

ASBESTOS PRESENT IN JOHNSON SWITCH ROOMS



This alert has been generated to ensure that all sites in Victoria are aware of the risks associated with switch rooms supplied by a South Australian manufacturer, Robin Johnson Engineering Pty Ltd which contain imported asbestos contaminated cement floor sheeting.

BACKGROUND

Regulation 4.3.16 of Part 4.3 – Asbestos of the Occupational Health & Safety Regulations 2007, prohibits the use of asbestos containing material.

In this instance, the prohibition applies to;

- (a) the handling of building materials for the manufacture of an item (in this case the handling of the asbestos containing flooring material in the manufacture of the transportable switch room); and
- (b) the actual use of the transportable switch rooms that contain asbestos (where the asbestos containing item has been installed after 31 December 2003).

Hence the use of the transportable switch rooms (as per b above) is a breach of the aforementioned prohibition regulation.

ISSUES

The ETU calls upon;

- (1) all employers and safety regulators to conduct immediate safety audits in all workplaces where these switch rooms have been installed;
- (2) each branch of the ETU to advise members to cease work on Robin Johnson Engineering Pty Ltd switch rooms and conduct rigorous and thorough risk assessments and ensure all appropriate control measures are implemented to eliminate risk to themselves or others; and
- (3) all other State/Territory safety regulators to implement immediate resources to help identify affected locations and ensure safety.

For further information, contact your designated Health & Safety representative or your local organiser.