

Asbestos Network Technical Working Group (ANTWG)	
Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st Jan 2025 via MS Teams	
<p>Present: Sam Lord (SL) HSE Specialist Division /Chair/Minutes Nick Garland (NG) FAAM Committee/Assure 360 Jonathan Grant (JG) BOHS-FAAM Gareth Jones (GJ) UKATA Steve Sadley (SS) ARCA Martin Saunders (MS) HSE Science Division Tony Dillon (TD) ACAD Graham Warren (GW) ASES Steve Watkins (SW) Independent Industry Rep Wayne Williams (WW) IATP Colette Willoughby (CW) NORAC</p> <p>Apologies: Heather Campbell (HC) HSE Specialist Division</p> <p>Note: These minutes are a note of the discussions had on the date of the meeting. Some items will be discussed over a number of meetings. Taking one set of minutes in isolation may not reflect the final position and readers need to be aware of this. As and when a final position is reached this will be made clear within the relevant minute item.</p>	
1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies:</p> <p>SL welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received from HC who is attending a course this week. SL also advised that Eddie Strong will be joining the TWG representing Asbestos Management Institute (AMI).</p>
2	<p>Minutes of ANTWG meeting (No.45) and acceptance:</p> <p>The minutes from November 2024 (No. 45) meeting were finalised and accepted. Action: Minutes to be sent to AsbNet members via AsbNet Secretariat. (SL)</p>
3	<p>Matters/actions arising from Meeting No.45 November 2024</p> <p>Are non-locking DCUs a breach of CDM Regs? The response provided in the draft minutes was not agreed by the TWG.</p> <p>Action: SL to re-draft response to question to also include context of why this question was asked for discussion and inclusion in March 25 meeting minutes.</p> <p>ASB5 data clarification – MS spoke to ALU who clarified that in addition to that detailed last meeting data on the number of analyst organisation employed by LARCs and potentially the number of licensed removal jobs where there was no associated enclosure. However, MS also advised that currently there is no option to enter 0 enclosure for work without an enclosure, a fix is being explored.</p>

'Bagging' of H-VACs would be discussed at the next meeting but reported that she had received some thoughts from Eddie Strong (AMI).

Action: SL to finalise discussion document incorporating any additional content from ES for circulation and discussion at next meeting.

Temporary Works and Asbestos Enclosures - clarity around when these two things interact, specifically the propping of an enclosure sat over external ductwork. GW advised that the advice provided in the November minutes provided the necessary clarification required.

Production of a Searchable Repository of Issue Raised / Resolved at ANTWG meetings (Jan 2017 – current)

The TWG was shown the document which contained hyperlinks to aid searching, response was very positive and SL thanked HC for her work in bring it together. SL advised that all the issues had been collated but that the document needed to be reviewed before sharing with the TWG for review to weed out any duplication or where guidance (such as a technical appendix or HSG248) had been produced. In such cases, however a reference would be made to where to find the information as this would still be useful.

Action - HC and SL to work on document with a view to sharing with the TWG at next meeting.

Baglocks for small AIB licensed jobs? - SL suggested that whilst the ACOP was very clear in that a baglock should be present where practicable, there wasn't any guidance on what to do in the exceptional circumstances where it is not. The TWG agreed that this could be captured more widely in a technical appendix on restricted (space) enclosures that considered design and management solutions including where to position the NPU, emergency access requirements, airlock size and positioning. TD volunteered to lead on this using his experience from large residential tower blocks where this is a common problem. SL also recalled that removal jobs in cellars with single door entrances to steps are also an example.

Action – SL to add a new Appendix to the Table and TD to produce an initial draft.

Gel-cut method development - SL apologised for only just sending out the method, NG confirmed that this was the most recent version. The TWG discussed ways in which feedback could be sought from those using the method as NG had not received any personal monitoring data or user feedback yet. SL confirmed that as with any new removal technique, HSE expect personal monitoring to be completed to demonstrate exposure was controlled is to ALARP below the CL. It was agreed that the use of gel packs should be included on the ASB5 which would make tracking their use for licensed work easier and allow in-use data to be proactively captured leading to a more robust evidence base.

Action: TWG members to feedback on the method and actively seek feedback.

	<p>Face Fits and Facial Hair</p> <p>SL advised that following the clarification from 3M regarding what they constituted was the face seal on the 3M™ Powered Air Respirator System PV-300 (formerly known as the Scott™ Phantom Vision) she had received some push back from the asbestos industry. SL acknowledged that there would be cases where it was difficult to determine whether facial hair was in the region of the face seal. SL currently was of the view that managed facial hair was unreliable and could put wearers at risk of exposure in the asbestos industry and in the event of any doubt wearers should opt to move to a style that was clearly not in the face seal. TWG members agreed. SL advised that she would update the TWG if there was anything further on this issue.</p>
4	Appendices
4.1	The Importance and Requirements of Leak Testing During Licensed Asbestos Work
	<p>Version 4 of the draft appendix was discussed incorporating comments and points raised by TWG members prior to the meeting. It was agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finalise content of the appendix before finalising the flow chart as this needed to reflect the text. SL would also get format checked. • include 'key points' boxes as appropriate • Title of the above may need to be amended to reflect content. <p>Action: SS to incorporate discussion points and TWG feedback into next draft and circulate for comment and further discussion next meeting.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note: SL went through HSG248 and found where leak testing is mentioned as this may be of use to cross reference or quote extracts - sent to SS and TWG members.</p>
5	The Appendix status table was updated (see end).
6	AOB
6.1	<p>Asbestos Medicals – MS provided background that HSE were aware of a number of appointed doctors who had been completing remote 'phone asbestos medicals' after the cut off date of September 2021. HSE expects that any worker where it is identified that they have had a remote medical should be booked in for a face to face at the soonest opportunity, although this would not justify them being removed from the enclosure. Any members who know of any Doctors that are still conducting remote asbestos medicals (post COVID pandemic) should contact HSE.</p>
6.2	<p>HSE Research Reports finally published (info only)</p> <p>RR1217: The use of control measures during licensed asbestos removal - HSE</p> <p>RR1218: The effectiveness of witnessed four-stage clearances following licensed asbestos removal - HSE</p>
6.3	<p>Fit testing basics - Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) – new HSE video on the Face Fit Respirator Demonstrator Model (FFRED) also highlighting HSE research on ear loop masks RR1194: Fit testing of CE marked ear loop respirators</p>
7	Date of Next Meeting
	26th March 2025 via MS Teams

Appendices in Draft: Status Update (January 2025)

Appendix Title	Lead Author	Proposed Completion Date	Current Status	Addition AN resource required on T&F basis?
The Importance and Requirements of Leak Testing During Licensed Asbestos Work	SS	May 25	Aug 24 - Initial draft completed by SS for review and consideration of scope and content. Nov 24 – initial draft discussed Jan 25 – Version 4 draft discussed.	No
Licensed removal with no enclosure	GW	Jul 25	Feb 23 - SL to confirm the position set out by HSE Inspector has not changed and that written advice from an HSE inspector to be used as the basis of a draft Appendix. Glovebag use to be incorporated into this Appendix. Oct 24 – GW volunteered to lead on this appendix.	No
‘Outside Man’ Requirements	SW	Jul 25	Nov 24 – agreed a need for a short appendix	No
Restricted (space) enclosures	TD	Jul 25	Jan 25 – TD agreed to produce an initial draft to incorporate scope as discussed.	No
NPU Connection & Disconnection	SS	ON HOLD	Sept 22 – HSE comments to be incorporated into Appendix for discussion at Nov meeting	
Abrasive Blasting Removal Systems – revision only	SL	ON HOLD	March 22 - Members to provide details of current use of abrasive blasting including intel on dry ice systems. July 22 – Needle scalers to be included in the revision – intel being gathered.	
Calculating NPU airflow – revision only	SL	ON HOLD	July 22 - Revision to include additional guidance for LARCs on selection and use of an anemometer.	
Independence of Analysts	SL	ON HOLD	Drafting to start in August 22 – scope to include issues of DCU certs not being issued to LARCs if they are not appointed by them and also Personal Monitoring on behalf of the LARC	
Selection and Use of Encapsulants	SW	ON HOLD	Scope and content to be agreed by TWG in Sept 22 Initial draft discussed at Nov 22 meeting	
Equipment to measure differential pressure	SL	ON HOLD	Intelligence being gathered from LARCs who use this equipment by SS and SW.	