

Asbestos Network Technical Working Group (ANTWG)	
Minutes of the meeting held on the 26th Mar 2025 via MS Teams	
<p>Present: Sam Lord (SL) HSE Specialist Division /Chair/Minutes Heather Campbell (HC) HSE Specialist Division Tony Dillon (TD) ACAD 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 Eddie Strong (ES) AMI Graham Warren (GW) ASES Steve Watkins (SW) Independent Industry Rep Wayne Williams (WW) IATP</p> <p>Apologies: Colette Willoughby (CW) NORAC</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 CW. SL welcomed Eddie Strong as a new member of the TWG representing Asbestos Management Institute (AMI) and asked him to introduce himself and the work of the AMI.</p> <p>SL explained the remit of the working group, how that as we have expanded in numbers, working as sub-groups on specific Appendices may be a new way of working.</p> <p>Action (new) - SL to refresh the terms of reference document (dated 2019) including how meeting minutes are ratified and to circulate to TWG.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of ANTWG meeting (No.46) and acceptance:</p> <p>The minutes from January 2025 (No. 46) meeting were finalised and accepted. Action: Minutes to be sent to AspNet members via AspNet Secretariat. (SL)</p>
3	<p>Matters/actions arising from Meeting No.46 January 2025</p> <p>Are non-locking DCUs a breach of CDM Regs?</p> <p>Action (on-going): HC to re-draft response to question to also include context of why this question was asked for discussion.</p>

'Bagging' of H-VACs - SL provided a brief recap. Inspector came to SL with a LARC using cling film instead of double bagging, justification was for manual handling. SS asked ARCA members, only 2 mentioned cling film. Scope of appendix extended to cover issues such as using a dedicated vac for personal decon and a dedicated vacs for licenced work, non-licensed works. SL advised that she had been sent a suggested approach to facilitate use of dedicated vacs that considered what they were used. ES advised that an ancillary licence holder asked a LARC to take the vac out of the bag for them when clear that that the used-vacs are only removed from bags inside a live enclosure or in a wet room etc.

Action (new): ES to provide details of the ancillary licence holder discussed for intelligence to ALU.

Action (on-going): SL to finalise discussion document incorporating any additional content for circulation and discussion.

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

Action (update) - HC and SL continue to work on this document. Have agreement that it can be added to CONIAC Asbestos Network page.

Gel-cut method development - TWG members were asked to feedback on the method and also actively seek feedback.

SS – have a member who informed ALU re intention to use gel cut. SL advised that the use of gel cut be should be included on ASB5.

NG – was invited to a site, <0.02 f/ml results (PM). Were able to follow method with ease and incorporated additional spraying following cut out. Gel coated ends and no dry spots. Suspect this was as it was a narrow pipe (domestic, ~50mm including the insulation).

NG advised that latest version of method includes need to wet the cut end.

SL – asked about any limitations to size of pipes which was stated in method and whether 'daisy chaining' was envisaged to allowed larger diameter pipes to be worked on. NG advised that 'daisy chaining' is not mentioned. There are pack sizes mentioned for specific sizes / then outside of those, advised to contact supplier. A larger pack size option rather than recommending 'daisy chaining'. There is a 500 mm version for cement pipes but the challenge is that recip blades aren't big enough. You would have to do a pilot hole then cut from there, but would **not** work with an asbestos insulated pipe.

SL asked if it was worth telling LARCs not to 'daisy chain' in the method sheet, NG suggested an alternative would be to stipulate an absolute max size of ~300mm diameter pipe (entire pipe including insulation) for gel cut method (i.e. method is size limited) – seek views on this. ES – referred to HSG247 para 7.43 which states that 'wrap-and-cut is particularly suitable for pipework of small diameter (150 mm or less)'. GJ suggested that the thickness of the insulation layer is more relevant than diameter of the pipe.

SL – advised that a summary of PM results including info to contextualise for the diameter of pipe and insulation would help during this exploratory / field testing stage.

Action (new): NG – to re-circulate the method for gel cut to the whole group for consideration of the need for any refinement on pipe diameter limitations

4	Appendices
4.1	The Importance and Requirements of Leak Testing During Licensed Asbestos Work
	<p>Version 9 of the draft appendix was discussed incorporating comments and points raised by TWG members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>SS - New approach to document, and format, including an executive summary. Discussion held on whether to include examples of other equally effective measures e.g. differential pressure gauges which could provide a real-time early warning of loss of negative pressure, perhaps more so than a leak test. MS advised that it would also be useful to identify the risk of leaks occurring in a particular enclosure because it can be varied e.g. methods or materials with a high risk of penetrations (double or more robust skinning may be an option) or complex construction leading to weak points that could leak.</p> <p>Mini working group set up – SL to Chair, with SS as lead author, MS, CW, NG and SW.</p> <p>Action (new): SS to circulate v10 leak appendix to mini group. Action (new) SL to send out a calendar invite for 9/4/25 for mini-group.</p>
4.2	Restricted (space) enclosures
	<p>TD went through his initial ‘sketch’ of this appendix with the TWG to refine and agree scope. Action (new): TD to review the document following this meeting’s feedback, liaise with GW and GJ then re-circulate.</p>
5	The Appendix status table was updated (see end).
6	AOB
6.1	ADR UKATA webinar – link included agenda to Nina’s webinar in Feb https://youtu.be/bvQWOKFFJvK . Possible guidance to follow on, once Nina, EA etc have met and discussed.
6.2	Asbestos Research Prioritisation Summit – MS looking for research volunteers.
6.3	Asbestos Waste Skips attached to enclosures? ALU received a POW that had a skip attached direct to the enclosure. SL asked if anyone seen this before? TWG suggested uncommon but not unheard of, alternatives suggested included larger baglocks, connecting ‘tunnel’ to skip, via a baglock, with an air inlet filter in the baglock?
6.4	Air inlet filters inside baglocks? TWG members asked if they had encountered this practice before? TWG failed to understand why this would be considered a sensible air management option. This and previous example does suggest a need for enclosure design guide.
7	Date of Next Meeting
	20th May 2025 via MS Teams

Appendices in Draft: Status Update (March 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.	