

Integrated Engineering & Asbestos Removal

Client	Enquest
Project	Removal of office cabins from Thistle platform
Location	North Sea
Size of contract	Significant Contract
Duration	7 months
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign delivered on time to budget in difficult weather conditions. • Coordination between trades ensured multiskilled access, asbestos removal and engineering technicians ensured smooth delivery • Asbestos removed in a safe and professional manner

DESCRIPTION

The project consisted of the removal of six office cabins which comprised of three stories of paired prefabricated cabins clad with Asbestos Durasteel panels on the outside and A.I.B on the inside. These cabins were situated directly below the occupied main accommodation blocks and sat directly on the roof of Mod 13. The structural steelwork supporting the cabins was severely corroded causing some of the floor beams to fail and the walls to sag. Asbestos sampling also revealed that the contents of the cabins and void spaces in-between contained Asbestos. The area had been quarantined due to safety concerns.

OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT

- Altrad Rope Access Technicians to remove steel walkways, stairs, and services connected to the cabins to allow access for scaffold erection.
- Asbestos trained scaffolders to erect a full weather protection scaffold enclosure around the whole structure with extended lay down area for decontamination units and asbestos waste skip.
- Construct asbestos enclosure within the enclosed scaffold area complete with modular shower unit, 3 stage air lock, bag-lock, viewing panels, warning signage and barriers.
- Install negative pressure units and vacuum cleaners within the work area.
- Visually inspect the enclosure before carrying out a smoke test, witnessed by an independent representative, to confirm its integrity.
- Following the safe removal of the Asbestos and industrial clean of the work area, independent asbestos analyst to carry out a final inspection of the area before air testing and issuing the 4 Stage Certificate of Reoccupation.
- Altrad Rope Access Technicians then return to cut and remove remaining steelwork not connected with the main accommodation block above and scaffold dismantled.
- After which the site, along with all documentation, is handed over to the client.

CHALLENGES

Demanding programme of works due to the fixed lump sum price, POB issues and pre-arranged engineering works scheduled straight after completion of the decommissioning. Contract commencement was originally planned for the summer months but due to various delays, contract was not started until September although still expected to last approximately 6-7 months. This meant that works carried out during the extreme winter weather conditions in the waters off the Shetland Isles. Managing the safety issues regarding accessibility and working at height during asbestos removal, industrial cleaning of the area and the structural integrity of the heavily corroded steelwork. Compatibility issues regarding the asbestos recovery equipment and them platform power supply.

Key achievements

- Despite difficult work scope and time constraints the work was successfully completed on time and within budget. A gain share bonus was also paid to all the employees involved in the project by Altrad and this value was matched by the client as a reward.
- Provision of additional labour resource at short notice.
- Programming of the work and co-ordination between personnel and trades ensured to smooth progression of the removal works.
- Low asbestos fibre readings during personal air monitoring confirmed good asbestos removal techniques and that the operatives were adequately protected during the work.
- The project was completed in a controlled and professional manner without any safety or environmental incidents.
- The use of dedicated, in-house, asbestos trained scaffolders.



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