

Asbestos Liaison Group Minutes**ALG/MIN/ /05/2007****Meeting date:** 24th May 2007**Open Gov. Status:** Fully Open**Type of paper:****Paper File ref:****Exemptions:****Asbestos Liaison Group (ALG)**Minutes of the 20th meeting of the Asbestos Liaison Group held on 24th May at Darlington Football club**Present (HSE / EA / LAs)**

Stewart Campbell, Chairperson
 Greg Haywood, Head of ALU
 Colin Seditas, ALU
 Matthew Ramsey, ALU
 Martin Gibson, Scotland Specialist Group
 Kevin Walkin, Cancer & Asbestos Unit
 Liz Standen, ALU
 Mike Williams, FOD Construction
 Robert Hermanns, Corporate Health Specialist
 David Couldridge, Royal Borough of Kensington Council
 Gill Ross Jones, EA

TAs / TUs

Terry Jago, Arca
 Peter Wilson, UCATT
 Mike Keeligan, ATPWG
 Richard Morgan, GMB
 John Horsfall, ATAC
 Peter Austin, ACAD
 Jean Prentice, ACAD
 Susan Murray, TGWU
 Robert Greenfield, GSH Group
 Paul Dolan, Kitsons Env Europe Ltd

Other

Michelle Aldous, CBH Ltd

Apologies

Grant Beglan
 John Harris
 Mike Wilkes

Presenters

Item (no.) - Michelle Aldous, Constructing Better Health

Item	
1	Introductions and apologies, welcome, etc (Stewart Campbell)
1.1	Stewart welcomed David Couldridge and Michelle Aldous to the meeting. Apologies received on behalf of Grant Beglan, John Harris and Mike Wilkes.
2	Minutes of meeting held on 25th January 2007 (Stewart Campbell)
2.1	The minutes were agreed.
3	Matters arising from the minutes (Stewart Campbell)
3.1	(Item 3.2 MDHS100) Martin Gibson explained that a working group had been set up to review MDHS100. The group met on the 14 th March. There was discussion on many issues including 1) usefulness of type 1 survey, 2) awareness of duty holders, 3) caveats in surveyor's reports, 4) Competence of surveyors (particularly type 3). The Draft revision of MDHS100 will be finished by end of August and circulated to ALG after the next meeting of the working group.
3.2	(Item 3.3 Confined Spaces) Mike Williams reported that the group is keen to finish work on surveys and client risk. Terry Jago said that documents on these topics are ready to go live. The group will now move on to look at guidance on confined spaces and textured

	coatings.
3.3	(Item 3.4 ALG sub group) Greg Haywood informed the ALG that the group had met and discussed the training of asbestos workers and ARCA worker registration scheme as well as broader occupational health issues.
3.4	(Item 5.3 Waste) Kevin Walkin confirmed that the HSE's view regarding the re-use of rubble containing textured coatings had not changed following the implementation of CAR 2006. Colin Seditas confirmed that an ALG memo on this matter would be forthcoming.
3.5	(Item 6.2 "Phantom" respirators) Colin Seditas informed the group that concerns over this equipment had lead to action being taken by the producer. SCOTT sent out two bulletins highlighting concerns regarding flow check devices and the potential for face-piece damage. The bulletins were distributed directly from the manufacturer to users and agents (across all industries) and all licensed removal companies. Both ARCA and ACAD have also distributed bulletins to their members.
3.8	(Item 8.3 Ancillary Licences) The Trade Associations confirmed to the group that member companies involved in NPU / "H" vac maintenance and examination activities had now been made aware of the need for a licence.
4	CAR 2006 Regulation 4 "Duty to Manage". ALU (RICS & BIFM)
4.1	Greg Haywood informed the group that Duty to Manage (DTM) training had been taking place around the U.K. for all inspectors enforcing Reg 4, where asbestos was likely to be present. An event, sponsored by Standard Life Investments, had taken place in London on 10 May, to raise awareness with clients who have significant property portfolios.
4.2	Robert Greenfield reported that even large companies are still struggling with DTM. He put this down to a number of factors. A lack of knowledge of what is required and general staff awareness, compounded by staff turnover. He reported a widespread fear of the subject, including a "reluctance to use the 'A' word in front of staff". An overuse of complex databases to keep site information for interpretation was also proving difficult for engineers/workers. Finally, landlords perceive the cost implications of the duty as a major constraint. Robert said he would be happy to cascade information from the ALG to his clients, contractors, and suppliers.
5	ARCA/ACAD up date. Peter Austin
5.1	Audit Schemes
5.1.1	Peter Austin expressed his wish to move the various existing audit schemes closer together and extend reciprocal agreements between parties such as TPWG, ARCA, ACAD and ATAC. To this end he suggested setting up a review group. Terry Jago suggested that an HSE presence would be desirable and that it would be useful if Trade Association audits replicated what enforcing authorities look for. Greg Haywood suggested arranging a meeting with all relevant groups, including the Environment agency (Gill Ross Jones). Action: Peter Austin to arrange for initial meeting of interested parties to discuss the potential for harmonisation of audit schemes.
5.2	Worker Registration (Terry Jago)
5.2.1	Terry Jago gave details of the current voluntary system that has been in operation for two years. The scheme is used to verify the status of training received/medicals and face fit tests. Currently the scheme has a thousand members. As of January 2008 ARCA is likely to make membership of the scheme mandatory for all its members.
6	Update from TPWG (Mike Keeligan & Liz Standen)
6.1	Mike Keeligan informed the group that the auditing scheme has led to 24 training

	providers being cut from the list, with 30 remaining on it. A further 10 have submitted audits for consideration. He has found that standards of training companies are generally very poor. Training needs analysis is not taking place to an adequate level.
6.2	It has been suggested by training providers that the TPWG becomes a trade association. This would enable the standards to be set higher than those currently in operation. All ALG members were unanimous in their support for the TPWG moving towards becoming a trade association.
7	Occupational Health programmes for asbestos workers & Constructing Better Health (Liz Standen, Michelle Aldous, Robert Hermanns & Greg Haywood).
7.1	Liz Standen introduced Michelle Aldous to the ALG who then gave a presentation on the Constructing Better Health pilot program that she leads and the feedback that has been received so far. A handout of the presentation had been issued to all attending members.
7.2	Robert Hermanns spoke about asbestos medicals and stressed that they were not fitness for work medicals. HSE now carry out fitness for work and asbestos medicals for nominated staff. He proposed steps to either make it a legal requirement or obtain firmer guidance from the ALG. Terry Jago said that the trade associations would support any move towards compulsory fitness for work medicals. Action: Greg Haywood to set up meeting with the relevant persons to discuss asbestos medicals and occupational health / fitness to work issues.
8	ALU Update (ALU)
8.1	Method Statement “ Aide Memoir”
8.1.1	The method statement “Aide Memoir” is currently being updated. It will be more user friendly and prescriptive.
8.2	ALAG
8.2.1	The ALAG is being updated, it should be available to the group later this year.
8.3	Leadership Summits
8.3.1	The ALU informed the ALG that the eighth event had been recently carried out in Bournemouth, with the next one being held in Leicestershire in July.
9	ALG Memos (Colin Seditas)
9.1	Published The three ALG memos discussed at the previous ALG meeting (on supervisory licence holders, RPE and cctv & supervision) were now published on the internet and had been distributed to all ALPIs.
9.2	Proposed
9.2.1	Colin told the group that a memo on “Asbestos Licensed Scaffolders” had been distributed prior to the meeting. Comments would be welcome before 8 June. [Memo distributed 13 June]
9.2.2	A memo covering the need for an ancillary licence for those engaged in work with NPU’s and “H” vacs was planned and would be distributed to members for comment.
9.2.3	A memo covering the demolition of buildings containing firmly bonded asbestos products, in particular ‘textured coatings’, is being prepared by Colin. Colin agreed to involve Gill Ross Jones in early drafts of this document, due to implications for waste handling. Action: Colin to send copies of draft memos to members for comment.
9.3	Statistics
9.3.1	Colin informed the ALG that there were 44700 notifications in the last year. This was down 13% on last year.. The stand-out statistic from this work year was the fact that 29%

	of licence holders seen were assigned Priority Visit Contractor status or a reduced 1-year licence term. Action: Colin to send ALG members an ALG memo regarding the 2006-2007 work year statistics. [Sent 13 June]
10	AOB
10.1	Forged Training Certificates
10.1.1	ARCA have designed a new training certificate that has watermarks in attempt to reduce forgery within the industry. The long-term aim is to get everyone on the worker registration scheme.
10.2	Internet site
10.2.1	The asbestos essentials task sheets are now available on the HSE website.
10.3	DVD on Mesothelioma
10.3.1	Susan Murray presented a short DVD to the group.
10.4	Waste Disposal Licences
10.4.1	Gill Ross Jones told the group that the Environment Agency would be contacting all contractors that held waste disposal licences. The Trade Associations said that they would inform their members that they should expect to receive some notification.
10.5	ALG terms of reference
	Liz Standen suggested that a review of existing terms of reference for the ALG would be useful. Members were in agreement. Action: ALU to review & propose new terms of reference
11	Date, time, location of next meetings
11.1	27 th September, 10.30am, Burton-on-Trent.
11.2	24 th January, 10.30am, Derby