

## Asbestos in fire rated boards used in the manufacture of certain fire doors

### Purpose

This safety alert provides information about asbestos containing fire rated boards (FRBs) manufactured by Hebei Leadership Friends Engineering & Technology Co., Ltd (HLFET) in China, and supplied to importers in Australia and New Zealand. The FRBs were used to manufacture fire doors.

### Background

The Australian Border Force (ABF) detected chrysotile asbestos within FRBs branded 'Pyropanel' imported by Assa Abloy Australia from China. FRBs from HLFET have been imported into Australia between 2021 and May 2025, and on-supplied to New Zealand up to August 2025. The FRBs were on-supplied to Australian and New Zealand customers for the construction of fire doors. Some fire doors constructed in Australia with the same FRBs were also exported to New Zealand.

Assa Abloy commercial customers in Australia and New Zealand have been informed. Follow-up action has been undertaken by relevant Workplace Health & Safety (WHS) and other Regulators. Commercial customers of Assa Abloy who believe they may have received an affected FRB delivery are advised to contact their relevant Assa Abloy sales representative in Australia, or Pacific Doors representative in New Zealand.

FRBs manufactured by HLFET during the above period that were not used to construct fire doors must be disposed of as asbestos waste. It is known that fire doors constructed with the affected FRBs were subsequently installed or partially installed in various buildings in Australia and New Zealand. Disposal is to occur once appropriate replacement fire doors are made available so as not to affect fire integrity of installation. Identified affected fire doors already installed must be recorded in an asbestos register for future removal and their structural integrity monitored.

**Doors constructed with FRBs supplied by HLFET between 2021 and mid-2025 are prohibited from installation due to the risk of potential asbestos contamination.**

A fire door manufacturer in New Zealand has issued a [voluntary recall](#) of affected fire doors. The details are available on the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment [Product Safety website](#).

WorkSafe New Zealand has an [asbestos advice pack](#) published on their website with information on managing asbestos-contaminated fire doors and health advice for New Zealand businesses.

### Product description

The FRBs are a composite cement-type board, intended to be manufactured with raw material ingredients: man-made silicon fibres, starch, expanded perlite, glass fibre and quartz. They may be easily dented or damaged when unprotected. They have no obvious distinguishable marks or numbers. Affected fire doors constructed with the FRBs as the core material have no discernible markings to distinguish the contaminated FRBs from other fire doors constructed with a different or similar looking material. The affected fire doors will usually be constructed with FRBs as an internal core structure, which sometimes may be exposed at the base and/or top of the door structure.

**Note:** there are 2 Pyropanel products supplied by Assa Abloy. FRBs and FR Boards.

- The FR Board product is not affected by this matter and has not been found to contain asbestos.

Affected FRBs were supplied in a range of sizes (mm):

| Length | Width | Depth | Length | Width | Depth | Length | Width | Depth |
|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| 2250   | 1200  | 13.5  | 2200   | 980   | 15    | 2100   | 900   | 19    |
| 2250   | 1200  | 19    | 2200   | 1200  | 13.5  | 2100   | 1000  | 19    |
| 2250   | 1200  | 15    | 2200   | 1200  | 19    | 2100   | 1200  | 19    |
| 2300   | 1250  | 15    | 2200   | 1000  | 15    |        |       |       |
| 2400   | 1000  | 19    | 2200   | 940   | 19    |        |       |       |
| 2400   | 1200  | 19    | 2200   | 940   | 15    |        |       |       |



**Figure 1:** End view of FRBs with composite construction visible. Plyboard used for transport.

*Image courtesy Identifibre Pty Ltd*



**Figure 2:** Pallets of plastic wrapped FRBs



**Figure 3:** Two FRBs on pallet



**Figure 4:** Partially completed fire doors with the FRBs sealed within.

## Asbestos in imported products

While asbestos has been prohibited in Australia since December 2003 and in New Zealand since October 2016, some countries still allow use in manufacturing. Certification of asbestos-free goods from some overseas manufacturers might not meet Australian and New Zealand requirements. The importation, manufacture, supply, sale and use or reuse of asbestos and asbestos-containing products is not permitted, except under very limited circumstances. Some supplier countries may classify goods with low levels of asbestos as 'asbestos-free'. In Australia and New Zealand, any level of asbestos is prohibited for import or use.

### Australia

- Importers must ensure they do not import asbestos into Australia. They should be aware of the varying definitions and standards applied in the country of origin and/or supply. Australian regulations apply at the border.
- When a risk is identified at the border, the Australian Border Force (ABF) will require assurance in the form of documentary evidence that the goods do not contain asbestos. A test report from a NATA accredited laboratory (or equivalent international laboratory) showing no detectable asbestos is the best form of assurance. If adequate assurance is not provided, importers will face delays and be responsible for costs incurred when the goods are held at the border for the purpose of sampling and testing. More information is on the [ABF website](#).

### New Zealand

- Importers must ensure they do not import asbestos containing products into New Zealand without a valid permit.
- The New Zealand Customs Service (NZ Customs) enforces the *Imports and Exports (Asbestos-containing Products) Prohibition Order 2016* at the border.
- The role of NZ Customs is to ensure that asbestos containing products (when declared) are covered by a permit to import or export issued by the Environmental Protection Authority. If asbestos containing products are imported into New Zealand without a permit or without a permit being granted subsequently, these products are forfeit and can be seized, at any time after their forfeiture, by Customs under section 178 of the Customs and Excise Act 2018.

### Risk control

If you have concern that the fire door installed at your site may contain a HLFET supplied FRB imported into Australia/New Zealand between 2021 and mid-2025, please contact the installer or manufacturer of the fire door.

The risk from installed fire doors with the fully enclosed FRBs within, in everyday use, is very low to negligible provided they are intact, and the FRB is not exposed. During normal and proper use, there should be no discharge of asbestos. Risk increases where work must be undertaken on the fire door that will disturb the FRB within, such as replacing hardware. Work must not compromise the designed fire integrity of the door.

Where work is required on installed doors the person with management or control over these fire doors should contact the Australian or New Zealand manufacturer or supplier for clarification and/or seek the guidance of an asbestos professional.

## Action Required

Fire doors potentially constructed with the identified asbestos containing FRBs and installed at a business or workplace between 2021 and mid-2025 are at risk. Persons conducting a business or undertaking/duty-holders must comply with specific Workplace Health & Safety duties under asbestos related regulations within Australia and New Zealand. This may vary from removal of that fire door to ongoing management (including capturing it in an Asbestos Register and labelling it). Contact the relevant WHS regulator in your jurisdiction listed below to better understand your regulatory duties.

In New Zealand, FRB and uninstalled doors with FRBs must be removed by a licensed asbestos removalist and disposed of in line with New Zealand regulations. Further information is available in the [asbestos advice pack](#) published on the WorkSafe NZ website.

## Where do I get advice?

Persons that believe they have been exposed to asbestos fibres should:

- a. Seek advice from a registered medical practitioner, and
- b. In Australia, refer to the [National Asbestos Exposure Register](#) on the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency website.

If unsure what to do, contact the relevant WHS regulator in your jurisdiction:

| Jurisdiction | Regulator                       | Contact Details  | Website                                                                              |
|--------------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACT          | WorkSafe ACT                    | 13 22 81         | <a href="http://www.worksafe.act.gov.au">www.worksafe.act.gov.au</a>                 |
| Cth          | Comcare                         | 1300 366 979     | <a href="http://www.comcare.gov.au/">www.comcare.gov.au/</a>                         |
| NSW          | SafeWork NSW                    | 13 10 50         | <a href="http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au">www.safework.nsw.gov.au</a>                 |
| NSW          | NSW Gov Asbestos page           | 13 10 50         | <a href="http://www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au">www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au</a>                 |
| Qld          | Workplace Health and Safety Qld | 1300 362 128     | <a href="http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au">www.worksafe.qld.gov.au</a>                 |
| Qld          | Qld Gov Asbestos page           | 13 74 68         | <a href="http://www.asbestos.qld.gov.au">www.asbestos.qld.gov.au</a>                 |
| NT           | NT WorkSafe                     | 1800 019 115     | <a href="http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au">www.worksafe.nt.gov.au</a>                   |
| NT           | NT Gov Asbestos page            | 1800 019 115     | <a href="http://www.asbestos.nt.gov.au">www.asbestos.nt.gov.au</a>                   |
| NZ           | WorkSafe NZ                     | +64 0800 030 040 | <a href="http://www.worksafe.govt.nz">www.worksafe.govt.nz</a>                       |
| SA           | SafeWork SA                     | 1300 365 255     | <a href="http://www.safework.sa.gov.au">www.safework.sa.gov.au</a>                   |
| SA           | SA Gov Asbestos page            | 1300 365 255     | <a href="http://www.asbestos.sa.gov.au">www.asbestos.sa.gov.au</a>                   |
| TAS          | WorkSafe TAS                    | 1300 366 322     | <a href="http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au">www.worksafe.tas.gov.au</a>                 |
| Vic          | WorkSafe VIC                    | 1800 136 089     | <a href="http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au">www.worksafe.vic.gov.au</a>                 |
| Vic          | Vic Gov Asbestos page           | 1800 136 089     | <a href="http://www.asbestos.vic.gov.au">www.asbestos.vic.gov.au</a>                 |
| WA           | WorkSafe WA                     | 1300 307 877     | <a href="http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/WorkSafe">www.commerce.wa.gov.au/WorkSafe</a> |

This Alert has been developed by the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group (IMAWG), whose membership comprises representatives from: SafeWork NSW, SafeWork SA, NT WorkSafe, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, WorkSafe ACT, WorkSafe Tasmania, WorkSafe Victoria, WorkSafe WA, WorkSafe New Zealand, Australian Border Force, Australian Competition & Consumer Commission, Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency and observers: Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Comcare and Safe Work Australia.