

Asbestos Leadership Council Meeting Notes – 16th January 2019

Attending:

Chris Lucas (CL) – Chair - HSE Head of CD Health Unit	Graham Warren (GW) – TICA-ACAD
Annette Leppla (AL) – HSE Asbestos Licensing Unit	Chris Bishop (CB) – UKATA
Andrew Kingscott (HR) – HSE Head of Public Administration, Education & Volunteers Sector	Sarah Haslam (SH) – ARCA
Daniel Barrowcliffe (DB) – HSE Science Directorate	John Richards (JR) – RICS
Steve Sadley (SS) – ARCA	Jonathan Grant (JG) – NORAC
Colin Smith (CS) – UKAS	Rick Statham (RS) – NASC
David Tucker (DT) – CCG	Martin Gibson (MG) – HSE Occupational Hygiene Specialist and joint asbestos technical lead
Paul Beaumont (PB) - IATP	Sam Lord (SL) – HSE Occupational Hygiene Specialist and joint asbestos technical lead
Judith McNulty Green (JMG) – IOSH	Colette Willoughby (CW) – FAAM / BOHS
Robert Bogie (RB) – DCA	Andy Lewis-Thomas (ALT) – FDEM

Apologies:

Tim Shambrook (TS) – HSE	Rob Miguel (RM) – Unite
Dan Shears (DS) – GMB	

Summary of actions:

- **CL** Draft information on naturally occurring asbestos in marble to be circulated to members for comment once written.
- **SS** To forward specific concerns regarding compatibility / duplication between the competency requirements for licensed contractors and the CSCS scheme to CL.
- **CL** to discuss within HSE the issues raised regarding joint working and feed back to members.
- **SS** to send ARCA link to current ALG Appendices and Memos for ALC website.

1. Welcome and Administration

- CL leads introductions and thanks SS and ARCA for hosting.
- New attendees (ALT, RS and RB) were welcomed and introductions made

2. Minutes of last meeting (26th September 2018)

2a. *Agreement / Amendments:*

- JG reminded the chair that the correct name for one of the specialist sub group was 'Surveyors and Analysts'. The minutes have been amended accordingly.
- It was agreed that minutes remained in draft format and thus not for wider circulation until signed off as accurate at the subsequent meeting.

2b. *Actions Update:*

- **CL** had checked with HSE web team about the lifespan of the existing ALG community on the HSE website. There is no specific date set for any closure of the site, but it remains under review as part of ongoing website modernisation.
- **Members:** CL thanked members for promoting the HSE construction health initiative in October 2018. An update was provided in item 3.1 below.
- **Members:** CL thanked SS and ARCA for assisting in getting industry volunteers to help with the research into issues associated with AIB work in restricted spaces.
- **Members** had suggested and voted on a new name for ALG which has now been renamed the Asbestos Leadership Council (ALC). Thank you to those involved in delivering this.
- **Members** of the working groups were to meet before Christmas to outline areas for future focus / workplans together with suggestions for other members who should be invited for future involvement. Updates on these meetings was provided in item 4.

3. Updates

3.1 Construction Health Inspection Initiative: CL thanked members for their help promoting this initiative on social media. The main results were fed back. Initial evaluation shows there was an 11.8% increase in overall usage of HSE's Construction webpages and the media activity reached thousands of workers. During the initiative HSE went to nearly 1000 construction sites, meeting the indicative work plan target of 1250 inspection.

- Breaches were found in over 40% of visits and over 400 notices were served
- On the smaller sites, inspectors still faced significant and immediate safety issues resulting in around 150 Prohibition Notices (PNs). 42 health PNs were issued, (particularly for dust and asbestos)
- Around 140 Improvement Notices were issued on health

3.2 HSE Analyst Inspection Intervention: A report detailing the work undertaken and the findings of this has been completed. The main conclusions and recommendation from the **draft** executive summary were fed back.

3.3 Asbestos in Marble: CL mentioned to members that the potential presence of naturally occurring asbestos in imported African white marble had been raised with HSE. After extensive testing this has been determined to be at levels below trace so asbestos relevant legislation would not apply. The complications associated with the analytical methods and the potential for false positives were discussed.

ACTION. Draft information on this issue will be produced and circulated to members for comment by CL.

3.4 Round Table AOB: There were no other items from members

4 Working Groups

Feedback was provided from the chairs of the new working groups:

4.1 Duty to Manage – Chaired by DT:

The group is currently undertaking initial scoping work to determine gaps, priority areas and tangible achievable actions. The focus will be on using existing duty to manage information / core principles and then adapting that to suit specific sectors. The following sectors were identified in priority order:

- a. Housing (both domestic owner occupier and social housing)
- b. Smaller clients (including retail)
- c. Commercial clients
- d. Public services (NHS, universities and schools)

4.2 Licensing Working Group – Chaired by AL

This working group has welcomed new members from F-DEM, DCA and NASC. The main focus is currently on the new licence application process, how this operates and where trade associations can assist members with its rollout.

The issue of compatibility / duplication between the competency requirements for licensed contractors and the CSCS scheme was also raised during the feedback session by SS.

ACTION: SS to forward specific details of these concerns to CL.

4.3 Technical Working Group – Chaired by MG

This pre-existing group takes on issues (mostly relating to licensed work) that have been identified where technical clarification / information is needed. Current work has focussed on finalising information relating to environmental cleans and measuring the inward airflow of negative pressure units. The next issues identified for progression relate to:

- Electrical and gas safety of decontamination units.
- Polythene sheeting
- Demolition rubble – labelling and packaging
- Ceramic wall tile adhesive
- Soffits

4.4 Surveyors and Analysts Working Group – Chaired by JG

JG apologised that this group had so far been unable to schedule a meeting. However, it was felt that the topics most likely to be prioritised would be:

- Addressing issues relating to the quality of some surveys
- The implications of the revised analysts guide when published and the communication of this
- Ensuring accountability of individual surveyors / analysts and addressing the movement of qualified but poorly performing individuals between different employers possibly through provision of a feedback system/mechanism.

4.5 Communications Working Group – Chaired by TS

In the absence of TS feedback was provided by JMG and SH. A new logo for ALC has been designed and circulated. This was positively received by members and they were thanked for their work. Progress had also been made on scoping out a structure for an ALC website and several domains had been established. However, it was agreed that there was limited scope for further developing this until the ALC reconstitution was closer to being finalised.

5 ALC Structure and Members

CL led a discussion concerning the future structure of ALC and how it could operate. Three potential models were outlined:

- HSE led
- Industry led
- Hybrid of HSE and industry

The likely strengths and restrictions of each model were discussed including issues associated with HSE endorsement. Each industry representative was then asked to indicate their preferred option. The overwhelming majority opted for the hybrid model followed by the industry led one. However, there were areas of uncertainty as to what this might mean for HSE endorsement / support in some areas.

ACTION: CL to discuss this within HSE and feed back to members

6. Dates and times for next meeting:

08th May 2019 from 11:00 – 14:00 at Unites offices, Bristol