



## ALERT

March 2012

The following Alert from O'Brien Glass raises the possibility of exposure to asbestos fibres when removing putty from pre 2004 metal windows etc. This Alert does not apply to timber windows.

### Removing glass from frames previously sealed with asbestos containing material

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012

The O'Brien OHS team have been made aware of the possibility that there may be a potential risk of possible exposure to its Home & Business team members. This alert refers to the possibility of asbestos fibres being present in putty used on steel/aluminium framed windows sealed with steel frame putty. While we investigate this matter we require you through your risk assessment process (take 5) to follow the below instructions as they are effective immediately.

Any Glazier dispatched to replace glass sealed with steel framed putty in a building/home believed to be pre-2004 **MUST** 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, work must NOT be completed until a sample is taken by a National Association Testing Authority (NATA) approved lab to identify the potential risk of exposure to asbestos containing materials.

Under no circumstance should high-speed abrasive power tools be used, such as angle grinders, sanders or drills.

### **Who is to be notified?**

**All Home & Business Glaziers to be notified and this safety alert distributed and posted on branch noticeboard**

Until such time as O'Brien® has reviewed the process of "hacking out" steel frame putty from steel/aluminium frames, and is satisfied that any potential harm to its team members has been minimised and appropriate control measures are in place, the above process **MUST** be followed to ensure all O'Brien team members are exclude from potential risk as far as reasonably practicable.

Any enquiries please contact Andrew Ramsay, Workplace Health & Safety Manager,  
CFMEU Construction & General, QLD/NT Branch on 07 3231 4600.