

**Summary of Minutes of the
UKAS Asbestos Technical Advisory Committee
9th Meeting held on 24 April 2008 at UKAS**

Meeting Attendees

Bill Sanderson (Chair)	(Bureau Veritas Training)
Rob Bettinson	(UKAS)
Wendy Smith (Secretary)	(UKAS)
Barry Tylee	(HSL)
Bruce Sutherland	(Noble Asbestos Consultancy Ltd)
Steve Sadley	(ARCA)
Kevin Walken	(HSE)
Rob Blackburn	(ATaC)
John Lyons	(BOHS)
Sue Burbeck	(Adams Environmental Ltd)
Colin Perryman	(Greenwich Analytical Services (Local government))
Paul Winstone	(RICS)

Apologies/Non Attendees

Bob Webster	(Independent technical assessor)
Peter Bodsworth	(Independent technical assessor)
Garry Burdett	(HSL)
Bob Daunton	(HSE)

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes from the last meeting were agreed by committee members

3. Matters Arising/Progress with Actions

140607/2.0 – completed

120804/4.2 – ongoing

011005/4.1 – completed (Publication due 01 May 2008).

140607/6.0 – completed

140607/7.0 – issue still ongoing (priority assessment accreditation / MDHS 100 revision) but action completed.

140607/8.0 – 4SC failure rate during assessment v failure rate outside of assessments: raise profile of the issues with laboratories (completed through Fibre Aspects), UKAS to discuss further with HSE and ATAC – ongoing. All committee members agree it is a concern and is an area requiring further action.

140607/10.0 – completed

140607/10.1 – completed

140607/11.0 – completed

4. Update from UKAS

- Since last meeting (June 2007) 16 companies have applied for accreditation (5 so far in 2008):
- In same period:
 - 12 asbestos companies were granted accreditation (8 during 2008)
 - 5 asbestos organisations were suspended
 - 4 asbestos organisations resigned
- First laboratory was granted accreditation for Fibre Discrimination (March 2008)
- Only 1 lab accredited for water absorption test to determine AC/AIB
- Currently in process of taking on a 3rd full time asbestos Assessment Manager
- Implemented pilot in August 2007 of (a) routine unannounced visits and (b) pre-assessment declaration forms (wrote to all customers notifying of fact)

- Met with the Local Government Employers (LGE) Health and Safety Practitioners Panel to raise awareness of accreditation, particularly with respect to asbestos surveying/testing.
- LAB 30 went on UKAS website for 30-day public consultation. Level of feedback led to delays in publication. Expecting to publish imminently.
- 6th Asbestos Assessor Meeting: November 2007, Harpur Hill
 - AIMS blind samples – support for HSL proposal that UKAS assessor distribute and witness analysis of an AIMS sample. Looking to progress next year – logistics to be agreed.
 - Priority Assessment: following agreement from TAC that PA is accreditable, held technical discussion regarding consistent approach to assessing – will base upon HSG227.
 - ISO 17020 admin requirements – discussed to ensure consistent application.
- Additional Asbestos Assessor meeting held in January to discuss draft MDHS 100 replacement document. Consolidated comments submitted to Martin Gibson at HSE.

5. Update from HSE

- Evaluation of Regulation 4 implementation – this also links in with MDHS 100 review – research undertaken includes the survey being completed, those who have asbestos in buildings and have the responsibility under duty to manage and how they are complying. Follow up is also included, with some companies, to confirm the completed work / actions meet the initial stated proposals from the company. This will be through audits, questionnaires and telephone surveys. The reverse is also being considered i.e. people affected – people coming to the building and info being passed to them. This evaluation is nearing its end, some follow up to take place, and late summer will have the results.
- HSE have published a new leaflet – jointly done with several organisations – “manage buildings? You must manage asbestos”. Available on HSE website and from most partners.
- Asbestos campaign targeting maintenance workers - Pilot campaign (Jan/Feb '08) targeted the north west – homing in on 3 groups electricians, plumbers and “others” through key messages on posters, radio adverts, free info packs, new asbestos essentials manual available also. Early feedback revealed double in number of hits on the website, and information line calls also up. Will look to take nationally.
- REACH – will remove all prohibition requirements with asbestos
- HSE is moving Headquarters from Rose Court, London to Bootle over the next year.
- No update on the revision timescales for HSG248.

6. Certification of asbestos removal contractors

Proposals for a certification scheme for contractors was tabled by one of the members. After discussion this received support from the committee, and if this was mirrored by stakeholders then UKAS would support it.

7. RG8 update & feedback

Reviewed the final draft (Draft 2, Ed. 2) ready for sponsor review and web site consultation period – UKAS to take comments forward and progress to publication.

8. LAB 30 update & comments

LAB 30 in the very final stages of publication and will be on the UKAS website on 01 May 2008. Several comments were received by UKAS during the consultation period which required consideration by the TAC: These were reviewed and considered for inclusion in the next Edition.

9. Asbestos in soils

Queries have been received from laboratories that want to be accredited for asbestos in soils. UKAS confirmed it will accredit this if a valid method available / used by the laboratory – preparation is critical in this method which is not adequately covered under the bulk ID method in HSG 248. The UKAS policy is included in the revised LAB 30.

10. Asbestos Surveyors – retraining

Refresher modules for P402:

BOHS brought the committee up to date – BOHS has reviewed the statistics and amended the pass mark accordingly. Previous candidates who had not achieved the previous pass mark but had achieved the revised one were notified, and their results amended to a pass. Initially uptake was poor but is starting to improve and increase. Committee members discussed the requirement to retrain and agreed it's a useful course to recommend - P402 t1, P402 t2, and P402 t3

BOHS confirmed a S301 refresher should be available before the end of 2008.

11. UKAS Asbestos TAC – Terms of Reference

The current terms of reference for this committee are generic and it was agreed that they should be reissued as specific to Asbestos. Revision required to include provision of advice on calibration, traceability and reference materials. These shall be redrafted and circulated to all members.

12. UKAS Asbestos TAC - Committee Membership

It was noted that the attendance of some committee members was poor. UKAS to contact those members identified to seek commitment to the committee or suggestions for an alternative.

13. AOB

- A discrepancy with HSG248 and old MDHS method with respect to reassurance testing - fit for purpose, was raised. HSG248 does not refer to doing any disturbance. It was agreed that this should be done. Needs to be included in revised HSG248. The TAC continues to flag issues to HSE to be included in next revision. An ALG memo suggested.

14. Date of next meeting

Proposed to hold joint meeting with HSE's Committee on Fibre Measurement (CFM): 2 years since the last joint meeting held. UKAS / HSE to arrange a date – Proposed November 2008.

END