

# AGGA SAFETY ALERT

## Hacking out and removing steel/aluminium putty

AGGA has been made aware of a potential risk to its members.

One of our members recently had a sample of old steel/aluminium putty analysed and asbestos was detected in the putty.

In line with the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011*, this alert refers to the possibility of asbestos fibres being present in putty used on steel/aluminium framed windows sealed with steel frame putty that was originally installed prior to 2004. We suggest the following

- Any glazier dispatched to replace glass sealed with steel framed putty in a building/home believed to be pre-2004 should check the age of the property with the owner/tenant and enquire if an asbestos management plan and/or register is in existence.
- If no asbestos register is available you should presume that the putty contains asbestos.
- A sample of the putty should be tested by a National Association Testing Authority (NATA) approved laboratory to identify if the putty contains asbestos.
- If the putty is suspected or identified as containing asbestos, work should not proceed until a trained person has removed it.

### Recommended Actions

We advise members that no replacement of steel/aluminium putty identified as containing asbestos should be carried out until:

- Members have implemented a safe work method in conjunction with a qualified asbestos removal contractor to ensure any potential risk to member's employees has been eliminated and safe work methods are in place.

Nigel Carpenter  
Executive Director

3 May 2012