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NOT FOR PUBLICATION
DRAFT LEAFLET

# PCBs AND YOU

Do **YOU** dismantle or replace old electrical equipment, including switchgear, transformers and capacitors?

This equipment may contain chemicals called PCBs which can harm **YOUR** health.

Do **YOU** know how to work safely with PCBs?

Is **YOUR** health at risk? —— Stupid question!

Make sure **YOU** know what to do before **YOU** start work.

POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs) could damage your health and seriously harm the environment. Because PCBs can cause such severe damage to the environment their use in new plant and equipment was banned by an international agreement in 1986. Existing equipment containing PCBs must be registered with a licensed disposal company by 1995, and the PCBs destroyed by 1999.

## What are PCBs?

They were introduced to overcome the risk of fire with previously-used materials at a time when there was less awareness of the health and environmental effects of chemical

PCBs are a family of chemicals which are good insulators for both heat and electricity. They are chemically stable and of low volatility. You may find them referred to as ASKARELS or under a trade name. Examples of trade names of PCBs are at the end of this leaflet.

## Where will I find PCBs ?

PCBs were used as dielectric filler fluids in some types of electrical equipment such as transformers, switchgear, capacitors and in the starter units of fluorescent lights and fractional horse power motors. Some equipment is labelled as containing PCBs but if you come across old equipment with no identifying label you should check with:

1) your employer;
2) the manufacturer or owner of the equipment; or
3) the Federation of British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers Association (BEAMA). You can contact BEAMA at 8 Leicester Street, London WC2 7BN.

Phone or & FAX number



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