

## **Timeline for Transition of Accreditation to HSG 248 Asbestos: The Analysts' Guide**

### **Timeline**

Following the first publication of HSG248 in May, Laboratories have had around a 2-month window to-date, to absorb and begin to consolidate the changes in their technical activities within their supporting management system.

Following input from various technical sources and implementation of the process, whereby a number of laboratories have trialled the proposed mechanism, UKAS has been able to verify the effectiveness of the approach.

As of the 1st September, (and not before) Laboratories will be able to submit their declarations to UKAS, with supporting evidence. It is acknowledged that due to the varying scopes retained by laboratories, the time needed to complete this process will affect some laboratories more than others. Therefore, a second scheduled 'window' of 3 months will, in effect, provide up to 6 months for a laboratory (say, with a complex scope and multi-site) to conduct a full gap analysis, implement the required changes, as well as submit suitable evidence of implementing those change(s) where applicable.

Declarations will not be accepted before the 31st August. This is to encourage a timely process of implementation within laboratories, primarily to develop their gap analysis.

Likewise, to ensure the process remains effective, UKAS will only guarantee appropriate review and feedback to those laboratories who submit their initial declaration and evidence before the 1st December. Where customers do not submit their initial Declaration<sup>+</sup> (Doc D) by this time, UKAS cannot guarantee that their testing accreditation will be recognised by the 1st February 2022.

Whilst follow-up submissions of the Declarations may be received by UKAS after 1st Dec, any customers with declaration reviews not completed by the 1st February may face sanctions, as ed1 of HSG 248 will no longer be recognised for accreditation purposes beyond this date. Therefore, it is in the interests of all laboratories to implement the requirements in a timely manner and submit their declarations as early as possible after the 1st September.

From the 1st December onwards UKAS will continue the process of review and feedback to laboratories.

As of 1st Feb: there will be formal recognition of HSG248 Second Edition.

**NOTE:** Formal recognition will be dependent on any associated invoices being cleared by the Laboratory.

**NOTE:** Evidence to be submitted is, 'where relevant'

### **New applicants/existing laboratories**

For new applicants or existing laboratories who subsequently apply for accreditation as an extension in any of the affected tests, they will be assessed to the revised Guidance. There is no perceived commercial advantage to applications of this nature during this period, compared to those labs going through the transition process, as the timeline for new applications and extensions to scope, are observed to be of a similar duration to that as being prescribed for the transition itself. Furthermore, new applicants may also not have the benefit of the required infrastructure and supporting processes that are currently demonstrated by existing accredited laboratories.

Action	Responsibility	Date Planned
Asbestos: The Analysts' Guide – Second Edition, as Published	HSE	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 – <a href="#">Amended July 2021</a>
Review of HSG 248 Second Edition	UKAS/Laboratory	Ongoing
Declaration <sup>+</sup> completion and submission with evidence (Round 1)  <b>NOTE: Declaration<sup>+</sup> (Doc D) <u>cannot</u> be submitted to UKAS before <b>31/08/2021</b></b>	Laboratory	1 <sup>st</sup> September to 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2021*
Scheduling of reviews  Declaration <sup>+</sup> + Evidence reviews + Feedback (Doc D)	UKAS	September 21 – January 22
Further evidence submission (Round 2) + Reviews**	Laboratory/UKAS	October 2021 – January 2022
Transition complete – Labs approved are recognised to HSG248 Second Edition	UKAS	1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2022
Preparation/Publication of Schedules***	UKAS (Assessment Managers/ Schedules)	Now to 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022

\* Where customers do not submit their initial Declaration<sup>+</sup> (Doc D) by 1<sup>st</sup> December, UKAS cannot guarantee that their schedule will be updated by the 1<sup>st</sup> February. Whilst follow-up submissions of the Declarations may be received before /after 1<sup>st</sup> Dec the review period, any customers with schedules not revised by the 1<sup>st</sup> February may face sanctions, as edition 1 of HSG 248 will no longer be recognised for accreditation purposes beyond this date

\*\* Where relevant

\*\*\* Publication of schedule on UKAS website will be dependent on any associated invoices being paid by the Laboratory