

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20260106 - EIR

Date: 06 January 2026 15:13:33

Reference Number: EIR

Dear

I refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 19 December 2025 which is set out below.

"The Control of Asbestos regulations 2012 requires all companies to identify and manage asbestos in their infrastructure and assets in order to protect employees and the general public from danger.

Please could you answer the following questions regarding your management of the 2000km of asbestos water pipes in your network...

Do contractors wear protective clothing when dealing with asbestos water pipe breaks?

After the pipe is repaired, is the water from homes supplied from the broken pipe tested for asbestos fibres?

If the answer to either of the questions above is 'no', then does Yorkshire Water recognise they are in breach of the Control of Asbestos regulations 2012?"

Do contractors wear protective clothing when dealing with asbestos water pipe breaks?

Yes. All contractors are expected to risk assess their tasks and provide the appropriate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and RPE (Respiratory Protective Equipment) to mitigate against all identified hazards, including asbestos. This ensures they are adequately protected when working on asbestos-containing water pipes.

After the pipe is repaired, is the water from homes supplied from the broken pipe tested for asbestos fibres?

No. There is no requirement under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 or the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations to monitor potable water supplies for asbestos. As a result, no regulatory limit has been set for asbestos fibres in drinking water.

Health-Based Guidelines

The World Health Organization (WHO) (1993, reaffirmed in 2004, 2011, and 2021) has evaluated asbestos in drinking water and concluded:

- Asbestos is a known human carcinogen via inhalation, but
- Available epidemiological studies do not support an increased cancer risk from ingestion of asbestos in drinking water.
- It is therefore not appropriate to derive drinking-water guideline values (SNARLs) for asbestos, and no UK or WHO drinking water standards exist for asbestos.

Further information regarding Asbestos Cement drinking water pipes and possible health risks can be found: <https://www.dwi.gov.uk/research/completed-research/risk-assessment-chemical/asbestos-cement-drinking-water-pipes-and-possible-health-risks/>

If the answer to either of the questions above is 'no', then does Yorkshire Water recognise they are in breach of the Control of Asbestos regulations 2012?

Yorkshire Water is not breach of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 as testing of potable water for asbestos is not a requirement of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

We trust that the provision of this data satisfies your request. In accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, if you are not satisfied with this reply to your request you can ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review must be submitted within 40 working days by contacting the Data Protection Team.

Thank you for contacting Yorkshire Water.

Yours sincerely,

Data Protection Team

Email: EIR@Yorkshirewater.co.uk