

ACMs in Welsh Housing Stock.

Louis James (2415463)

Research project design (ACBA5024)



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Research question:

How can asbestos containing materials be identified, assessed, and documented to demonstrate regulatory compliance during housing refurbishment projects in Wales?

Aim of Research:

To produce an evidence-based report of practical asbestos management procedures that comply with relevant legislation and ACOP guidance's.

Why it matters:

- Majority of Welsh housing stock was constructed pre-2000.
- Disturbances during refurbishment activities may result in the release of asbestos fibres.
- Increased exposure to asbestos fibres can result in long term fatal diseases such as asbestosis.
- Failure to adequately identify ACMs can result in legal action, delays and unsafe working conditions.
- Limited Wales specific research exists.

Proposed Methodology:

A mixed methods research approach is to be used to collect the following data:

Qualitative:

1. Literature Review of CAR 2012, L143, HSG264, HSG247 and CDM 2015.
2. 10 to 20 semi-structured interviews with a variety of construction professionals involved in refurbishment projects across Wales.

Quantitative:

1. Questionnaire surveys primarily consisting of close ended questions on asbestos awareness and related training.
2. Analysis of HSE statistics and Welsh housing data.

The data collected will be analysed using thematic analysis and review of current statistics.

Expected Outcomes:

- Highlight the importance of accurate adequate asbestos surveys prior to refurbishment works.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of surveyors and UKAS accredited laboratories.
- Identify weaknesses in current practises such as inadequate documentation and incompetent surveyors.
- Produce a clear understanding of current legislations and ACOP guidance's to ensure compliance.
- Demonstrate the importance of clear communication between involved parties.

Project Timeline:



Key References: Piddington, J. et al (2020), Crucial Environmental (2025), UK Government (2012, 2015), Health and Safety Executive (2006, 2012, 2013), Oxford Brookes University (n.d.)