

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Asbestos and Kgalagadi Relief Trusts are restructuring their operations

Over the past 4 to 6 years the Asbestos Relief Trust and the Kgalagadi Relief Trust have, combined, received approximately 17,000 enquiries and have, combined, approved/paid compensation totalling some R293million in some 4624 qualifying claims.

Because the Trusts have been so successful in tracing, examining and compensating such large numbers they are now experiencing a sharp decline in the number of new enquiries/claims. This has made it necessary to make changes to the operations model. In order to reduce costs and to maintain a similar high level of service the Trustees have, as communicated at the 2010 Annual General Meeting, taken a decision to move towards a more passive and less costly claims recruitment model and to create a one stop comprehensive service for all potential claimants/claimants which is focused around accredited doctors.

The new claims process:

In the new process:

- Potential claims will be registered with a Trust accredited doctor;
- The accredited doctor will assist the potential claimant to confirm qualifying exposure and obtain a medical letter;
- The necessary medical examinations will take place as per usual;
- Claimants who have been found to have a compensable asbestos related disease will complete the necessary claim forms with the assistance of the accredited doctor;
- The accredited doctor will thereafter submit the forms to the Trusts who will, provided all the required information has been provided in the correct format, process the claim for payment.

Implementation of the new claims process

The Trusts will phase in this new model from 1 January 2011 and aim to be fully operational by March 2011.

All new enquiries/claims received after 1 January 2011 will follow the new process. This will include un-serviced medical letters.

All accredited doctors have been informed about the new process and will work to make it successful. This continues to be a free process for all potential claimants/claimants.

The services of claims handlers will no longer be used

The new claims process does not require claims handlers and as a result the Trusts have terminated their agreements with all claims handlers effective from 1 January 2011.

New potential claimants should from 1 January 2011 either contact the Trusts or an accredited doctor for assistance. They therefore do not need to go to a former claims handler for assistance. A list of accredited doctors in your area is available on request from the Trusts on 011 482 1000 or 021 671 3084 or artinfo@asbestostrust.co.za.

Finalising outstanding cases

In August 2010 the Trusts intensified their efforts with a programme directed at claims handlers to clear all long outstanding cases where the potential claimant had been diagnosed with a compensable asbestos related disease prior to 31 July 2010. Approximately 42% of these cases have been resolved. The remainder of the cases cannot be resolved unless and until outstanding information/claim documentation is received. The Trusts continue to work with claims handlers to resolve these outstanding cases as quickly as possible. We would though like to urge all potential claimants who have been diagnosed with a compensable asbestos related disease and whose cases have not yet been finalised to come forward to resolve their cases.

Questions/Information

If you have any questions or need more information regarding the new claims process, how it will affect you, or if you have an outstanding case and would like to finalise it, please contact the Trusts on 011 482 1000 or 021 671 3084 or artinfo@asbestostrust.co.za.