

**Nineteenth Meeting of the Asbestos Liaison Group  
25 January 2007  
Held at Rose Court, London**

**Minutes**

**Present**

**HSE**

Anne Wilson, Chair, Head of Health Unit  
Greg Haywood, Head of ALU  
Colin Seditas, ALU  
Matthew Ramsey, ALU  
Martin Gibson, HSE Specialist Group  
Kevin Walkin, HSE Cancer & Asbestos Unit  
Liz Standen, ALU  
Mike Williams, FOD  
Gill Ross Jones, EA

**TAs/TUs**

Terry Jago, ARCA  
Grant Beglan, ARCA  
Rob Blackburn, ATAC  
Mike Wilkes, ACAD  
Mike Keeligan, ATPWG  
Richard Morgan, GMB  
John Horsfall, ATAC  
Peter Austin, ACAD

1. Introductions, apologies, welcome, etc (Anne Wilson)
  - 1.1. Anne welcomed Greg and Gill to the meeting. Apologies received on behalf of Jean Prentice & Susan Murray
2. Minutes of meeting held on 28 September 2006 (Anne Wilson)
  - 2.1. The minutes were agreed.
3. Matters arising from the minutes (Anne Wilson to lead)
  - 3.1. (Item 4.1 Asbestos Workers Survey)

**Action: Matthew to send electronic copy of the survey to ALG with minutes.**

- 3.2. (Item 5.2.4 MDHS100) Martin Gibson, John Horsfall, Jean Prentice, ARCA, ACAD, BOHS & Chartered surveyors will make up the working group. A meeting is scheduled for February.

**Action: Martin Gibson will give ALG an update on progress at next meeting.**

- 3.3. (Item 5.2.6 Confined Spaces) Mike Williams has been working with ARCA Technical Committee to provide guidance. They have a meeting scheduled for February.

**Action: Mike Williams to feedback progress to group at next meeting.**

- 3.4. (Item: 8 ALG sub group) Greg Haywood will be organising the next meeting to be held in Burton on Trent.

**Action: Greg Haywood to confirm booking to group.**

**Note: ALG sub group meeting now scheduled for HSL Buxton prior to the ATP EGM**

4. ALG Memos. ALU
  - 4.1.

Colin Seditas gave a brief summary of the memos sent out via email.

**Action: Colin Seditas to re-issue revised memos, taking on board comments relating to supervisory licence holders and ownership of RPE.**

## 5. Waste. Gill Ross-Jones

- 5.1. Gill introduced herself and informed the group that she worked for the lead unit on hazardous waste policy within the Environment Agency.
- 5.2. The issue of disposal of contaminated waste came up. Peter Austin asked Gill who had responsibility for derogation. Gill confirmed that responsibility was with landfill operators.
- 5.3. Terry Jago asked about the re-use of rubble containing textured coatings. He felt HSE Guidance contradicted the requirements of the new Regulations. Martin Gibson stated that demolition rubble containing textured coatings was low risk due to the bonded nature of the asbestos itself and the very small quantities present. HSE solicitors' advice had been sought on this issue in 2003, when it was confirmed that the use of such rubble did not contravene Regulations prohibiting the use of asbestos. Terry Jago asked Gill whether landfill operators would accept this type of rubble. Gill stated that as long as the content is 0.1% or less a landfill would accept this as non-hazardous.

**Action: Kevin Walkin to consult HSE Solicitors for confirmation of legal view on re-use of rubble with reference to prohibitions under CAR 2006.**

- 5.4. Grant Beglan asked Gill to talk to her technical staff about the bagging of waste and also about multiple notifications for one work site generating waste.
- 5.5. Martin Gibson asked if guidance was given to Landfill sites. Gill confirmed that guidance on waste acceptance criteria was given to landfill operators.
- 5.6. Richard Morgan had concerns over fly tipping of asbestos cement. Gill responded by saying that fly tipping incidents should be reported to Local Authorities. Local Authorities should be contacted to come and collect it from households. They have a right to charge or they can be contacted to ask about suitable disposal site.
- 5.7. Martin Gibson asked about contaminated soil/ground. Gill advised that the waste/soil should be separated if possible, though if thoroughly mixed the contractor should contact a landfill operator or the Environment agency.

**Action: Liz Standen to speak to Gill about waste issues.**

- 5.8. Gill Ross-Jones was invited to attend future ALGs.

## 6. ALU Update: ALU

- 6.1. Colin Seditas reported that welfare facilities provided for textured coating removal should meet the standard expected for similar work elsewhere in the construction industry (refer to page 9 of Health and Safety in Construction (HSG150)). For textured coating removal work it was likely that shower units (or similar) would be required.
- 6.2. Colin Seditas gave the ALG an update on Phantom respirators. The manufacturer (Scott) was issuing a newsletter to ARCA and ACAD journals. Mike Wilkes stated that he had been aware of the issue with the phantom respirator for the past three years, which he had also reported to Scott.

**Action: Colin Seditas to provide feedback to ALG of action taken.**

- 6.3. Matthew Ramsey reported on the Step Change events taking place around the UK, providing some figures taken from contractor's action plans.

**Action: Matthew Ramsey to distribute figures to ALG.**

7. Update form TPWG Mike Keeligan/Liz Standen

- 7.1. Mike Keeligan informed the group that all training providers would have to be audited to the code of conduct/Chapter 4 by March 2007 otherwise they would be taken off the HSE training providers list. A seminar is also planned for this September.
- 7.2. The TPWG will be providing criteria and compliance certificates (with HSE logo) for Asbestos Awareness and non-essential equipment courses for licensed contractors.
- 7.3. Colin Seditas questioned the pre-qualification criteria (two years experience) for those attending supervisor training. There were various suggestions made about other qualification criteria, which might be used. Mike Keeligan responded that it was the responsibility of contractors to ensure that staff were competent and had received appropriate training.
- 7.4. Liz Standen informed the ALG that she will be changing guidance on two groups of workers: those that know they may come across asbestos and those that don't plan to.

8. Ancillary Licences

- 8.1. Greg Haywood gave a brief summary on scaffolding companies and the current situation. A licence is required for those working with asbestos unless the exemptions in Regulation 3(2) apply. Those exposed to levels above the control limit will be required to have a licence.
- 8.2. In the meantime, it was made clear that anyone who did hold a licence and carried out licensed ancillary work would be expected to have medical surveillance in place for their operatives and appropriate training, which would encompass practical decontamination / RPE training.

**Action: ALU to draft proposal for solicitors, then issue a memo on the subject.**

- 8.3. Colin Seditas explained that the new asbestos regulations mean that organisations maintaining NPUs and vacuums used in licensed asbestos work would now require a licence.

**Action: Trade associations agreed to notify their members accordingly.**

9. Any other business

- 9.1. Greg Haywood spoke about including a suitable representative with a particular interest in DTM issues on the ALG group and asked for nominations. A number of nominations were forthcoming from the group, with the emphasis leaning towards a candidate having access to a large network of contacts. The Institute of Facilities management was a popular choice as a potential source.

**Action: Kevin Walkin would look into obtaining a client representative (RICS & BIFM) and feedback to the group on its progress.**

9.2. Terry Jago reported that ARCA had assisted HSL in making a film relating to EHOs and would appreciate a mention of this on the final product.

**Action: Liz Standen will contact the producer.**

9.3. John Horsfall asked about where HSE stood on UKAS accreditation for surveyors. Kevin Walkin informed the ALG that he is currently reviewing the “duty to manage” regulation and that the accreditation of surveyors would be one aspect of this review. Both John Horsfall and Terry Jago expressed concern that if the situation is not addressed soon/supported the scheme, as a whole would die.

9.4. Martin Gibson informed the ALG that Dr Robbert Hermanns is currently revising the Appointed Doctor guidance and will attend the next meeting of the ALG to discuss.

9.5. Liz Standen has had some involvement with the ‘Constructing Better Health’. This incorporates a health surveillance scheme. Through trialling smart cards and a database it has been possible to monitor employees’ fitness for work.

**Action: Liz Standen will supply a website address for the group.**

**Action: Greg Haywood will discuss the potential uses of this for the asbestos industry with the subgroup and feedback to the ALG.**

10. Date, time, location of next meetings

- 10.1. The next meetings will take place at 10.30am on  
Thursday 24 May, in Darlington  
Thursday 27 September, in Burton-on-Trent