

OPENING UP FIRE-STOPPING FOR INSPECTION ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Intrusive inspection of existing seals · asbestos in older fire-stopping · breaches closed the same shift KD-RA-FP-003 Rev A0

Statutory basis: HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5 — this document is the recorded safe system of work. Older fire-stopping can contain asbestos, so the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 and ACOP L143 (2nd edition, 2013) apply before anything is opened; mineral fibre and sealant dusts are controlled under COSHH 2002, and access to risers and voids under the Work at Height Regulations 2005. In healthcare premises the infection control risk assessment follows HBN 00-09 (2013). The responsible person keeps compartmentation, detection and escape routes in efficient working order under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, so every breach is agreed with them and closed to a tested seal. On higher-risk buildings the findings are golden-thread information under the Building Safety Act 2022 and the Higher-Risk Buildings (Keeping and Provision of Information etc.) (England) Regulations 2024.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

Opening up installed fire-stopping and cavity barriers in existing buildings so that they can be inspected or sampled against their tested detail: removing ceiling tiles, riser panels and boxing, cutting inspection openings or removing seals and samples, photographing and recording what is found, and closing every breach before the end of the shift.

This document does not cover: installing or remediating fire-stopping (KD-RAMS-FP-001, KD-RAMS-FP-002); any disturbance of asbestos — non-licensed work under KD-RAMS-AS-001, KD-RAMS-AS-002 or KD-RAMS-AS-003, and asbestos insulating board, lagging and sprayed coatings by a licensed contractor; and the judgement of whether an installation meets its classification, which belongs to the competent fire engineer or assessor.

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Disturbing asbestos-containing materials in existing buildings At risk: Operatives, building occupants

Controls: Check the asbestos register before any intrusive work (CAR 2012). No register, or unclear entries, means stop and refer. If suspect material is found: STOP, withdraw, secure the area and report it — the discovery procedure applies before any further work.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Older fire-stopping that is itself asbestos — rope, board, mastic, coatings around penetrations At risk: Inspectors, occupants

Controls: The refurbishment and demolition survey covers every location to be opened; where it does not, the location is not opened until an asbestos surveyor has sampled it. Anything unexpected — fibrous rope, grey board, old mastic — is treated as suspect and not disturbed; no asbestos is disturbed under this document.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Opening ceilings in healthcare premises — dust and contamination reaching patients At risk: Patients, staff

Controls: An infection control risk assessment following HBN 00-09 (2013) is agreed with the infection prevention and control team before any ceiling or panel is opened, and the containment, dust and timing controls it sets are in place first.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. A compartment breach left open — fire and smoke spread in an occupied building At risk: Occupants

Controls: Openings agreed in advance with the responsible person, whose duty it is to keep compartmentation effective, and listed. Each is closed before the end of the same shift with a seal or temporary product tested for that configuration, and the list is signed off as closed. Where one cannot be closed, a fire watch is agreed with the responsible person.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Damaging live cables and pipes when removing seals, collars and batts At risk: Inspectors, the building

Controls: Hand tools only around services; no cutting near cables or plastic pipes; cables treated as live; any damage reported at once and the service made safe by its owner.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

6. Mineral fibre and sealant dust from batts, wraps and cut samples At risk: Inspectors

Controls: Material wetted or cut slowly by hand; H-class vacuum, not brushing; RPE to the COSHH assessment; samples and debris bagged at the point of removal.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

7. Falls into risers and from access to ceiling voids; tiles and debris falling on people below

At risk: Inspectors, occupants

Controls: Riser floor openings protected before a riser panel is removed; podium or tower below ceiling voids — nobody climbs into or leans on a suspended ceiling; the area below segregated and cleared before tiles or panels are lifted.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

8. False alarms from dust near detection

At risk: Occupants, the business

Controls: Detectors near the work isolated or covered only under the site's detection isolation permit and restored at the end of every shift.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

9. Findings unrecorded or unattributable — defects never put right

At risk: Building occupants

Controls: Every opening photographed before, during and after, with location, seal type, findings and closure recorded against a numbered label; on higher-risk buildings the record is filed as golden-thread information.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL HI...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- Obtain the inspection scope, fire strategy drawings and fire-stopping records; list every location to be opened.
- Check the refurbishment and demolition survey covers each location; where it does not, arrange sampling before opening.
- In healthcare premises, agree the infection control risk assessment before any ceiling is opened.
- Agree the list, times, detection controls and any fire watch with the responsible person.
- Prepare tested closure products for each configuration before the first opening; segregate below, set up access and protect riser floor openings.
- Open one location at a time with hand tools; photograph and label. STOP, withdraw and report if suspect asbestos is found.
- Inspect, measure and take samples as the scope specifies; bag and label samples at the point of removal.
- Close the opening with the prepared tested product; photograph the closure.
- Close every opening before the end of the shift and sign the list off with the responsible person.
- Restore detectors, reinstate tiles and panels, remove segregation, and compile the record for the assessor.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Podiums or towers | Camera and numbered labels |
| Hand tools, cutters and sample bags | Tested seals and temporary closure products |
| H-class vacuum | Torches and task lighting |

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS

COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Head protection | High visibility | Eye protection |
| Safety footwear | Gloves — task-rated | Hearing protection |

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-FI-023 — Fire Alarm and Detection Isolation Permit
Where detectors near the openings are isolated or covered.

PERMIT NUMBER

KD-PTW-PE-009 — Permit to Enter
For occupied buildings under access control.

PERMIT NUMBER

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION	NEAREST A&E	ASSEMBLY POINT
HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED	EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA	SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-09-11	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-09-11	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.