The Danish Working Environment Authority

The WEA is a government authority in Denmark, one of the functions of which is supervision of building and construction sites.

On Danish building sites, the provisions of Danish working environment legislation and associated guidelines apply.

Inspection Centre staff includes specialists with knowledge of particular industries. Among these are inspectors specialising in the area of building and construction.

If you would like to find out more about the Danish legal provisions relating to building sites, you can find the information at www.at.dk/byg.

Read also about PCB in the working environment (in Danish) at www.at.dk/pcb and at www.pcbguiden.dk.

See also the guidelines from BAR (in Danish) on managing and removing building materials containing PCB at www.bar-ba.dk/pcb.aspx.

If you ring the Danish Working Environment Authority, you can speak Danish or English.

Reaction

When visiting/inspecting your site, WEA inspectors will check whether your work is being performed in accordance with the Danish rules.

If they find anything that does not meet the requirements in the Danish rules, they have the following options:

Guidance: Giving advice and guidance on how your work can be performed in accordance with the Danish rules.

Improvement Notice: Issuing an Improvement Notice requiring the matter to be put right within a specified time limit.

Prohibition Notice: Ordering work to be stopped, in cases where there is an imminent substantial risk to your own or others’ life and health.

Report to the Police: Making a report to the Police with a view to prosecuting you for gross recklessness in the performance of the work.

See also folders on:
- Working on roofs
- Working on ladders
- Working in excavations
- Working on scaffolding
- Working with asbestos
- Personal protective equipment
- Signals for working with cranes
- Demolition

Arbejdstilsynet
Telefon: 70 12 12 88
E-mail: at@at.dk
Hjemmeside: www.at.dk
Safety when working with building components which contain PCB

There can be PCB in buildings erected from the 1950s up to 1977, as well as older buildings which were renovated in the same period, e.g. replacement windows.

Before you start replacing or demolishing building components, make sure that they do not contain PCB. If you are in doubt, have someone investigate the PCB content.

PCB is especially common in sealants and glue for double-glazed windows and in rubber-like fillers. Rubber fillers are usually applied around windows and doors as well as in joints between various building components, e.g. between concrete elements and in wet rooms.

PCB can also occur in facade paint, floor paint and on galleries and slip-resistant floors.

Work to replace or demolish building components containing PCB as well as waste, storage and removal should be performed such that workers are not exposed to harmful impacts and so that PCB does not spread to others.

Remember good personal hygiene, e.g. wash your hands and face and shower before going home. Do not take overalls into the site hut.

Disposal of waste containing PCB should be in accordance with environmental legislation. Contact the local municipality.

As an employer, you should draw up a written work plan and ensure that your employees have been trained so that they are not exposed to PCB impacts, e.g:

- When replacing windows where the old filler contains PCB.
- When removing rubber-like filler containing PCB, e.g. between concrete elements.
- When working on building components containing PCB, including when the PCB stems from adjacent buildings.
- When removing paint containing PCB.
- When handling double glazing containing PCB.

Replacing windows
Covers and collection of dust and waste. Use of respiratory protective equipment, protective overalls and gloves.

It may be necessary to screen off the workplace.

Dusty removal of doorframes etc.
Use respiratory protective equipment, protective overalls and gloves.

Screen off the workplace, possibly with mechanical ventilation and pressure difference.

Remember:
Thorough final clean-up. Thorough ventilation for indoor work.

Contact the municipality regarding disposal of waste containing PCB.

Container with secure lid
Labelling in accordance with rules from the Ministry of the Environment.