

Asbestos Network Technical Working Group (ANTWG)	
Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd Oct 2023 via MS Teams	
<p>Present: Sam Lord (SL) (HSE/Chair/Minutes), Steve Watkins (SW) (Independent Industry Rep), Steve Sadley (SS) (ARCA), Colette Willoughby (NORAC), Graham Warren (ACAD), Gareth Jones (UKATA), Martin Saunders (HSE).</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>Introductions, apologies and welcome:</p> <p>SL welcomed all attendees to the meeting. SL explained that the group has met 3 times since Meeting 39 and that this Meeting #40 also includes meetings held on 4th and 19th July and 7th August 2023 during which were dedicated to review and completion of the 'Personal Monitoring Appendix'.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of ANTWG meeting (No.39) and acceptance:</p> <p>The minutes from Apr 2023 (No. 39) meeting were finalised and accepted.</p> <p>Action: Minutes to be sent to AsbNet members via AsbNet Secretariat. (SL)</p>
3	<p>Matters/actions arising from Meeting No.39 Apr 2023 – See table at end of these minutes.</p>
4a	<p>Personal Monitoring Appendix</p> <p>This Appendix was put on the CONIAC Asbestos Network webpages at the end of August and members are encouraged to promote via their networks. SL expressed a huge thanks to everyone and encouraged any feedback in terms of usability etc. SL also mentioned that FAAM are keen to build on this and provide similar guidance for analysts, but that in the meantime she hoped that they would also use the Appendix. SL has been promoting the guidance at events she has and will be attending.</p>
4b	<p>Skip design for Asbestos Waste Appendix</p> <p>SL recalled that she had undertaken some further work for this appendix but that this had been put on hold due to the personal monitoring appendix taking priority.</p> <p>Action: SL to send out the latest draft for TWG members to comment for next meeting.</p>
4c	<p>Handover of Enclosures to Analysts for 4SC (Site Supervisor Visual Inspection and Handover Form)</p>

	<p>Nick Garland and Rob Southall had produced a draft using the 'starter for 10' SL had produced based on content of HSG248. This was circulated to members for comment at this meeting. As this was a first draft some general comments were received concerning content and format.</p> <p>Action: SL to annotate the draft with comments with a view to producing a second draft</p>
4	<p>The Appendix status table was updated (see page 4).</p>
5	<p>AOB</p>
5.1	<p>RPE used by LARCs and organic vapour filter cartridges (SL) – this was raised at the July meeting and members clarified that some encapsulant paint and spray adhesives, possibly TDC removal using gels may warrant the need to wear RPE fitted with such cartridges and that these would be P3A2.</p>
5.2	<p>Maintenance of on-tool extraction systems by LARCs (in addition to H-VAC TEXT) (SL) – this was put on hold until next meeting.</p>
5.3	<p>Update on new enclosure polythene specification being looked at by F-DEM. (SL) SL reported that F-DEM had not met since the last meeting but that feedback from field trials was positive – it cuts easier and is easier to stretch. The effect of lighter weight polythene on flap deflection is something that will need to be considered. In a separate but related issue mentioned about poor quality polythene bags which are being supplied – Paul Beaumont is making further enquiries but SL asked the TWG to warn their members.</p>
5.4	<p>Gel Fibre Suppression Wrap and Cut of a thermally insulated pipe – trial by FAAM WG (SL) - pushed to the next meeting</p>
5.5	<p>Update on CNP fit testing method HSE research (SL) – as this was raised at a previous meeting SL advised that HSE were undertaking some research into this method and SL would provide updates to the TWG.</p>
5.6	<p>Signage on Asbestos Enclosures (SS) – a question was raised concerning confusion regarding requirements of Regulation 18 Designated Areas.</p> <p>Firstly, the highlighted section of the Regulation below suggests that an "asbestos area" needs to meet the criteria set out in regulation 3(2) of CAR 2012, meaning notifiable non-licensed work. ACOPI para 472 states 'All licensable work with asbestos should be carried out in an area designated as a respirator zone and an asbestos area.' So that provides clarification but it doesn't seem to align with regulation 18 (1)(a).</p> <p><i>(1) Every employer must ensure that any area in which work under the control of that employer is carried out is designated as—</i></p> <p><i>(a) an asbestos area, subject to regulation 3(2), where any employee would be liable to be exposed to asbestos in that area; and</i></p> <p><i>(b) a respirator zone where the risk assessment cannot clearly demonstrate that the control limit will not be exceeded.</i></p>

Secondly, Regulation 18(2)(b) indicates that respirator zone notices should state "Respirator Zone - Exposure may exceed the Control Limit - RPE must be worn." However, we never see notices phrased like this. We concluded these precise wordings are not necessary for compliance, though it feels somewhat concerning to selectively choose which aspects of the regulations to follow and which to disregard.

(2) Asbestos areas and respirator zones must be clearly and separately demarcated and identified by notices indicating—

(a) that the area is an asbestos area or a respirator zone or both, as the case may be; and

(b) in the case of a respirator zone, that the exposure of an employee who enters it is liable to exceed the control limit and that respiratory protective equipment must be worn.

SL provided clarification on both these points, having looked back to the 1987 Regulations which was the first time designated areas were included in Regulation.

The intention of this Regulation is to prevent or reduce exposure and the spread of asbestos by making sure workers do not enter areas where they may be unknowingly exposed to asbestos **and** where the control limit is liable to be exceeded, respirators zones are marked to ensure that RPE is worn.

In past versions of this Regulation the difference between the AA and RZ was defined by the Action Level and Control Limits (at the time). This had to change following withdrawal of the Action Levels.

SL acknowledged that whilst Reg 18(1)(a) could be read as meaning NNLW areas only, the ACOP states that licensed areas should also be designated as asbestos areas. The ACOP describes preferred or recommended standards to be met to comply with the Regulations.

The purpose of marking areas as respirator zones is to ensure that RPE is worn whenever the control limit is liable to be exceeded.

A discussion with further consultation of Regulation 18 CAR and ACOP concluded that whilst the Regulation 18(2)(b) could be interpreted to literally require this [*identified by notices indicating that the exposure of an employee is liable to exceed the CL and that RPE must be worn*], the ACOP at para 471 states that RPZs 'should be marked up with suitable warning notices, including notices that RPE must be worn'. The ACOP describes preferred or recommended standards to be met to comply with the Regulations.

SL acknowledged that as this was written into the Regulation it could be argued that this is a defined standard, however she didn't believe this was the intention, and thought this possibly could be something to do with AA and RPZ being originally defined by Action Levels and Control Limits, which was why the extra clarification was included in Regulation. The industry comply with Reg 18(2)(b) by posting warning notices stating 'no unauthorised access' and that 'RPE must be worn'. These are accepted as demonstrating compliance by HSE.

6

Date of Next Meeting

15th Dec 2023 via MS Teams postponed to 14th Feb 2024

Appendix Guidance Documents Status Update (Oct 2023)

Appendix Title	Lead Author	Proposed Completion Date	Current Status	Addition AN resource required on T&F basis?
NPU Connection & Disconnection	SS	ON HOLD	Amends to photos etc to be completed by end of June 22 for final approval by TWG Sept 22 – HSE comments to be incorporated into Appendix for discussion at Nov meeting	
Abrasive Blasting Removal Systems – <i>revision only</i>	SL	ON HOLD	Amends discussed at Oct 21 meeting, SL to check how different the version is and consider if justification for re-issue. 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 – <i>revision only</i>	SL	ON HOLD	July 22 - Revision to include additional guidance for LARCs on selection and use of an anemometer.	
Visual Inspection and Handover of enclosure for 4SC	Rob Southall (ATAC) and Nick Garland (Assure 360)	Apr 24	July 22 - Scope and content agreed by TWG to also include handover form and systematic procedure for undertaking visual inspection including equipment needed, what to look for etc. and aligning with equivalent guidance for analysts. Sept 22 - SS to get update from Rob on progress Oct 23 – draft received and circulated for discussion	
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	

Appendix Title	Lead Author	Proposed Completion Date	Current Status	Addition AN resource required on T&F basis?
			also Personal Monitoring on behalf of the LARC	
Skip Design for Asbestos Waste	GW	Apr 24	Initial draft and scope agreed in April 21 and circulated to TWG for initial comment Oct 21 – Put on hold to allow work on other appendices to be completed. Feb 23 – SL to circulate final draft to HSE colleagues for final comment before sending out to TWG for finalisation at April 23 meeting.	
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.	
Licensed removal with no enclosure incorporating external use of glove bags	SS	ON HOLD	Feb 23 – HSE to confirm the position set out by HSE Inspector has not changed	

SUMMARY ACTION TABLE Meeting #40 (Oct 2023) – including on-going actions

ACTION	STATUS as at 03/10/23
<p>Skip design for Asbestos Waste Appendix SL to send out the latest draft for TWG members to comment for next meeting.</p>	On-going
<p>Handover of Enclosures to Analysts for 4SC (Site Supervisor Visual Inspection and Handover Form) SL to annotate the draft with comments</p>	Complete
<p>SL to send finalised minutes of Apr 23 meeting to AsbNet members via AsbNet Secretariat.</p>	Complete
<p>SL to seek clarification from a hazardous waste contact in the Environment Agency on asbestos waste classification in demolition arisings that may contain asbestos.</p>	On-going
<p>Guidance for Asbestos Removal without an Enclosure SS volunteered to lead using some existing HSE guidance as the basis for the Appendix, SL said she would run past AU to ensure this remained HSE’s position.</p>	On-going
<p>Use of Glovebags Appendix Action: SL to feedback TWG comments to GW for consideration.</p>	On-going
<p>Clarification about gas testing DCUs without an open flue, once clarification is received, SL to discuss with GW an amendment to the Appendix which will be re-issued at next meeting.</p>	On-going
<p>GW to summarise the discussion on transfer of waste through baglocks requiring outside person and/or inside person to enter baglock for inclusion in minutes to Jan 23 meeting.</p>	On-going
<p>SL to check with Construction Policy if non-locking DCUs were a breach of CDM Regs and whether there are any grounds for enforcement under this or any other Regulation by HSE inspectors.</p>	On-going
<p>TWG members to gain data from LARCS to verify whether the 20 acph is being achieved and if this ensures negative pressure, particularly as there is a range of soffit designs and this could be used to provide further clarification for any future guidance on this.</p>	On-going
<p>NPU Connection & Disconnection Appendix SS to send revised version of NPU Remote Connection Appendix to TWG for review/discussion at Jan 23 meeting.</p>	On-hold
<p>Abrasive Blasting Removal Systems Appendix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SL to incorporate needle scalers as part of revision of abrasive blasting removal systems appendix • TWG members to find out what methods were being used (including ice blasting) with a view to getting industry informed guidance on preferred applications e.g., removal of sprayed residues from metal vs pitted concrete, removal from calcified pipework. • SL to send a final draft to members for discussion at Jan 23 meeting. 	On-hold
<p>Equipment to measure differential pressure Appendix</p>	On-hold

ACTION	STATUS as at 03/10/23
TWG members to provide intelligence on the use of differential pressure monitors for measuring negative pressure in enclosures.	
SL to set up inaugural meeting with other AsbNet working group Chairs.	On-hold