

ELECTRIC OVENS



An ETU OH&S representative on a construction site has raised concerns in relation to the potential for exposure to synthetic mineral fibres when electricians remove the back from ovens to connect the supply.

The synthetic mineral fibre (SMF) used in a particular brand of oven has been identified as GLASSFIBRE.

As with any SMF, it is important not to work in a manner where there is a possibility of inhaling respirable fibres.

SMF's can also cause skin irritation.

By using the HEIRARCHY OF HAZARD CONTROL, elimination of the risk of exposure is the first priority.

The connection of the oven should be redesigned to ensure the worker is not required to access the rear of the stove.

Providing a terminal box on the outside of the stove, or a lead on the oven, would ensure the electrician is not exposed to the fibres.