

HSE Review of Lead Exposure Limits Could Reshape Building Compliance Requirements

3 hours ago



A major review of workplace lead exposure limits by the Health and Safety Executive could significantly change how organisations manage hazardous materials across the UK's built environment, according to [Lucion Group](#).

The HSE has launched a consultation on proposed updates to the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002, marking the first substantial review of blood lead exposure thresholds in more than 20 years.

Lucion said the proposed changes are likely to have major implications for organisations responsible for older buildings, particularly those constructed before 1992 when lead paint was banned in the UK.

With an estimated 82% of UK homes built before the ban, the scale of potential legacy risk remains substantial. Lead paint continues to be regularly identified in older buildings, especially where historic coatings have remained undisturbed for decades.

As refurbishment, retrofit and demolition activity accelerates across the UK's ageing property stock, the risk of disturbing lead based materials is increasing, bringing renewed attention to compliance and risk management practices.

Lead emerging as growing compliance concern

While asbestos management is now well embedded across the construction and estates sectors, Lucion said lead risks have historically received less attention despite their widespread presence.

The company believes lead is beginning to follow a similar trajectory to asbestos, moving from an overlooked hazard to a growing regulatory and operational priority.

The HSE consultation is seeking industry feedback on revised exposure limits, updated monitoring requirements and changes to guidance designed to reflect current scientific understanding of lead exposure risks.

Adam Norgrove, Specialist Hazardous Materials Testing and Inspection Account Manager at Lucion Services, said organisations are increasingly taking a more proactive approach.

“The HSE’s consultation on updating CLAW regulations represents an important step forward in protecting workers and building occupants from lead exposure,” he said.

“At Lucion, we’ve seen a significant increase in clients taking a proactive approach to identifying lead hazards, particularly as part of wider hazardous materials strategies.”

Norgrove said earlier identification of risks can help organisations reduce disruption and improve compliance management during construction and refurbishment projects.

“Identifying potential risks earlier in the project lifecycle can help organisations manage compliance more effectively and reduce the likelihood of disruption during works,” he said.

“These proposed regulatory updates will likely raise awareness further, and we’d encourage all companies with pre 1992 buildings to review their current approach to lead management.”

Integrated hazardous materials strategies increasing

According to Lucion, more organisations are now combining lead and asbestos assessments within broader hazardous materials management programmes to improve visibility and reduce operational disruption.

The company said this integrated approach is becoming increasingly important as regulations evolve and awareness of hidden risks within existing buildings grows.

The HSE consultation remains open until 24 May 2026, giving organisations an opportunity to review current processes and prepare for potential future regulatory changes.