



# UNITE LEGAL SERVICES - TRUST YOUR UNION



Do you  
believe you  
have been  
exposed to  
asbestos at  
work?

If the answer is  
**YES** you need  
to join the  
Unite Asbestos  
Register



If you have been diagnosed with an asbestos disease you should contact Unite's legal service without delay by calling 0800 709 007 for free, specialist legal advice and support from a Unite solicitor.

[www.unitetheunion.org](http://www.unitetheunion.org)





## What is asbestos?

Asbestos kills. It is the single greatest cause of work-related deaths in the UK – at least 5,000 a year. There are three main types: chrysotile (white asbestos), amosite (brown asbestos) and crocidolite (blue asbestos). They are all dangerous and there is no safe exposure limit.

Asbestos was a widely used material within commercial buildings, homes and machinery until 1999, when it was banned, but it is still present in different forms in many types of building in the UK and Ireland.

People who breathe in asbestos dust may be at risk of developing serious and often fatal diseases later in their lives – and often many decades pass before a diagnosis is made. These include mesothelioma (a cancer of the lining of the lungs), lung cancer, pleural plaques, diffuse pleural thickening and asbestosis.

## Who is at risk?

Unite members are at risk of asbestos exposure across all sectors of employment. At highest risk of developing asbestos disease are those who worked in manufacturing, engineering and construction from the 1950s to 1970s when employers negligently failed to protect against the known dangers of asbestos.

However, members employed in today's public and private sector workplaces, whether in factories, offices or schools, are at risk of exposure from asbestos which remains present in many buildings constructed or renovated before the 1990s. The risk of exposure is increased where asbestos material is damaged or in poor condition and when building work is not properly controlled.

## The Unite Asbestos Register

Unite, with the assistance of Thompsons Solicitors, maintains a register for all members who believe they have been exposed to asbestos at work. This database already contains over 11,000 Unite members' details.

It has a facility to run reports to identify members who were employed by the same company, or at the same site. The database allows Unite and panel law firms to trace witnesses who may be able to support legal claims for other members who have developed an asbestos related disease.

The Unite Asbestos Register is a valuable membership resource open to all members who wish to record information about their exposure so that it is held on a structured database. You can agree to join the register by completing the attached questionnaire or by visiting the Unite legal website ([www.unitelegalservices.org](http://www.unitelegalservices.org)).

If you have already provided details of your asbestos exposure to the Unite register or any predecessor union of Unite you do not need to complete the form again. Being included on the register does not mean that your legal case has been activated. You should call **0800 709007** for free, specialist legal advice.

### Data Protection

The information that each member provides will be stored on a database and may be shared with others, including law firms instructed by Unite. The use of this data will be solely for the purposes of investigating personal injury claims on behalf of trade union members who may have been exposed to asbestos in the same or similar workplaces.





# UNITE ASBESTOS EXPOSURE QUESTIONNAIRE



Please complete this form and return it to your Regional Office marked F.A.O. Regional Legal and Affiliated Services Co-ordinator.

1. Surname: .....

2. Forename(s): .....

3. Home address: .....

.....

.....

4. Home telephone number: .....

5. Please give your Unite membership number: / / /

6. Are you a current member of Unite? Please tick Yes  No

7. Have you been exposed to asbestos? Please tick Yes  No

8. Please give details of where and when you were exposed to asbestos.

Name & Address of Employer and Address of site/location where exposure occurred	Dates of Employment From - To	Brief description of how you were exposed to asbestos

Please provide any additional information on a separate sheet of paper and attach to the questionnaire





9. Have you ever been told that you may be suffering from any asbestos related disease? Please tick Yes  No

10. If yes, have you been told which of the following you are suffering from? Please tick

Mesothelioma  Pleural Plaques   
Pleural Thickening  Asbestosis  Lung Cancer

11. When were you diagnosed?.....

12. Have you ever applied to the DWP for benefit for asbestos related disease?

Please tick Yes  No

13. If yes, when did you claim?.....

14. Have you ever previously obtained legal advice in connection with your asbestos exposure?

Please tick Yes  No

If yes, please give the name and address of the solicitors.....  
.....

I confirm the content of this statement is true

I consent to this information being used by the union and its lawyers for the purpose of assisting personal injury claims.

Signed ..... Dated .....

