

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2007/90

Issued: 26th October 2007



HEALTH ESTATES

creating healing environments

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	

	Section
Medical Device/Equipment: Grundy Heated Food conveyors	▶ ①
Problem: Risk of Exposure to Asbestos	▶ ②
Action by: This notice should be brought to the attention of all appropriate managers and staff.	▶ ③
Action: If the presence of asbestos is confirmed, a decision should be made whether to carry out the removal and replacement of the AIB using a licensed asbestos removal contractor or to dispose of the food conveyor using a licensed asbestos waste disposal company. (see section 4 page 2 for further action).	▶ ④
Distributed by NIAIC to: Chief Executive of each HSS Board Chief Executive of each HSS Trust Chief Executive of each Agency NIAIC Liaison Officers Hospices	▶ ⑤
Contacts Details of supplier and NIAIC contacts for technical aspects	▶ ⑥
Feedback Requirements to NIAIC None Required.	▶ ⑦

This Alert is on our web site: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

Grundy Heated Food conveyors

2. PROBLEM:

In a recent incident, a heated food conveyor was undergoing maintenance when a material was discovered which was suspected of containing asbestos. Subsequent testing confirmed it as asbestos insulating board (AIB) containing amosite (brown asbestos).

The food conveyor in question was a Grundy model M40R manufactured in 1979. Due to its age the AIB had become friable and showed signs of damage. The AIB will normally be contained within the casing of the equipment but should the AIB be in poor condition debris / fibres may escape. In addition, asbestos material may be exposed during repair or maintenance on the conveyor.

Grundy Catering Ltd ceased the manufacture of food conveyors around 2002/2003 and are no longer trading. It has been difficult to ascertain exactly when Grundy stopped using asbestos in their food conveyors but this may have been as late as 1984.

Two sister companies still provide limited support for Grundy food conveyors (see Enquiries). Universal Dispense Systems can be contacted to order replacement parts. Catering Design Services carry out limited servicing of Grundy food conveyors and can be contacted to arrange for a service engineer to fit replacement parts (at a cost). None of these companies carry out removal / disposal of asbestos.

Other makes and models (including other Grundy models) of heated food conveyors, particularly older models, may also contain asbestos.

Due to the age of the food conveyors it may not be financially viable to arrange for the removal and replacement of the AIB.

A Safety Information Bulletin (SIB) was published in 1986 recommending the removal of the AIB from Grundy heated food conveyors at the next opportunity (see Appendix). The SIB implicated Grundy models 40, 55 and 90.

3. ACTION BY:

This notice should be brought to the attention of all appropriate managers and staff.

4. ACTION:

All Grundy heated food conveyors should be identified and their date of manufacture ascertained.

Grundy food conveyors suspected of containing asbestos (see Background paragraph 4) should be taken out of use and stored in a safe location until the presence of asbestos can be confirmed / disproved by testing. No work should be carried out on the food conveyors in the mean time.

If the presence of asbestos is confirmed, a decision should be made whether to carry out the removal and replacement of the AIB using a licensed asbestos removal contractor or to dispose of the food conveyor using a licensed asbestos waste disposal company.

If the AIB is considered to be in a good condition and the food conveyor is required for service, a risk assessment should be carried out and the AIB scheduled for removal at the next maintenance opportunity.

Other makes and models of heated food conveyors, particularly older models, should be assessed as to the likelihood of them containing asbestos and similar action taken to that given above.

5. ONWARD DISTRIBUTION TO:

Please bring this notice to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it. This will include distribution to:

- Liaison Officers
- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Estates Managers
- Domestic Services
- Catering Mangers
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA

6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries in relation to obtaining replacement parts should be addressed to:

Ms Caron Wilcox
Universal Dispense Systems
Grundy House
Green Lane
Hounslow
Middlesex TW4 6DF

Tel: 020 8570 4455

Enquiries in relation to contacting a service engineer should be addressed to:

Service Department
Catering Design Services
4 Waterside Commerce Park
Trafford Park
Manchester M17 1WD

Tel: 0161 848 3999

Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2007/90 and be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre
(NIAIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy
Directorate
Stoney Road
Dundonald, Belfast, BT16 1US

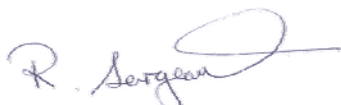
Tel: 028 9052 3868

Fax: 028 9052 3900

Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

7. FEEDBACK:

None Required.



Robert Sergeant
NIAIC Operational Manager

HOW TO REPORT ADVERSE INCIDENTS

Adverse Incidents relating to medical devices, non-medical equipment, plant and buildings should be reported to NIAIC as soon as possible. Advice on how to report is given in MDEA(NI)2006/01. If you are in doubt about how to report incidents, please speak to your liaison officer or contact NIAIC using the telephone number provided. Adverse Incident reporting forms and an on-line reporting facility are available on the NIAIC website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic

Heath Estates is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

No. 28

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT
WELSH OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
(NORTHERN IRELAND)

SIB(86)37

May 1986

ASBESTOS RISK – GRUNDY HEATED FOOD CONVEYORS

SUMMARY

Health authorities are advised of a possible asbestos risk during maintenance work on heated food conveyors that were manufactured before 1980. It is recommended that the existing panels be changed for an asbestos-free type when the next major maintenance occurs.

BACKGROUND

1. A number of defect and failure reports have been received concerning the possible asbestos risk during maintenance work on certain food conveyors manufactured by Grundy Catering Limited (see para 3).
2. Dusty deposits discovered while maintaining the conveyors have been analysed and found to contain asbestos. The source of the dust is from "Marinite" insulating panels, which contain approximately 20–22 per cent amosite (brown asbestos), and are situated within the outer casing.
3. Models 40, 55 and 90, manufactured prior to 1980, were fitted with "Marinite" insulating panels during manufacture. Access to these panels is only possible by dismantling the whole of the top and the inner food container compartments, but this is necessary when access to the thermostat probe and elements is required.
4. Given the encapsulation of panels within the equipment, the risk of fibre release during normal use is negligible but some release could occur when dismantled.

ACTION

5. This notice should be brought to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it. This will include general managers, works officers, catering managers and supplies officers. Safety representatives for relevant maintenance staff should also be informed.
6. Heated food conveyors in good order should remain in normal use.
7. When the next major maintenance occurs the opportunity should be taken to remove the asbestos panels and replace them with non asbestos "Monolus" panels which can be purchased from the manufacturer.
8. The panels should be removed from the conveyor as carefully as possible in an outdoor area to minimise the risk of asbestos contamination in workshops. While work is in progress protective clothing including Health and Safety Executive approved respirators should be worn. All parts of the dismantled conveyor should be thoroughly cleaned to remove dusty residues using a high efficiency vacuum cleaner suitable for asbestos before fitting the new panels.
9. The "Marinite" panels should not be broken or cut but placed whole into a polythene bag or completely wrapped in polythene sheet, which must be effectively sealed, before being disposed of as "special waste". This means the asbestos must be taken to the local licensed land fill tip once the necessary consignment forms have been issued by the local authority.

ENQUIRIES

10. Enquiries concerning the supply of non asbestos insulation panels should be addressed to Mobile Maintenance Service, Grundy Catering Limited (Equipment and Services), Ashford Works, Ashford Road, ASHFORD, Middlesex TW15 1XD (Tel: 07842 51244).