, which could have taken up to six years, is just about complete after only 2 years. There are a few small areas where the plant keeps fighting back, but with further repeat treatment to these isolated areas the site will be clear of the plant.

If you have this plant on your site and want it eradicated we would love to hear from you.

For further information on our Environmental and Health & Safety services please get in touch.

CLIENT TESTIMONIALS

"Being Europe's largest and fastest growing health and fitness chain, detailed site evaluation work done in the quickest amount of time is of paramount importance. Environet's professionalism and technical work is exceptional, making the company a pleasure to work with."

Christopher Bevan, (Development Surveyor) - Fitness First Plc

"Environet provide us with an efficient, astute and commercial service across a wide range of difficult situations"

Mark Rothwell (Investment Partner) - Alder King Property Consultants

"Environet's practical, proactive and professional approach has been instrumental in delivering the benefits of improved environmental performance. Repeat business is guaranteed if you continue to deliver in the way you have for us"

Matthew Walter (Director) - SMS Business Systems Ltd

"Environet provides us with quick and detailed analyses of contamination liability for sites we are marketing and managing. All in all, a very good service"

Simon Kitching (Director) - Millar Kitching Ltd

"Your strategic assistance has transformed our Health & Safety Management system into an asset that is now embraced by all of our workforce. Thanks to your skills in balancing legal obligations against commercial considerations, and your ability to communicate clearly, we are certain that our health & safety performance will continue to improve - with of course your continued help!"

Alan Gibbons (Technical Director) - NCMT Ltd

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A Strategic Approach to Environmental and Health & Safety Management

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Policy, Initial Review, Strategy, Legal Compliance, Management Systems (EMAS, ISO 14001), Auditing & Training, Reporting

HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Safety Reviews, Legal Compliance, Risk Assessment, Monitoring, Management Systems (OHSAS 18000), Auditing & Training

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Contaminated Land, Acoustics / Noise, Energy Efficiency, Environmental Assessment of Buildings, Sick Building Syndrome, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Systems

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Noise, Ecology, Hydrology, Air quality

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Minimisation Audits, Compliance/"Duty of Care" Audits

TRAINING

Environmental Awareness Seminars, Health & Safety Training

Allow us to help you benefit from:

- ◆ **Reduced legal liability**
- ◆ **Increased operating efficiency**
- ◆ **Enhanced corporate image**

by improving your environmental and health & safety performance.

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