Asbestos Network Technical Working Group (ANTWG)	
Minutes of the meeting held on the 20 May 2025 via MS Teams	
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 Steve Sadley (SS) ARCA Martin Saunders (MS) HSE Science Division Eddie Strong (ES) AMI Graham Warren (GW) ASESA Steve Watkins (SW) Independent Industry Rep Wayne Williams (WW) IATP Collette Willoughby (CW) NORAC **Apologies:** Gareth Jones (GJ) UKATA **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.	
1	**Welcome, introductions and apologies:**
	SL welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received from GJ.
2	**Minutes of ANTWG meeting (No.47) and acceptance:**
	The minutes from March 2025 (No. 47) meeting were finalised and accepted. **Action**: Minutes to be sent to AsbNet members via AsbNet Secretariat. (SL)
3	**Matters/actions arising from Meeting No.47 March 2025**
	Gel-cut method development - TWG members were asked to feedback on the method and also actively seek feedback. **Action (complete):** NG re-circulated the method (26/03/25) to the whole group for consideration of the need for any refinement on pipe diameter limitations. **General comments:** Limited by whole pipe diameter / thickness of insulation part? Will likely be informed by observations from in-use feedback. NG stated that so far, observations indicate that the thickness of the insulation it is not a factor because the gel remains intact on the surface, as a physical barrier, outer gel remains clear effectively. Only immediate contact gel that gets 'dirty' - but will see as information keeps coming in.

4	**Appendices**
4.1	**Maintaining and Checking Enclosure Integrity (Leak Testing and Smoke Testing)**
	Action (complete): SS to circulate v10 leak appendix to mini group. **Action (complete):** SL to send out a calendar invite for 9/4/25 for mini-group. Discussion points: • MS examples – possible addition as an annexe – positive feedback from all • Deletion of design and construction to enclosure features. • Title change 'Maintaining and checking enclosure integrity (leak testing and smoke testing)' • Review bullet point comments (SS) & add NG suggested text – then issue v21 (SS) • Flow charts to be made bigger in MS Visio (SS) • Mini-Group meeting arranged to finalise – **Action:** Date of meeting agreed as 2/6/25 **SL** to send calendar invite
4.2	**Restricted (space) enclosures**
	Action (complete): TD to review the document following this meeting's feedback, liaise with GW and GJ then re-circulate. **Post meeting update: TD** has now passed this to Juliette Church (JC) who will now be representing ACAD on the TWG]
5	The Appendix status table was updated (see end).
6	**AOB**
6.1	**Re-use of Timber used for enclosure construction (SS)** SS reported a scenario where an HSE inspector advised an ARCA member to treat **all** timber as contaminated. LARC argument, 'anything outside of the poly can be reused, anything internal is treated as potentially contaminated'. MS pointed out that one site in the RR re-used the entire enclosure, not just airlocks. TWG discussed and made the following points: • Risk from internal and external differ – timber used for enclosure should be treated as contaminated waste. • Industry are re-using 'external' timber, very common place. • External scaffold boards on multi level enclosures are not disposed of – how is this any different. • Chance of external timber being contaminated is miniscule. Polythene staples, and tape, no airflow, how is this a risk? • LARCs should remove the external timber elements first when dismantling an enclosure to keep as separate non-contaminated waste stream. • Do they need to inspect (supervisor and/or analyst)? **Action** SL – to draft this clarification in minutes for wider dissemination and retention as a useful 'nugget' (completed below)

Clarification on re-use of external timber used in the construction of asbestos enclosures

HSG247 and L143 guidance states the following:

6.35 If a scaffold framework with internally fixed boards is used, the sheeting material should be fixed to the inside of the supporting framework. Where a timber framework is used, the sheeting can be attached to either side of the timber. But, note the following points:

- if it is attached to the outside, asbestos fibres may be retained on or behind the framework, so it needs to be either protected against contact with asbestos (eg by taping up the timber/sheeting joins) or the framework and its interface with the sheeting scrupulously decontaminated after use;
- If the polythene sheeting is attached to the inside of the timber, it will need reinforcing, as this is an inherently weaker attachment under negative pressure. More timber should be used in the framework and there should be a greater frequency of staples; the staples should be taped over (using fabric tape) and there should be continuous use of fabric tape at the timber/polythene contact. This arrangement eliminates the potential for dust and debris to be trapped between the timber and sheeting.

7.89 There are various other items that should be treated as asbestos waste. These include all enclosure building materials (such as timber and sheeting) and any items that have been present (and unprotected) inside contaminated areas and cannot or will not be cleaned (including tools and equipment). Asbestos waste items also include all disposable PPE used in the enclosure, transit and waste routes and in the hygiene unit. It also includes any disposable or discarded items used in cleaning and decontamination such as cloths, wipes and towels. Waste water from the buckets in airlocks should be disposed of through the filtered drainage system in the shower of the hygiene unit.

Guidance 24

Management of asbestos waste

525 Asbestos waste describes asbestos products or materials that are ready for disposal, including building materials, dust, rubble, disposable PPE, rags used for cleaning and used tools that cannot be properly decontaminated.

Timber used in constructing the enclosure that also forms part of the external structure can be regarded as “sheeted out” from the live enclosure. Provided the polythene sheeting remains intact and no breach has occurred, this timber is unlikely to have been contaminated. Under these conditions, the potential for asbestos dust or debris to come into contact with the timber surface—as referenced in HSG247, paragraph 6.35, bullet 2—is effectively eliminated. Contamination could only occur if there were a tear or failure in the polythene sheeting.

During the Stage 4 dismantling inspection, external timber may be considered clean and suitable for reuse only if no visible dust or debris is found trapped within or behind the polythene. If any such material is found, which could have contaminated the timber, it must be disposed of as asbestos waste.

	LARCs should consider how they can demonstrate and document this policy, for example: • removing external timber elements first during enclosure dismantling to separate from the contaminated waste stream. • recording that all staples to external timber have been taped over inside the enclosure (as stated in HSG247 para 6.35) to eliminate a dust trapping point. For clarity, any timber located within the enclosure footprint—i.e., on the enclosure side of the polythene sheeting—must always be treated as contaminated and disposed of as hazardous waste in accordance with statutory requirements.
7	**Date of Next Meeting**
	22nd July 2025 via MS Teams – postponed until 10th Dec 2025

Appendices in Draft: Status Update (May 2025)

Appendix Title	Lead Author	Proposed Completion Date	Current Status	Additional resource required on T&F basis?
Maintaining and Checking Enclosure Integrity (Leak Testing and Smoke Testing)	SS	Feb 26	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. May 25 – V10 draft discussed. Appendix to add from MS, and final amendments.	No
Restricted (space) enclosures	JC	April 26	Jan 25 – TD agreed to produce an initial draft to incorporate scope as discussed. May 25 – TD agreed to review current draft in mini-group and feedback July meeting.	No
Licensed removal with no enclosure	GW	April 26	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	April 26	Nov 24 – agreed a need for a short appendix	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	

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Equipment to measure differential pressure	SL	ON HOLD	Intelligence being gathered from LARCs who use this equipment by SS and SW.	