MINIMUM STANDARD

Asbestos Decontamination Units & Hygiene

SHEMS-MST-DPS-0035

The following Minimum Standard is applicable on all projects

General Unitas requirements applicable to this standard
Where asbestos removal works are carried out, that work will require the provision of associated, dedicated welfare and hygiene arrangements The details of the arrangements, including the de-contamination Unit(s) (DCU), along with a sketch of their layout, main features and associated transit routes must be included in the Plan of Work submitted with the notification of work to the HSE by the licensed asbestos contractor.

Enclosure Hygiene & Airlocks
No access shall be allowed (except during the initial construction of the enclosure), except through the DCU.

Access to and from the enclosure shall only be allowed through the airlock. Access between the DCU and the Airlock/Enclosure is only allowed by the defined transit route and whilst wearing appropriate PPE i.e. transit overalls (and, when leaving the enclosure, full respiratory protective equipment (RPE)).

No drinks or food are allowed to be taken from the DCU.

Toilet breaks must only be undertaken following the full de-contamination process, through the DCU.

When leaving the enclosure the following process shall be followed:

- An H Type vacuum must be within the enclosure to begin the initial decontamination of operatives and bagged waste
- A bucket containing water and a sponge must be located in the first stage of the airlock to allow operatives to undertake the second stage of decontamination
- The second stage of the airlock is for removing contaminated clothing inclusive of overalls and boots. RPE **MUST** not be removed until the operative has entered the decontamination unit
- The third stage of the airlock is for operatives to change into their transit overalls in situations where the decontamination unit is not directly connected to the airlock

Decontamination Unit
Decontamination units (DCUs) are used to enable asbestos removal operatives to fully decontaminate before leaving site.

The air extraction system HEPA Filter must be DOP (use full name) tested every 6 months

The Dirty end door should be nearest to the asbestos enclosure

Doors must display clear signage identifying Clean and Dirty ends & forbidding entry

Wherever possible the decontamination unit (DCU) should be directly attached to the airlock of the enclosure. When the DCU is attached directly to the enclosure, all operatives will enter the enclosure through the clean door of the DCU.

If this is not possible, the position of the DCU must be considered in relation to the proximity to the enclosure and a clearly defined transit route which minimises the potential for contamination or interface with others defined.

To reduce the risk the shortest route must be taken between the enclosure and the unit, with this route clearly designated with prominent warning signage displayed **– WASTE/TRANSIT ROUTE**. The "Dirty" end of the DCU is the end entered from the enclosure, prior to de-contamination.

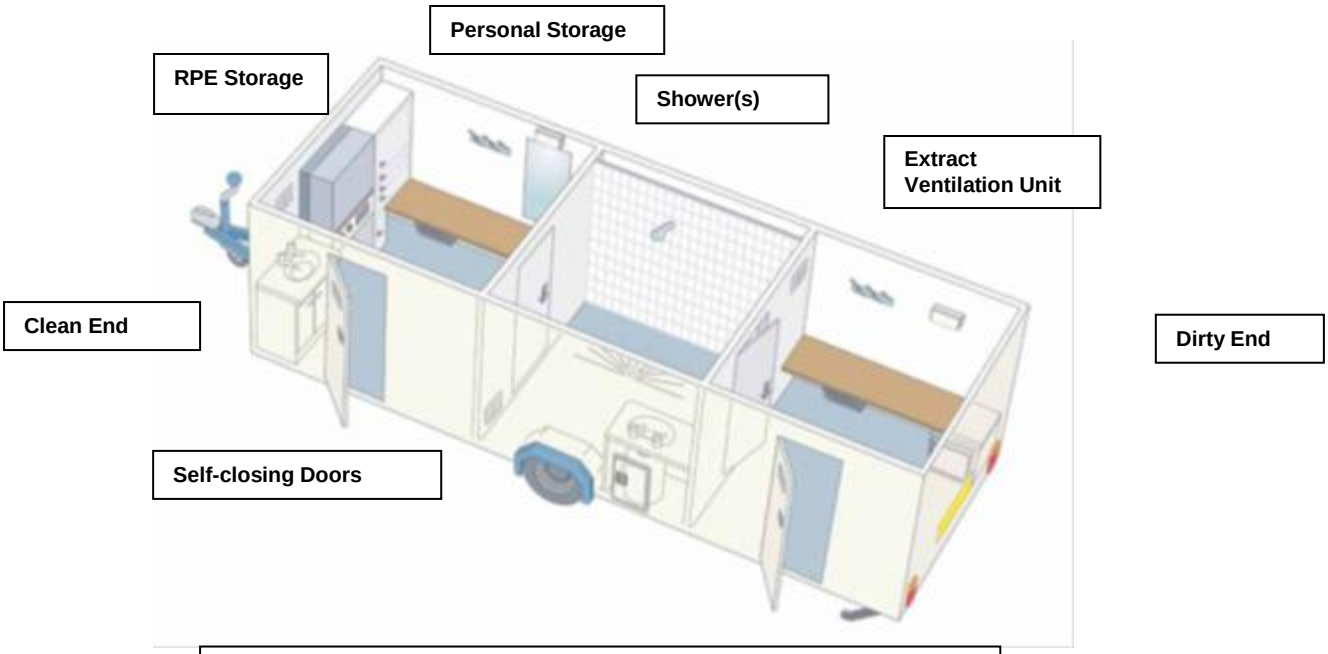
A DCU should be the first asbestos related piece of equipment to arrive on site and the last to leave

Upon arrival the removal contractor must provide Unitas management with a clearance certificate for the unit issued at its previous workplace .The unit must not be used until this certificate has been provided to Unitas

Providing it contains no other contaminants, filtered waters from the decontamination unit may be discharged to a foul sewer providing the necessary consents are in place from the sewerage provider i.e. trade effluent discharge

Asbestos waste must never be taken through the DCU

Unitas employees (or those not part of the licenced removal team) MUST NOT enter enclosures or de-contamination units post the smoke test. The only exception to this is when employees are using the enclosures and decontamination units as part of work for which they have been specifically trained and authorised under a Unitas Asbestos Removal Licence.



Cut-away section of typical Decontamination Unit

Planning

The DCU will require a secured electrical supply to enable it to run continuously throughout the working day, and security to prevent interference or unauthorised access. It may require a water supply or have its own potable supply for washing. It will normally have its own waste water collection system.

Documents
Asbestos Plan of Work Checklist (Licensed Work) SHEMS-FOR-GR-021
Asbestos Work Monitoring Form (Licensed Work) SHEMS-FOR-GR-024

Further Guidance/Reference:

Asbestos Enclosures, Transit and Waste Routes Minimum Standard SHEMS-MST-CIS-036.
Asbestos Management Standard SHEMS-STD-GR-041

ASBESTOS DECONTAMINATION & HYGIENE CHECKLIST

Project Name:

Project No: **Date:**

Name of person undertaking check or safety monitoring:

	Check	Complete	
1	Is the Hygiene Unit connected to the enclosure or have transit routes been clearly marked?	✓	x
2	Are warning signs clearly fitted to clean and dirty doors of the DCU?	✓	x
3	Has the unit been supplied with a DOP certificate for the extract?	✓	x
4	Does the DCU have current Electrical & Gas Safety Certificates?	✓	x
5	Is there a CO detector in the clean end (active but not sounding)	✓	x
6	Has the DCU been supplied with a clearance certificate from its previous use?	✓	x
7	Is the Unit properly earthed (earth rod or connection)	✓	x
8	Is hot water working and a sufficient supply of water to the DCU?	✓	x
9	Is there a secured electrical supply (with RCD protection)?	✓	x
10	Are there lockers and a mirror in the clean end of the DCU?	✓	x
11	Are emergency Evacuation arrangements posted in the Clean end of the DCU?	✓	x
12	Are there sufficient sets of overalls and RPE in the clean end for emergency evacuation?	✓	x
13	Have soap, nailbrushes and dry towels been provided?	✓	x
14	Are both doors lockable?	✓	x
15	Are doors self-closing?	✓	x
16	Is waste water from the DCU filtered?	✓	x
17	Are daily cleanliness inspections records of the DCU available?	✓	x
18	Are transit routes, airlock and area around enclosure clear of eating or drinking materials or vessels and smoking requisites, and no evidence of asbestos debris?	✓	x
19	Is an H-Type vacuum cleaner located and operable within the enclosure (inspect through vision panel)?	✓	x
20	Is water and sponge (optionally spray) available in the airlock section adjacent to the enclosure?	✓	x
21	Are transit overalls in use and full RPE worn during transit?	✓	x

Signature …….

Date …….