

UKATA MATTERS

NEWSLETTER FROM THE UK ASBESTOS TRAINING ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 4 | WINTER 2014/2015



In this
issue...



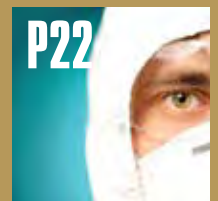
P4
First London Expo



P9
Technical & Training



P10
AGM & Conference



P22
PPE and RPE



**ASBESTOS WANTS
YOUR JOB**

**ASBESTOS IS AFTER
YOUR MONEY**

**ASBESTOS WILL HAVE
YOUR MISSUS**

STILL THINK IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM?

Asbestos is still out there. You can't always see it, but don't underestimate it. When it's disturbed, it can kill. Not just you, but the people closest to you. Like your family. So if you're a builder, plumber or electrician, do the right thing before you start a job. **Take 5 and Stay Alive.**

**TAKE 5 AND
STAYALIVE.COM**



**British
Lung
Foundation**

Welcome from OUR EDITOR!



Welcome to this Autumn/Winter edition of UKATA Matters. For UKATA, it has certainly not been a summer of slacking. The Association has been busier than ever and we have a lot to update members on in what has proved again to be a bumper edition of the magazine.

In this issue we provide members with a summary of our attendance at the Safety and Health EXPO in London in June. 'SHE' proved an unqualified success. The football may have been somewhat disappointing from an England perspective, but UKATA certainly scored at the conference, with a staggering number of enquiries and contacts to deal with.

The EXPO was followed by our AGM in July, which a great number of readers no doubt attended. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you on the day and a big thank you to all who attended and our guest speakers who made the afternoon conference so memorable. The AGM followed by the conference is always one of the key events in our calendar and this year did not disappoint. A full roundup is contained within.

Our usual summary of member news can also be found in this issue, together with the latest roundup of asbestos in the news. We also have a few things to inform you of in terms of Head Office restructuring, not least Craig's formal appointment as General Manager – many congratulations Craig!

Finally, given the high number of calls to our head office and to members

from homeowners accidentally disturbing asbestos, we felt we had to comment on this extremely worrying trend. Therefore, some of the advice we have been giving to contractors and the general public on how to keep themselves safe from asbestos while undertaking DIY in the home is included in this issue. We never want a situation where DIY becomes DIE, and whilst that real risk exists, UKATA's role in raising awareness and promoting best practice is more critical than ever.

I hope you find the latest issue of UKATA Matters informative and interesting. We have looked to include as many photographs as possible from the AGM and conference, so do look out for yourself! As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. If there is a particular subject matter you believe we should cover in a future edition, why not contact the team and let us know? The next issue of UKATA Matters will be Spring 2015, so on behalf of all the Team, thank you for reading and may we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year, and above all a safe and successful 2015.

Yours sincerely
Jacqui Royall

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 UKATA-Official

 UK Asbestos Training Association Ltd

In this issue...

- 4-5 SHE's so fine for UKATA
- 6-7 Asbestos News
- 8 Development and Marketing
- 9 Technical and Training
- 10-15 UKATA AGM
- 16 New Training Facility
- 17 Partnership with British Lung Foundation
- 18 UKATA Office Update
- 20 Real Risk and Perceived Risk
- 21-22 UKATA Gets Personal
- 23 Are you dealing with a trained contractor?
- 24 Never let D.I.Y. become D.I.E.
- 25 Be D.I.Y. Aware



Certificate Generator

The Certificate Generator will be down between 24 - 28 December 2014! Due to the sheer number of certificates being generated, it needs to be hosted on its own server, so members will be unable to use the Generator over this period. All members are advised to complete all the certificates they need before the 24th!

SHE's so fine for UKATA:

First London Expo returns record results

UKATA's first ever attendance at the Safety and Health Expo has been hailed as a great success by the Association's Managers and Directors. In the wake of huge interest and an unprecedented number of enquiries from some of the UK's leading blue chip companies and service providers, UKATA was in a position to offer valuable information to a wide range of organisations. The interest in the new levels of Corporate Membership and Associate Membership launched at the Expo on stand R2100 was particularly strong, with hundreds of potential enquiries.

"As this was our first attendance at the Expo, we were delighted with the numbers of enquiries from the outset, which exceeded even our wildest expectations," said UKATA General Manager Craig Evans. "Suffice to say, if all these leads became members, it would double or even triple our membership overnight, so the value of attending cannot be questioned."

Corporate membership was very well received and attracted some of the biggest names in the public sector, services and retailing in the UK. As concern grows over a so called 'Third Wave' of asbestos claims from retail and office environments where asbestos wasn't detected, the interest of retailers, local authorities and emergency services is inevitable. The success at the Expo confirms that the need and demand is out there for asbestos awareness and training. All that remains is to continue to build on what has been a tremendously successful event and use this success

as a springboard to elevate UKATA membership to the next level.

The Expo is the market leading annual exhibition for the Health and Safety industry and run exclusively with the support of IOSH, RoSPA and the BSIF. The event has established itself as the definitive event, offering three days of educational programmes, suppliers, products and much, much more, making this a natural place for UKATA to deliver its asbestos message.

"Interest from UK organisations is what we were anticipating, but added interest from international delegates was a welcome surprise," added Jacqui Royall, Director of UKATA and Chair of the Development and Marketing Committee. "While asbestos remains the biggest single cause of work related deaths in the UK, it is a massive problem overseas. While offering guidance to UK retailers, contractors and others regarding their duties with regard to the Control of Asbestos Regulations

2012 (CAR), showcasing our expertise to a global audience was a positive bonus."

International interest in UKATA and its members came in from the four corners of the globe, including Sweden, Asia, Australia, America, Russia, China to mention a few. The UK continues to pay the price for years of exposure to asbestos in the past, but the picture overseas is far worse, as much of the world continues to use asbestos in alarming quantities. The popularity of asbestos in the developing world is actually accelerating, fuelled by demand for cheap, mass produced building materials. China consumed an astonishing 626,000 metric tons of asbestos in 2007 alone.





Members reminded of their obligations under competition law

UKATA remains committed to free competition and helping facilitate the best asbestos training regimes within the UK. As the Association continues to grow and in the wake of the closure of the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on 1 April 2014, it was felt now was an appropriate time to remind members of their obligations under competition law.

A few years ago, UKATA made an additional voluntary commitment to the OFT that the Association would not enter into any future partnerships where we could be seen to be suggesting the market price of asbestos training provision - and members should be on guard to ensure they do likewise.

Now the OFT has closed, responsibility for competition law has passed to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) but the UKATA commitment remains. The CMA works to promote competition for the benefit of consumers, both within and outside the UK. The aim is to make markets work well for consumers, businesses and the economy. UKATA fully supports the work of the CMA, yet there is always a risk that even a seemingly

innocent agreement could be open to question, if it could be deemed in any way to be influencing pricing or forcing a customer to deal effectively with a single supplier.

All companies naturally develop strategies to give them a competitive edge and this is perfectly legal. It can bring benefits to buyer and seller alike, but competition law comes in where a practice is likely or intended to restrict, distort or prevent competition. This is similar of course to the monopoly provisions of the Fair Trading Act, but differs in that the Competition Act allows investigation into an individual firm or group of companies as opposed to a general investigation of the market.



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 The success at the Expo confirms that the need and demand is out there for asbestos training.

Members with any questions or concerns can contact Head Office at any time and Staff and Directors of the Association will be happy to advise and assist with any queries and point you in the right direction.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/competition-and-markets-authority>

Shropshire director jailed for illegal supply of asbestos sheeting after worker fell to his death

A 64-year-old Shropshire man was sentenced to 12 months in prison after his company illegally supplied roofing panels containing asbestos. Company director Robert Marsh's offences came to light after a 56-year-old construction worker, who was roofing a barn using the panels, fell through the fragile material and later died.



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Mr Marsh, sole Director of RM Developments (2005) Ltd of Shropshire, had supplied pre-used roofing sheets containing white asbestos to a farming partnership building a barn in Worcestershire.

Worcester Crown Court heard that after Mr Marsh supplied the roofing sheets, the partnership hired steel erector Tony Podmore to build the barn. During the final phase

of construction, Mr Podmore fell through the fragile asbestos roof sheets, landing on the concrete floor and later died of his injuries.

The farm partnership had paid £4,000 for substantial roofing material. However, Mr Marsh supplied poor-quality, second-hand roof panels that had cost him nothing. He stood to make a profit of £3,750 on the roof alone. Marsh changed his plea to guilty and as well as the 12 month prison sentence he was disqualified from being a

director for six years and ordered to pay £10,000 costs.

Passing sentence, His Honour Judge Michael Cullum said Mr Marsh's actions were "wholly reprehensible" adding that he acted out of "selfish self-interest" to maximise profit at the expense of health and safety.

HSE Inspector Luke Messenger said: "Asbestos fibres are a well-known and widely-publicised health risk and can lead to fatal illnesses. The supply of materials containing asbestos has been illegal for many years. Mr Marsh demonstrated a complete disregard for the law for his financial gain. In this case, the weak second-hand panels he supplied were a significant contributing factor to the death of Mr Podmore.

Man wins £275k payout for school asbestos exposure

A man who claims he developed terminal cancer after being exposed to asbestos while a schoolboy in Devon has been given a council payout of £275,000. Chris Wallace, 36, was diagnosed with asbestos related cancer of an organ lining - or mesothelioma - at 30.

Devon County Council settled a claim from him just a few weeks before the case went to court. The award was made without an admission of liability. The council said it took "great care to manage asbestos in its buildings."

Mr Wallace attended Yeo Valley Primary School, Yeo Valley Junior School, South Molton Juniors and South Molton Community College between 1982 and 1993. Mr Wallace said: "It was a very difficult case, having to prove you were there and that you were exposed to a certain level. The council has to take a large chunk of responsibility. They know it's in the building and children are at risk of getting to it. It's down to them to ensure it's removed safely."

Devon County Council said it was a 'unique case' and the only time a former pupil had taken such legal action. It said: "Devon County Council takes great care to manage asbestos in its buildings and that includes regular inspections. Asbestos is safe as long as it isn't disturbed. All Devon schools have been surveyed for asbestos and each school holds a full record of any asbestos in its buildings."

Directors and two firms fined for potential asbestos risk

A Hartlepool firm and two of its directors have been fined along with a second company after steel work was removed, putting workers at risk of exposure to asbestos.

Baxketh Ltd, a metal-recycling business, agreed to remove the steel work from the premises of UK Tankcleaning Services Ltd in New Road, Billingham, on the basis that Baxketh Ltd would take the value of the scrap metal as payment for the work.

However, the steel included several pipe work systems covered in lagging containing potentially-dangerous asbestos fibres, which were removed by workers without the firm putting any measures in place to prevent the spread of asbestos fibres.

Tests carried out by HSE later confirmed that the insulation debris found lying on the ground did contain asbestos. The court was told that Michael Almond Senior had negotiated the arrangement to remove the steel work with the site manager. Tankcleaning Services Ltd failed to ensure information about location and condition of asbestos materials was provided to those liable to disturb it.

Baxketh Ltd had conducted the work without carrying out the necessary assessment to determine whether asbestos was present and failed to take any measures to prevent the spread of asbestos fibres. The personal involvement of both directors meant they had been prosecuted as individuals.

The work carried out by Baxketh Ltd meant asbestos debris was scattered over the working area, which exposed workers there and on neighbouring sites to a potential risk to their health.

Baxketh Ltd, of Burn Road, Hartlepool, was fined a total of £12,000 and ordered to pay £3,804.20 in costs after pleading guilty to breaching Regulations 5(a) and 16 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. UK Tankcleaning Services Ltd, of Lodge Lane, Doncaster, was fined £10,000 with £2,243.40 costs after pleading guilty to breaching Regulation 4 of the same legislation.

Michael Joseph Almond Snr, was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £204.80 in costs after pleading guilty to breaching Regulation 5(a) of the same legislation. Michael Vincent Almond Jnr, 47, was fined £650 after pleading guilty to breaching Regulation 16 of the same legislation.

HSE Inspector Julian Nettleton said: "Asbestos is the single greatest cause of work related deaths in the UK and there is a lot of industry in the Teesside area that still uses, or occupies premises that have old chemical processing plant dating back to the 60s. Almost all of it was lagged with asbestos in those days.

"Site operators and contractors should always assume that old pipework is lagged with asbestos unless reliable evidence says otherwise. Those involved in the construction and refurbishment industry have a clear duty to ensure that work is managed so as to prevent the spread of asbestos."

Don't Play Renovation Roulette!

November was National Asbestos Month down under, with Asbestos Awareness Day Friday 28 November in Australia. In the lead-up, all Australians (especially homeowners, renovators 'tradies' and handymen) were being encouraged to Get to kNOw Asbestos this NOvember by visiting asbestosawareness.com.au to take the 20 Point Asbestos Safety Check to learn how to protect themselves and families from exposure to dangerous asbestos fibres.

The initiative is one we in the UK could learn from. It shows many people overseas are encountering the same problems as we in the UK are when it comes to asbestos and have their ways of tackling and raising awareness of the issue that can help our programme.

Peter Dunphy Chair of the Asbestos Education Committee that conducts the national Asbestos Awareness campaign said, "There is no safe level of exposure to asbestos fibres. With at least 1 in 3 Australian homes containing asbestos, many homeowners, renovators, tradies and handymen are inadvertently putting their health and the health of families at risk when carrying out home renovations. Potentially they could release dangerous asbestos dust and fibres which could lead to asbestos related diseases including mesothelioma."

In the past, Australians diagnosed with mesothelioma have primarily been men exposed to asbestos fibres in mines and asbestos factories and in the work-place working with asbesto containing materials. With the current wave of asbestos related diseases there is growing evidence linking asbestos exposure to DIY and renovations as more people, specifically women are being diagnosed with the disease as a result of inhaling fibres in a non-occupational setting.

Asbestos could be anywhere! Under floor coverings such as carpets, linoleum and vinyl tiles, behind wall and floor tiles, in cement floors, internal and external walls, ceilings and ceiling space (insulation), eaves, garages, roofs, around hot water pipes, fences, extensions to homes, garages, outdoor toilets, backyard and farm sheds and even dog kennels.

Previously, it was common practice for builders and labourers to bury broken asbestos materials on building sites during construction. This was buried underneath and around homes which ultimately can be exposed during land redevelopment or simply gardening.

If people aren't sure if a product contains asbestos they should treat it as if it is asbestos and take all the necessary precautions to protect themselves and families. However, to be sure if asbestos is in homes, owners can have properties inspected by a licenced removalist or a licenced asbestos assessor to confirm if asbestos products are present.

Where asbestos is present in the home, DIY is definitely not recommended. Renovating properties without prior knowledge of where asbestos might be located has been likened to playing 'Renovation Roulette'.

Development and Marketing Update

Having been elected as a Director at the AGM of 2013 it's been a little over a year now since I found myself taking over the reins of what was already a very strong and productive Development and Marketing Sub-Committee. It therefore seems like the right time to reflect on the year gone by and our aspirations for the year ahead.

The Executive Committee understood and supported the desire of our members to forge ahead with growth and recognition of the UKATA brand, thus bringing new business for our members and National and International exposure. Indeed my overriding memory from my first AGM was that members all seemed to be asking the same question; "What is UKATA doing to promote my business?"

Well, over the last 14 months I believe we have answered that question with some very powerful and exciting marketing. This is however only the beginning, as I believe that we now have the strength and ability in our team to deliver actual results for you - our members.

We have renewed and re-energised our relationship with BeyondPR, who are working tirelessly to promote UKATA's aims and objectives and a better understanding of our Association and the asbestos industry. UKATA appears regularly in both National and local media, and even occasionally in International media. The



Association features in several H&S publications, and our own publication UKATA Matters has been very well received by our industry and wider businesses. We aim to move to quarterly publications as of 2015 to give you the more regular updates you desire.

We have now officially partnered with our adopted charity for 2015 The British Lung Foundation and will be holding a series of events with them running throughout the year. The SHE Expo held in London's Excel was an amazing success, surpassing all our expectations, bringing enquiries from many and varied sectors of industry and we may now even be looking at International Associate memberships!

We are currently working on a series of information and promotional leaflets for you to use in your business and we expect to be delivering the asbestos workbook towards the end of this year. Working in close co-operation with our colleagues in T&T we are looking to bring more new courses to the Association's

portfolio of verified offerings to help increase sales for members. In addition, we will be looking to have all courses CPD accredited adding extra value to your training.

The long anticipated website launch is now imminent and I believe it was worth the wait bringing a modern, fresh design and fast, interactive features for all categories of membership and quick easy to use functions for those seeking the services of our Professional Members. Along with this will come new logos making each membership type easy to identify. We now have a very strong presence on social media - with our twitter feed growing on an hourly basis!

We are very excited about the year ahead and have many more new ideas and innovations to bring to our Association to build our brand and boost your business - watch this space.

The Executive Committee know that in order to grow our brand in the market place we needed to strengthen and widen our

operational capabilities and identify our strategic goals. The new team structure and roles are now firmly established and we welcome two new members to our team. We now have in place the HR facilities and support that would be expected from a responsible employer, which means we can develop and nurture the team we all rely on.

The D&M Sub Committee achievements are most definitely a team effort and I would like to take this opportunity to offer a BIG thank you to my team from me personally.

Development & Marketing Committee Members are:

Craig Evans
General Manager

Jacqui Royall
Chair

Gill Lewis
Secretary to the Executive

Jon Gardner
BeyondPR

Technical & Training Update

Duty to Manage Syllabus

All members have been notified of the consultation period for the new UKATA Duty to Manage Asbestos Syllabus. Initial thoughts were to develop additional courses as requested by members and have the course approved and certificated by UKATA. We have taken this on board and the consultation has now closed. The feedback from members was very positive and the T&T Chair would like to thank all those with their positive feedback, recommendations and assistance. These will all be collated and discussed at the next Executive Board meeting.

The next step to implementing this new syllabus is to develop the administration and auditing process along with the question bank. We have received some great questions but if any members have additional questions that they feel would assist please don't hesitate to send these through to the administration team. UKATA unfortunately cannot reply to every member with their comments and suggestions, but rest assured these will all be discussed and considered.

Category B Syllabus – Non-Licensable works with ACMs

Members should now have implemented the new syllabus as of the 1 September 2014.

In response to communications from members concerning the duration of the syllabus, the team sent a memo to members to provide further clarification on the matter. As the memo makes clear, the discretion of the training provider should be exercised where the asbestos awareness element is outside the stated six months. All auditors have been instructed to audit on the new syllabus.

What next for T&T?

The T&T Sub Committee has a list of actions that require attention and implementation. These are currently being worked on and the Sub Committee members have taken ownership to expedite these actions as soon as possible.

Current workloads include:

- Category B and C question banks. It has been identified these are due for an overhaul and they will be revised accordingly. If any member has any additional questions and answers they feel would assist, please forward on to the administration team.

- A new Surveying and Sampling syllabus is also in the pipeline for development for members who wish to offer this training to clients. With the expertise on the T&T Sub Committee this should be prepared shortly. There is a lot of work in this and the syllabus will be introduced through a consultation period. This will be a UKATA certified course and we will of course keep all members informed of the progress.

- Emergency Procedures. During many Category A audits, the section on emergency procedures has caused quite a few queries. For most members, EM1 taken from HSG 210 is being issued as guidance. However, EM1 does refer to the use of PPE and RPE in particular, which is not part of the syllabus for Asbestos Awareness training. UKATA have given this much thought and have finalised a guidance document which all members will be provided with in due course. In all emergencies there will be an element of assessment following an incident and like all guidance, discretion and adaptations will be required. UKATA cannot be prescriptive and prepare an emergency procedure to cover all eventualities.

Training providers should be in a position to assess likely scenarios a client could face and discuss these during the delivery of the training. If any members have any assistance to provide the T&T with committee please get involved, as the development of UKATA lies with the members' needs.



Graham O'Mahony
BSc (HONS)
Technical & Training Chair



UKATA AGM and Conference hits the high notes!

The sixth Annual General Meeting and Conference for UKATA moved to the Radisson Blu Hotel at East Midlands Airport this year and a bumper number of members and delegates joined forces to enjoy what has been described as another superb event.



Eddie was able to report steady growth in membership, particularly among Category A members

AGM

The AGM got underway with introductory remarks from Chairman Eddie Strong, who welcomed all members and conference speakers to the event and outlined the Association's achievements and objectives for 2014/15, which are considerable.

Eddie was able to report steady growth in membership, particularly among Category A members, improved financial and personnel strength, the success enjoyed at this year's Expo and not least to report the great success of the Certificate Generator which has already generated over

380,000 certificates. Several questions were raised at the AGM by members, and of these, some queries were passed to the Technical and Training Sub-Committee while others were answered directly on the day. Some of these queries are also addressed in this issue of UKATA Matters, where they are relevant to all members.

Paul Wilkinson of Appris Management raised the issue of resource materials. Craig Evans responded on the day with the news that UKATA is in the final stages of developing the website, which will include

a members' resource area, while a UKATA Asbestos Awareness Handbook is also being planned. More details of this can be found on page 8.

Kevin Staniforth at Shield Environmental raised the issue of exam conditions – and should these be able to be adapted to suit the different skills set of individual learners. In pointing out that the construction industry contains a variety of people with very different core skills, Kevin was highlighting a well-known issue in education and training: on

the one hand the necessity of delivering the very highest standards and on the other – the need to ensure those on the course take on the core information – which is to keep themselves and others safe from asbestos!

Some learners cannot read or write, while others may be terrified of exams or switch off at the thought or not take a course as a consequence. When it comes to matters of life and death this is a serious issue and the issue and UKATA's response to it is under consideration.

Conference

With the formalities of the AGM over, from 11.00 am the conference proper got underway, with five speakers addressing conference on a range of topics. The key note this year was delivered by Professor Anthony Seaton, who delivered a powerful presentation on Asbestos, Past and Future.

Professor Seaton went through the key dates in asbestos history, from the first clinical description of asbestosis by Montague Murray in 1907, through the first asbestos regulations in mills in 1931 and subsequent research into the relationship of lung cancer to asbestosis and mesothelioma to crocidolite (blue asbestos) exposure. Seaton was able to give a summary of the effects of pleural effusion and fibrosis associated with present or past heavy exposure to asbestos and asbestosis, which usually follows a long history of direct exposure to asbestos.

While the Professor was able to point to the fact that 'classical' cases of asbestosis are thankfully rare, minor fibrosis late in life is all too common and obviously brings up disability and life expectancy issues. The role of asbestos in lung cancer was also reviewed and the way in which bronchial carcinoma complicates asbestosis or asbestos exposure. Professor Seaton also brought up the difficult issue of how much exposure to asbestos is necessary to lead to asbestos related cancer. He made clear that all exposure cannot help but increase risk and that the risk doubled at about 25fibre.years/cc, or 5 million amphibole fibres per gram of dry lung.

The discussion of mesothelioma in particular is difficult to deal with, as an incurable malignant tumour of the pleura (the

membrane that envelopes the lungs) or peritoneum (membrane lining the walls of the abdominal cavity) that manifests itself as pain, breathlessness and weight loss and the time from diagnosis to death usually being just two years.

The Professor's statistics for predicted mesothelioma deaths in Britain also made sobering reading as it would seem these are yet to reach their peak and will not do so until the mid-2020s. An unwelcome legacy of our history of association with asbestos.

The discussion ultimately turned to what the medical profession knew about all this, which the Professor summarised by remarking that as early as 1900-1930, there was increasing knowledge of asbestosis, while from the 30s to the 50s there was a growing awareness of the cancer risk. It was to be the 70s and 90s that showed an improved understanding of the exposure/response relationship, but by which time a lot of the damage was already done.

Workers now getting asbestos related illnesses have been exposed to 200 fibres per breath or 107 fibres per shift and often for years and dose determines risk, as people dying from mesothelioma or asbestosis have millions of fibres per gram of lung tissue.



Professor Anthony Seaton (11.30 – 12.30)
Asbestos: past, present and future

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The Professor also brought up the difficult issue of how much exposure to asbestos is necessary to lead to asbestos related cancer.

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The blame game

Given his role as an expert witness in legal cases on both sides of the Atlantic over the years also puts Professor Seaton in the perfect position to discuss the medico legal issues involved. After many years have passed, who is to blame for mesothelioma – is a lung cancer caused by asbestos or not? It is here that diagnosis and prognosis come in.

Among those trades at biggest risk were shown to be metal plate workers, plumbers, carpenters and construction workers; all just regular people going about their regular business, and until recently unaware of the risks.

The beginning of the end - or the end of the beginning?

The fight against asbestos is ongoing. Even knowing what we know, cases still appear with alarming regularity in the UK press (as reported on in UKATA Matters) and this doesn't even take into account the widespread use of asbestos around the world. Yet Anthony also pointed out a potential new risk from the carbon nanotubes used in nanotechnology. These may represent a new inhalation hazard and given the experience with asbestos over the last century, it is argued their potential for pulmonary toxicity should be evaluated as a matter of some urgency. Any failure to pick up asbestos – like behaviour in this substance could be devastating to the health of the exposed people.

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Even knowing what we know, (about asbestos) cases still appear with alarming regularity in the UK.

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Our brave new world may not be such a brave new world after all

After a distinguished career, Professor Seaton retired in 2003, but his expertise was too much in demand for him to be allowed to leave completely. He joined the Institute of Occupational Medicine as an honorary Senior Consultant. He has written over 300 papers on respiratory and occupational medicine, chaired the UK Government's Expert panel on Air Quality Standards and has lectured on the subjects internationally and served as an expert witness in courts in the UK and US.



Mr Andrew Darnton (13.30 – 14.15)
Quantitative risks of asbestos related cancer

The HSE's Mr Andrew Darnton gave a compelling presentation on the quantitative risks of asbestos related cancer.

Andy is an epidemiologist working for the UK Health and Safety Executive and his role is to help ensure that strategies for controlling and reducing workplace risks, particularly those arising from asbestos and other respiratory hazards are based on sound epidemiological evidence. This involves producing statistical information and research about the effects of exposure to these hazards in the workplace.

Starting with some background on asbestos use and consequences in the UK, Andy used his platform at the conference to share some of his work on asbestos related projects, including developing models to assess asbestos related disease risks.

His findings were that more recent studies remain broadly in agreement with original analysis and many uncertainties in the data mean that extrapolations of models to lower exposures, different (younger) starting ages and (longer) patterns of exposure should not be taken as reliable absolute risk values. This means that extrapolated risk estimates might be most useful as rough indicators of the magnitude of risk to aid decisions in management of asbestos in different situations.

There are risks arising from exposures below 0.1 f/ml.yrs – particularly for amphiboles

Improvements in techniques to measure low airborne concentrations would be useful.



Professor Roger Willey (14.15 – 14.45) Asbestos in the environment based on the demolition of Red Road Flats, Glasgow

As a UKATA Director, Professor Roger Willey was the perfect choice to address conference on a specific project as an example of how asbestos should be tackled safely and effectively.

Roger has worked closely with the HSE for many years, both in Scotland via the SHAD scheme and nationally via the asbestos campaigns. For the last ten years, Roger’s services have been in demand as an expert witness, acting in over 400 cases. So when the project to demolish the Red Road Flats in Glasgow came along, Professor Willey was the natural choice of expert.

Professor Willey outlined to conference the history of the flats, from creation to their ultimate demolition and how their story in so many ways reflected the history of asbestos in Scotland and its terrible impact on Glasgow in particular.

In the 1950s, The Gorbals in Glasgow were acknowledged as the worst slums in Europe and it was decided the best solution was to knock them down and build the tallest and largest tower blocks in Europe. The result was the Red Road Flats. Facing the end of their working life, when

the decision was made to demolish them, consideration had to be given to the fact they were full of asbestos – and the impact of demolition would have to be addressed in terms of impact on the surrounding community.

The last issue of UKATA Matters ran a story on the asbestos rich dust cloud that was released post 9/11 and the potential negative impact this was likely to have. The article pointed out that a domestic demolition could produce similar results, and indeed this had to be considered for the Red Road Flats project.

The solution was a ten year programme of asbestos removal – followed by demolition. What sounds simple to say actually involved the largest asbestos removal programme in Europe and the largest demolition programme in Europe. Thanks to the so called ‘Glasgow Shipyard Effect’ Glasgow and the Clyde saw some

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Consideration had to be given to the fact they were full of asbestos – and the impact of demolition would have to be addressed in terms of impact on the surrounding community.
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The genuine fear of the demolition process was understandable; to reassure the public, a programme was set up to monitor airborne concentrations before work, during asbestos removal, during the blow down and in the aftermath. The programme has over four years’ worth of measurements and to date, no excess fibre concentrations have been measured at all.

Professor Willey went on to say the current prediction of the model is for no measurable excess lung cancer deaths due to the demolition programme.

of the largest numbers of asbestos related deaths (by postcode) anywhere in the world, so local people were understandably terrified of the implications.

Roger pointed out that almost all the ‘white mice’ who worked on the construction of the flats died as a result of asbestos related disease.

Next up was Yvette Leavy, presenting some of the current work being done by The British Lung Foundation with regard to raising awareness of the dangers of asbestos, plus upcoming projects.

As a professional specialising in corporate fundraising, Yvette works with a variety of companies in many different capacities. She pointed out that one in five people are living with a lung disease in the UK and that the UK has the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world and rising, with one person dying every five hours.

Yvette highlighted many concerns shared by UKATA, including disquiet over low awareness of asbestos amongst at risk groups and that the current 4,500 deaths a year attributable to asbestos is anticipated to peak in 2015. What this means in practice is that 20 tradespeople die every week as a result of mesothelioma, including eight joiners, six electricians and four plumbers on average.

Yvette's message centred around the neglect of the UK's lungs – with lung disease incidences rising - and that to help combat this, the British Lung Foundation has a focus on research, prevention and campaigns and services for those living with the aftermath.

Regular readers of UKATA Matters will have seen one of the British Lung Foundation's

'Take 5 and Stay Alive' campaign adverts on the inside front cover of the last issue (and indeed re-run in this edition). The campaign has aimed to reach professionals and those engaging in DIY in the home and in this issue we will be covering DIY jobs. UKATA is receiving an increasing number of calls from people accidentally disturbing asbestos with no training and UKATA is looking to address this. More on this can be found in this issue.

For the British Lung Foundation and UKATA, next steps are very similar, in the sense that both are looking for people to be educated about the dangers of asbestos and they need a trusted and credible place where they can receive expert advice and support.



Yvette Leavy (15.00 - 15.20) Presenting current work being done by the British Lung Foundation and upcoming projects





Joanne Kwan (15.20 – 15.50) CIRIA – Partnering with UKATA to launch a new course: Asbestos Awareness in Soils and Made Ground

As a project manager at CIRIA, Joanne is responsible for the award winning contaminated land programme. A widely recognised expert on contaminated land and environmental management, Joanne has been involved in over 30 projects and publications; the most recent was Asbestos in Soil and Made Ground: a guide to understanding and managing risks. Published in March 2014, it is the first UK good practice guidance since 1990.

A chartered Chemist, Honorary Lecturer at Cardiff University and an external examiner at Cambridge, Joanne was at

the conference to outline her partnership with UKATA to launch a new course – Asbestos Awareness in Soil and Made Ground.

The reputation of asbestos as a hidden killer is well known by industry insiders, but what has been perhaps less understood is the presence of asbestos in soil and the importance of dealing with this as an issue in its own right. It's been 14 years since any meaningful work has been done on this topic, so Joanne's work and her presentation to conference was a timely one.

Joanne demonstrated how studies have shown that soils containing as little as 0.001% free asbestos fibres could liberate airborne fibre concentrations greater than 0.01 f/ml when the dust concentration was less than 5mg/m³ – the contemporary occupational exposure limit for nuisance dust. While fibre release varies with fibre type and other factors such as nature of the soil, moisture content, weather and land use to name a few, the hazard to health is very real.

This led Joanne to discuss asbestos fibres in the context of soil to air relationships and the principle 'measure if you can, model if you must'. This is because of the

uncertainty in the models when estimating with so many variables in play. Laboratory derived soil to air relationships exist and can be used to predict airborne fibre concentrations in the case of asbestos, but considerable uncertainty exists, particularly at low soil concentrations. So while modelling may sometimes be the only way to go, measurement is always the preferred option.

The big issue is that current uncertainty regarding the soil to air relationship would result in generic UK criteria that are either over protective – or not protective enough, which presents a real dilemma. It has been suggested that criteria from other countries could be used as a guide, but this would need an understanding of how their criteria were originally derived and for those using them to justify how and why they are relevant to UK policy and guidance.

Detailed risk assessment and evaluation essential

In this situation, Joanne advocated a detailed risk assessment, which needs to characterise the nature and extent of asbestos soil contamination and include the current and future land use, the extent, location and depth of the contamination and the type, form, condition and concentration of the asbestos present.

From here, an estimate would be needed of the potential airborne fibre concentrations that could arise from the contamination present – something requiring multiple lines of evidence. A realistic exposure scenario can then be devised, followed by a prediction of likely cumulative exposures and ultimately, evaluate the significance of the associated risks.

In terms of models, no relevant technology is widely available, however a UK paper produced by UK HSE statisticians (Hodgson & Darnton 2000) does provide risk summary tables that can be used to conduct simple evaluations of risk in most cases.

It is the recognition that this area matters, that has led UKATA and CIRIA to develop a new course: Asbestos

Awareness in Soil and Made Ground. This will cover how to design risk assessment, legal requirements, what data is needed, health and safety issues, data interpretation and risk evaluation and communication.

It can seem that asbestos in soil is a low risk issue compared to other areas, but the recommendations matter and cases have already come to court. Joanne highlighted Williams vs Birmingham University – as recent as 2011 as an example.

This new course will be followed up with supporting tools – a guide by the summer of 2015 and seminars to look at some of the wider issues in more detail. The first of these took place on 10 September in Edinburgh and was followed by another on 2 October in London.

New Training Facility

has every scenario covered



A Bedfordshire-based training company has come up with an insightful practical classroom experience to train people in Non-Licensed Asbestos Works.

UKATA approved C&C Training Ltd has built a Category B training facility in one of its training rooms in Leighton Buzzard.

The new provision, which has been designed to replicate a typical room scenario, will be used to conduct practical Category B1, B2 & B3 training and assessments to the highest standards.

Using dummy asbestos containing materials (ACMs), C&C Training is able to provide a diverse selection of practical elements from the HSG210 Asbestos Essentials publication which forms the basis of Category B Non-Licensed Asbestos Works including notifiable non-licensed work (NNLW).

C&C's Head of Health and Safety Services, Matthew St John said: "The facility allows our instructors to deliver training in a safe and controlled environment that reflects the workplace in which the actual activities take place, adding realism and appreciation to the training. The facility also allows the instructors to set realistic tasks for those delegates returning for their annual refreshers. A series of scenarios will be developed from activities identified in the delegate training needs analysis and a potentially 'live' working environment will be constructed."

The realistic centre can provide training and assessments in the categories shown on the right.

For more information contact Sarah Holmes, Marketing Executive, C&C Training Ltd, 01525 851752.

- A1** Drilling holes in asbestos insulating board (AIB)
- A4** Removing a single AIB (less than 1m²) fixed in with nails/screws
- A5** Cleaning light fittings attached to AIB
- A6** Repairing minor damage to AIB
- A7** Painting undamaged AIB
- A8** Enclosing undamaged asbestos materials to prevent impact damage
- A9** Drilling holes in Asbestos Cement (AC) and other highly bonded materials
- A11** Removing AC debris
- A20** Laying cables in areas containing undamaged ACMs
- A23** Removing asbestos containing floor tiles and mastic
- A27** Inserting and removing screws through textured coatings
- A28** Removing textured coating from a small area e.g. 1m²
- A29** Cleaning up debris following the collapse of a ceiling or wall covered in a textured coating
- A33** Replacing an Asbestos containing fuse box or single fuse assembly
- A34** Removing pins and nails from an AIB Panel
- A36** Removing an AC panel outside, beside or beneath a window
- A37** Removing asbestos containing mastic, sealant, filler, beading, putty or fixing

C&C Training has not stopped there, as the company plans to support the fixed training facility with standalone training modules to cater for the following:

- A10** Cleaning debris from guttering on an AC roof
- A13** Repairing damaged AC
- A14** Removing AC sheets, gutters etc. and dismantling a small AC structure
- A16** Painting AC sheets

Partnership with the British Lung Foundation

is a breath of fresh air for UKATA

One of the biggest organisations dealing with campaigning for safer use of asbestos and research into the diseases it causes is set to team up with UKATA following in depth discussions and proposals. The British Lung Foundation (BLF) and UKATA are all set to become corporate partners, creating a relationship that will be mutually beneficial for both parties as they seek to ensure safer working conditions when it comes to asbestos, and put a stop to what is still the UK's biggest workplace killer.

TAKE 5 AND STAY ALIVE

As part of the partnership UKATA would become a bona fide supporter of the British Lung Foundation's 'Take 5 and Stay Alive Campaign' and hence reap the benefits of such a high profile partnership. The Take 5 Stay Alive campaign is the charity's way of educating the public and contractors on the dangers of asbestos by offering free advice and information into how to stay safe when dealing with the substance.

UKATA's details will be listed on the campaign website as well as UKATA members receiving a listing on the British Lung Foundation's asbestos directory for a small donation to the charity. The directory is a great resource and will assist visitors to the campaign website when looking for an approved training provider. UKATA

will receive recognition in the charity's annual report and UKATA members will be offered resources from the charity, in order to better educate them on the dangers they may face from asbestos exposure. The Association will also have permission to use the BLF's logo in promotional materials.

UKATA will look to add real value to the efforts of the British Lung Foundation by carrying out a number of joint ventures. A launch event at either the charity or the Association's headquarters will kick start the activity and raise awareness of the charity, UKATA and the new partnership from the outset.

Following this, the British Lung Foundation would look to host a lung function test at the 2015 AGM if appropriate, allowing each

member to get a front line check into whether or not they could be suffering from an underlying lung condition and receive free help and advice. UKATA members would also receive a free quarterly newsletter from the charity keeping them up to date with any new developments, including research and campaign news.

Importantly, UKATA members will also receive information packs detailing how they can help the charity. More developments will be announced on the partnerships and new initiatives in future editions of UKATA Matters, here we hope to have a page dedicated to our work with the British Lung Foundation going forwards into 2015.

SEPA

Following a request from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Professor Roger Willey and his team from ACS Physical Risk Control carried out training for all SEPA Field Inspectors in Scotland.

Courses were presented in Dingwall in the North of Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh and at the prestigious new Angus Smith Building in North Lanarkshire. Training concentrated on the risk presented by 'fly tipped' asbestos containing materials and how to handle this ever growing problem.

A key element in the choice of trainer was the quality of UKATA approved training organisations – essential for training Regulators.



UKATA Office Update



Congratulations Craig!

Craig made a big impression as the Association's financial controller, proving the business acumen and competence to deliver consistently good results. UKATA has big ambitions for the future, which will obviously increase workload. Craig's appointment is a reflection of that and the increasing workload on the Association.

"UKATA is entering an exciting new period of development, and felt the time was right to appoint a General Manager to oversee our expanding operation," said UKATA Chairman Eddie Strong. "Craig has proved himself as a man who has the talent and business experience to fulfil this post and lead the Association into this exciting new era."

"I have been involved with UKATA for a number of years and I am very proud of what we have achieved so far," said Craig when commenting on his appointment. "It is a real honour to lead such an exceptional team. Becoming a member of UKATA is no easy feat. We set the bar very high and that is what makes the UKATA 'badge' such an honour. Growing the membership is definitely a goal but we will never compromise on standards in pursuit of that."

It's been another very busy period at UKATA Head Office since the last issue. This has included promotions, new team members and restructuring of some roles.

Craig Evans was appointed as General Manager with effect from 1 July; Debbie Nixon became Membership Manager and Jackie Peat is the new Membership Officer. Gill Lewis is working as Secretary to the Executive Committee and assisting with strategic planning.

Jackie Peat

Under the restructuring process I have taken a more senior role within UKATA as Membership Officer. I now assist Debbie with the membership process which has increased at a phenomenal rate during the last few years.

At the moment my area of responsibility is the audit booking procedure, although it is a case of 'watch this space' for news of exciting plans within the membership team.

I am sure I will continue to speak to many of our members by telephone, assisting with enquiries wherever possible, which is something I particularly enjoy and am commended for.



Ella Barker-Hill



Having started work at UKATA on 1 September 2014, Ella is undertaking an Apprenticeship (NVQ Level 3) in Social Media and her main responsibility being to assist with getting the UKATA brand out to the wider industry, promoting our membership, improving our presence on Social Media sites and assisting with events and promotional materials.

Leane Davison



Leane joined UKATA as an Apprentice Receptionist/Administrator in April 2012 and with effect from September 2014 has now become Membership Administrator. Leane is continuing with her studies at NVQ Customer Services Level 3.

Debbie Nixon

Having joined UKATA in November, 2008 I have witnessed the rapid growth in membership first hand. The years of experience I gained throughout this time allows me to manage the membership process effectively.

In the early days Gill and I managed all elements of the day to day running of UKATA although by default I was mainly responsible for the membership process.

As staffing increased and we welcomed first Jackie in 2010 and Craig in 2011 the workload naturally settled into a more defined, although informal roll. Even though the staff restructuring has now been formalised we are most definitely united as a 'Team' working towards the same goal.

One of the new initiatives as part of the membership restructuring is to go

out and visit all new members which is something I particularly welcome as it gives both parties the opportunity to put 'a face to a name'!

There are lots of exciting and innovative ideas in the pipeline which will be of great benefit to members and I for one welcome these wholeheartedly.

Gill Lewis, Secretary to the Executive

"The staff restructuring is a welcome change. Since the start of my involvement with UKATA in 2008 I had a vision as to how I envisaged the Association growing and I am delighted Craig has a similar vision and as General Manager is making it happen!



In my redefined role as Secretary to the Executive, I am able to support the Directors complete the actions which arise from the Executive Board meetings as well as supporting Craig. Bringing together so many experts in the field of asbestos who offer their time freely, is a phenomenal achievement and I am more than delighted to assist with the logistics required to make UKATA work.

As part of my role I am helping with strategic planning and becoming more involved with Development and Marketing aspect of UKATA. The newly defined roles have enabled staff members to develop their own areas of specialism whilst drawing upon their past experience and skill sets; a factor which has been skilfully identified by the Board. So far it is proving a big success and we trust that members equally see this as a positive move by UKATA.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

The UKATA team held a coffee morning and raised £75.50 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



There's a new Doctor

Alan Pojur joins Training and Safety Consultants

Dr Alan Pojur BSc Phd joined Training and Safety Consultants in mid-November 2014. Alan's experience and reputation will allow Training and Safety Consultants (TASC) to extend their capabilities and the service they can offer their clients.

Alan joined HM Factory Inspectorate in 1978 and during his time there gained a wealth of experience carrying out inspections, investigating accidents and complaints and providing advice in a number of industries, including: engineering; food; woodworking; rubber; plastics and paper and printing. In 1990 he moved to TL Holden & Co, where he worked as a Consulting Forensic Engineer as an expert witness specialising in noise-induced hearing loss, hand arm vibration syndrome and asbestos related diseases.

From 2000 Dr Pojur worked for the Health and Safety Executive as a member of the Construction Group/ Division. Here Alan carried out inspections, investigated accidents and complaints and provided advice to the construction and asbestos industries.

In addition to providing category A, B and C training for TASC, Alan will:

- Give coaching to business principals
- Provide advice and coaching services for risk management,



procedural reviews, site audits and assessment, competency assessment and training needs analysis

- Give support and advice on enforcement and appeals
- Help with accident investigation and reports

Dr Pojur's asbestos related work has included 14 years assessing and commenting on plans of work; nine years carrying out licence assessment interviews and seven years as a nominated asbestos inspector (including training to allow him to enter live enclosures).

For more information on how Alan can help your business, please contact Mike Anderson on 01625 419990.

Asbestos - Real Risk and Perceived Risk

The United Kingdom was the first country in the world to have an industrial revolution. Society changed from being predominantly rural and feudal into the industrial power house of the world.



Unfortunately, our revolution occurred before the invention of the internal combustion engine and our developments were almost entirely steam driven. Steam boilers are notorious for heat loss. To make them more efficient they require insulation. The best and cheapest material at this time was, of course, asbestos. The UK built the largest and fastest ships in the world and built more ships than any other country. We also built the fastest steam locomotives and exported them across the globe. It is not difficult to see why the UK at this time imported more asbestos than any other country on Earth. The legacy is that we now have one of the highest incidences of asbestos related diseases in the world.

Most people in this country know that inhalation of airborne asbestos fibres can cause fatal lung diseases and have developed a

respect for the material. In some cases, however, the respect has become fear – driven in many cases by the populist press. How many times have you heard ‘asbestos is so dangerous that if you breathe in one fibre then you will die.’ This ‘single fibre theory’ has undoubtedly caused great concern to many people and, in many cases, has led to considerable expenditure on asbestos remediation.

The questions are, of course, (a) is it true, (b) if not, what is the real risk of exposure to airborne asbestos fibres?

There can be no question that up to the end of the Second World War most usage of asbestos in the UK was in heavy engineering, as described above and that was predominantly where deaths occurred. Unfortunately, WWII changed that for ever. Many of the UK’s major industrial cities were heavily bombed during the war and large

numbers of buildings and homes destroyed. After the war there was a major building programme to rehouse tens of thousands of displaced people.

This was at a time when the country was virtually bankrupt and conventional building materials such as stone, brick and wood were in very short supply. There was a large amount of asbestos left over from the war effort and because of its remarkable properties, coupled with its relatively low cost; it proved to be ideal for the rapid and inexpensive construction of homes. Most people of a ‘certain age’ will remember the post war pre-fabricated houses – many of them still standing and still serviceable. Once introduced to the construction industry, asbestos usage spread to the vast number of applications we see today. To fuel this demand the importation of asbestos into the UK

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The legacy is that we now have one of the highest incidences of asbestos related diseases in the world.

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increased from just under 10,000 tonnes in 1930 to over 170,000 tonnes by 1950.

All buildings constructed at tax payers’ expense must conform to the basic rule of ‘best quality and lowest price’ – precisely the qualities of asbestos. The result was that most buildings constructed by Local Authorities, Hospitals, Clinics, Schools, Colleges, Universities, MOD, etc. contained asbestos; meaning that the majority of people in the UK spend time in buildings which contain asbestos products.

Prof Seaton’s early post mortem studies at the University of Aberdeen indicated that 60% of people in the UK had asbestos fibres in their lungs at point of death and it was nothing to do with the cause of death. Post mortem work in our large cities indicate a figure of some 100% - let us explore this.

There are currently some 60 million people in the UK. If only 60% of them have asbestos fibres in their lungs then some 36 million people in the UK have asbestos fibres in their lungs. If one fibre kills then all of these people would die of asbestos related disease. It is well known that the average latent period (from over exposure to death) is in the region of 30 years. This would indicate a death rate of some 1.2 million asbestos related deaths per annum. Crude of course – but it does give us an indicative figure. Post mortem studies indicate some 2000 asbestos related deaths per annum in the UK in the final years of the 20th century.

We have lived in a scientific age for over 400 years. Theoreticians develop new ideas and make predictions. Experimental scientists then test these predictions. If the prediction and the experiment do not agree then one of them must be wrong. That is the scientific way.

In the present case the experimental data comes from post mortem studies and is very unlikely to be wrong. Therefore the theoretical prediction must be wrong. How did we arrive at

the prediction? By assuming that one single fibre will kill. Clearly there is no scientific justification for this 'theory.'

As part of my job, I prepare expert witness reports in asbestos related cases – over 500 to date. In October 2012 I was involved in a typical mesothelioma case. The person was diagnosed with mesothelioma (medical opinion at this stage). He then passed away and post mortem tests confirmed mesothelioma (medical fact). A sample of biopsy material was sent for electron microscopy analysis and the number of asbestos fibres per milligram identified. By multiplying this figure by the average weight of a human lung we can obtain an estimate of the total lung loading. This calculation indicated some 102 million asbestos fibres in the lung. Further studies have confirmed such a lung loading to be typical in mesothelioma deaths.

A single fibre kills – I think not!

Clearly there must be some threshold between 1 fibre and 102 million fibres. In the next article we will explore this.

Professor Roger Willey

In memoriam - Terry Jago

Craig Evans and Gill Lewis attended a Memorial Service at St Mary's Church, Atherstone on Friday 15 August, for Terry Jago (24 November, 1941 – 3 August, 2014) a former director of UKATA (for ARCA) who passed away aged 73 following a long battle with cancer.

Terry was a founder member of ARCA and remained a director until January, 2012. He had a profound impact on the development of UKATA and we hope the Association moving from strength to strength and saving lives through training and education will stand as a lasting legacy of Terry's life and work.

Terry will be sadly missed and our love and thoughts go out to his friends and family in particular his wife Linda and daughters Deb and Suzy.



UKATA gets personal with asbestos safety equipment

As our members will be aware, training in the safe and correct use of PPE and RPE is essential when it comes to handling asbestos safely and can quite literally be a lifesaver. When Health and Safety International needed a rundown on the basics for their readers, UKATA Chairman Eddie Strong was happy to oblige. An extract from the article is produced below:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) is essential kit for those charged with the safe removal and disposal of asbestos yet these tools should always be regarded as last line of defence and not a solution in themselves. Before commencing work, steps must already have been taken to avoid asbestos fibres being released in the work environment.

With 4,500 deaths every year, asbestos remains the biggest single cause of work related deaths in the UK. Yet despite this, asbestos remains very much a hidden killer, with the public and many workers ignorant of the risk to health posed by asbestos dust. Diseases caused by asbestos have no cure, yet it can be disposed of safely by those trained in the safe use of PPE and RPE.

This article can only provide an overview of the PPE and

RPE required to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. UK legislation dictates that employers must ensure staff members are given adequate information, instruction and training where that employee is, or is liable to be exposed to asbestos. If you could penetrate the fabric of a building, you will need basic training to identify asbestos in its various forms. All UKATA members offer training in awareness of

asbestos and at higher levels the safe use of PPE and RPE, so there is no excuse for not having the basic knowledge.

No work on asbestos should be undertaken unless you have been properly and fully trained by an approved provider, not only in asbestos but in the correct use of the equipment required to handle it safely.

Continued overleaf

UKATA gets personal with asbestos safety equipment

The overall picture

Asbestos dust can cling to clothing, so use disposable overalls and once used; the overalls must be disposed of as asbestos waste. Type 5 disposable overalls (BS EN ISO 13982-1) for example. Cotton overalls need specialist cleaning because they hold dust, so are best avoided. Never be tempted to take used overalls home. Selecting at least one size too big can help prevent tearing at seams and if the cuffs are loose, seal them with tape. Overall legs should go over your footwear and never be tucked in, as this can let dust into the footwear; and the hood should be worn over the RPE straps. For footwear, laced boots should be avoided as they are difficult to clean.



Masking the issue

As asbestos causes respiratory illnesses like Mesothelioma, suitable RPE is essential and a standard dust mask is totally inadequate. They are in fact, worse than useless, because they give a false sense of safety; when in asbestos environments, only a suitable respirator will do. Reports of untrained people 'doubling up' such dust masks, thinking this gives double protection, when they afford no protection whatsoever from asbestos fibres are always worrying.

There are several types of RPE available and the one you need will depend on the task and the work involved. Disposable respirators, half mask respirators and semi disposable respirators may be fine for non-licenced work of short duration. EN149 is the basic disposable model. For anything requiring continuous use,

powered non-disposable RPE equipment is a must, but situations requiring such a powered respirator are likely to involve licenced work, where only fully trained specialists should be involved.

Under no circumstances should anyone attempt to take on work untrained. Workers need to be 'fit tested' to ensure RPE fits correctly and such testing and training should have been arranged prior to work being undertaken. In the most recent cases where prosecutions have been brought, buildings had been found to contain friable asbestos in insulation, spray coatings and insulating board which had been removed or handled by innocent trades' people through ignorance and lack of basic understanding. Anyone using RPE and PPE must be fully trained in its proper use, as it is all too easy to make mistakes

when using the equipment untrained that could cost you your life.

A common mistake seen in untrained users is to leave the respirator dangling around their neck before leaving the contaminated area. In this case, it can collect contaminated dust, making its protection ineffective. Never leave a respirator lying around for the same reason. The respirator must be a tight fit and glasses should be put on after the respirator, as it is essential no gap is created between mask and face and the overall hood must go over the straps.

Employers have a duty to ensure their employees are not only trained but are complying in full with the Control of Asbestos regulations 2012. Employees must have been instructed on how to check their equipment and clothing is fit for purpose, is working correctly, how to check it

fits, how to identify and replace worn or defective parts and in the case of certain types of RPE, how and when to change the filters and ensure all seals and valves are in good working order. If anyone suspects their RPE is not working correctly, they must stop work immediately and leave the area.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) website has a full rundown of steps to take when coming into contact with asbestos, while UKATA points people in the direction of our members who are approved training providers throughout the UK. Everyone needs to appreciate the essential importance and life-saving value of training when it comes to asbestos.

Are you dealing with a trained contractor?

How to uncover fraudulent certificates

With growing emphasis being placed on all personnel having the correct approved training to carry out asbestos removal, many unscrupulous contractors are being caught trying to short-cut the system by creating fraudulent UKATA certificates.

In response to a growing number of complaints and reports of several examples of fraudulent certificates, UKATA Matters would like to demonstrate how to spot a forgery.

UKATA is able to validate a training certificate via the online Certificate Generator and the Association can immediately tell if it is a forgery, and so can you. If you suspect all is not as it should be, all you have to do is contact 08443 722 810 and quote the certificate number. If you suspect you have come into contact with a fraudulent certificate, take note of the contractor's name and business and report this to UKATA. We take all such allegations extremely seriously and will report such matters to the Health and Safety Executive and Trading Standards for further action.

How to spot a fake

So, how do you go about spotting the difference between safety and snide?



UKATA Water Mark

Each of our certificates has the UKATA logo as a watermark behind the main information on the document. You should familiarise yourself with the characteristics of this watermark to be better equipped to spot a fake.

Name of Candidate and Course

The name of the candidate should be the first piece of information displayed on any UKATA certificate followed by the course and information about the qualification they have received.

Date

Ensure the certificate is in date; both a valid from date (larger text) and an expiry date should be displayed.

Certificate Number

The certificate number is a unique number for each trained contractor and no two are ever the same. Certificate numbers and validity can be quickly verified by phoning 08443 722 810 or by visiting the UKATA website at www.ukata.org.uk.

Other Information

Other information that must be provided includes the training provider's name and company, whilst the contractor's picture may also be displayed as optional alongside the logo of any partnership organisation that may have been involved in the training. This information will be displayed as per the gaps in the mock certificate above.

We are now looking at other security methods we can put in place to prevent fraudulent certificates in the future. Updates to follow in future editions.

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If you suspect all is not as it should be, all you have to do is contact 08443 722 810 and quote the certificate number.
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Never to let D.I.Y. become D.I.E.

Disturbing News leads UKATA to answer DIY SOS from public and trade

Since the last issue of UKATA Matters, Head Office has received an influx of calls from concerned and sometimes distressed homeowners who believe they have uncovered asbestos whilst carrying out home improvement work. It's important that all of our members – as experts in the field – are prepared for similar calls and deal with them effectively by offering good advice.



While the public seeking our advice in greater numbers is a good sign that our messages on the dangers of asbestos are getting through, the issue also highlights the need for a more general awareness of asbestos and what to do should it be unexpectedly encountered in the home.

"The influx of calls coming into UKATA from concerned homeowners is a worrying trend," said UKATA general manager Craig Evans. "While the steps we suggest they take apply more to the trade than to the public, the same principals apply when it comes to safety."

Asbestos deaths in the UK are made up of those

working with asbestos and failing to take the proper precautions, those indirectly exposed as a result of DIY work or the families of tradesmen who have unwittingly carried asbestos home on their clothing. It is vital the public and others working in health and safety generally are prepared for similar enquiries and can offer factual and safe advice.

"We have had numerous calls where homeowners have been in their loft or have removed textured coatings from their walls, only to realise afterward that it may have been asbestos," added Craig. "If people are doing DIY jobs they need to have sufficient awareness of the possibility that there

could be asbestos present. UKATA is passionate about raising this awareness and the fact that professional advice must be sought should asbestos be accidentally disturbed in this way."

If you receive calls from the public planning any DIY home improvements, repairs or maintenance yourself, it is essential they take every precaution to identify asbestos before work commences and if in doubt, call in the experts. For detailed information on asbestos containing materials, members can always refer homeowners to the HSE Asbestos Hidden Killer website: www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/hiddenkiller

"If asbestos has been accidentally disturbed, then people should contact their local authority or the HSE," added Craig. Approved Asbestos Removal Contractors will be able to give professional advice.

Exposure to asbestos is reportable under RIDDOR when a work activity causes the accidental release or escape of asbestos fibres into the air in a quantity sufficient to cause damage to the health of any person. Such situations are likely to arise when work is carried out without suitable

controls, or where those controls fail – they often involve:

- Use of power tools (to drill, cut etc) on most Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs);
- Work that leads to physical disturbance (knocking, breaking, smashing) of an ACM that should only be handled by a licensed contractor e.g. sprayed coating, lagging, asbestos insulating board (AIB);
- Manually cutting or drilling AIB;
- Work involving aggressive physical disturbance of asbestos cement e.g. breaking or smashing.

If these activities are carried out without suitable controls, or the precautions fail to control exposure, these would be classed as a 'dangerous occurrence' under RIDDOR and should be reported.

The important thing here is to ensure DIY doesn't end in death.

If UKATA members are receiving similar calls and enquiries, then let us know at UKATA Matters.

Be D.I.Y. aware

There is additional guidance that can be provided to people on how to make themselves aware of the dangers of coming into contact with asbestos in DIY work, which is a theme of this UKATA Matters. For example, many people think they can protect themselves using a disposable mask, so we have included Eddie's article on PPE and RPE to debunk some of these myths and to point out how essential it is to have the correct equipment and training in its proper use.

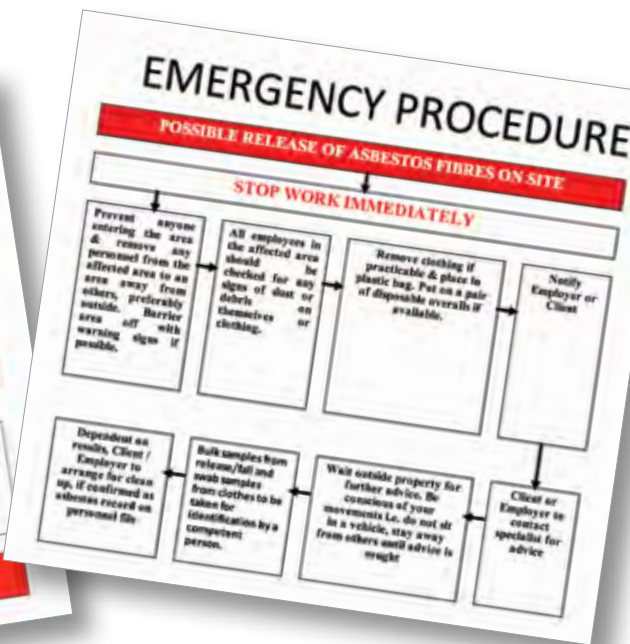
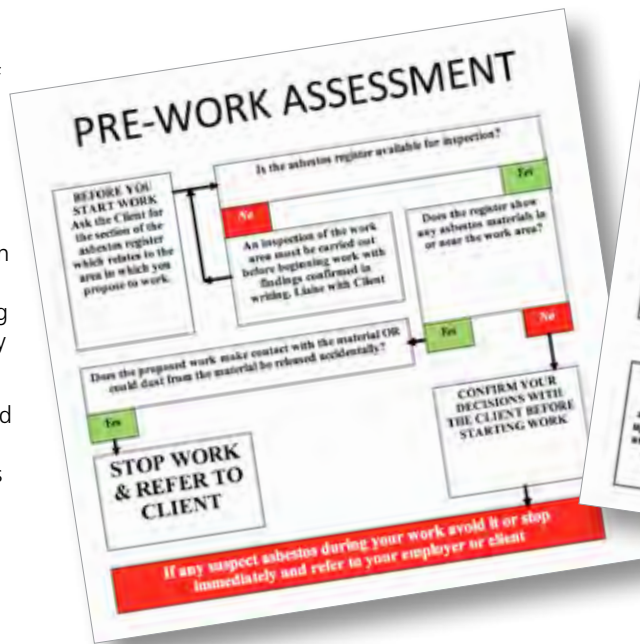
UKATA has some slides designed to assist UKATA members in the delivery of Category A – Asbestos Awareness Training when dealing with emergency procedures. We have included examples here illustrating the emphasis on identifying asbestos in the first instance, thus avoiding the need for an emergency situation.

This information is provided for assistance and advice only and training providers should adapt and amend as necessary as every situation will present its own procedures that will need to be followed. These procedures are by no means intended to be exhaustive and UKATA cannot emphasise enough the importance of comprehensive training when it comes to the safe handling of asbestos.

Prevention

As with anything, the best resolution to any problem is prevention and the only sure way to ensure they do not dangerously disturb the substance is to identify it and avoid it before work commences.

If asbestos is identified, then it is absolutely paramount to professionally remove it using an approved contractor before continuing work. If they are only carrying out small DIY work and therefore may unwittingly expose asbestos, this is when the real danger begins.



Emergency

Many calls UKATA receive are made whilst DIY work is ongoing and range from an enquiry into what the homeowner thinks might be asbestos, to them accidentally drilling into an asbestos panel. In whatever way the discovery is made, the same advice is applied and it's very similar to the advice we give to contractors.

They need to know if what they have discovered is asbestos and it's always a good start to ask what the suspected materials look like. If it appears to be asbestos but is undisturbed, they will need to source a licensed contractor to complete further checks before continuing building work. If they have already disturbed asbestos the next advice could potentially be

lifesaving not just to them, but also to anyone else who's in the proximity. They should stop what they are doing immediately. This may sound obvious to UKATA members, but some people try to repair the asbestos materials and in doing so create a bigger risk to themselves and others.

Once work has stopped the homeowner should secure the affected room whilst they contact the necessary contractors. Anyone who has come into contact with the dust released from the asbestos should check their clothing. If there is any sign of debris settling on the clothing or dust then they should remove all affected garments immediately and seal the clothing in a plastic bag before changing into clean clothes.

Leave it to the experts

Once they have removed themselves from the danger and assuming that they have already contacted a UKATA trained asbestos removal contractor, then they should be sure to contact their local authority or HSE to notify them of the environmental health disturbance.

If you are contacted with regards to an asbestos disturbance, then you should ensure that you are also following the emergency procedure properly and take any samples, so that the asbestos can be clearly identified and the homeowner can then receive health advice if they have been exposed.

Member competitions



WINNER! Paul is king of the competition

Congratulations to UKATA member Mr Paul King in the South East who was the lucky winner of the first prize from the summer edition of UKATA Matters.

The Managing Partner of Rider Levett Bucknall UK, Paul is now the proud owner of an 'Otone Audio Soundship Micro' speaker dock. The Soundship Micro is a Bluetooth speaker dock that produces impressively clear audio with stylish and innovative design.

As a Fellow Chartered Surveyor and Management Board member of Rider Levett Bucknall UK, Paul has over 35 years' experience within the construction and property industry, with responsibility for growth of National Building Surveying and leading their asbestos consultancy division undertaking project and programme management of asbestos related projects. As a UKATA Member, Paul is a UKATA Certified Asbestos Awareness Training Provider for in-house and associated professional practices and a larger article from Paul will be appearing in a future issue of UKATA Matters, so watch this space.

Congratulations again Paul, we hope you enjoy the prize.

WIN a fantastic hamper worth £100

Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas without a traditional hamper and UKATA Matters is offering one lucky UKATA member the opportunity to win a fantastic luxury festive hamper worth over £100. This dream hamper could be yours, just in time for Christmas and here's how:

By now, UKATA Members should have received their feedback survey via email. Members who complete this survey and return it to Head Office by Thursday 11 December 2014 will be entered into the hat for a chance to win the hamper. The winner will be drawn at random, and informed on Friday 12 December 2014 to ensure your prize hamper arrives in time to make this Christmas that bit more magical. Sorry, it won't contain any furry penguins as they have run out, but next year you never know!

This full to bursting hamper will be the perfect addition to any family Christmas celebration, with a selection of decadent and indulgent treats complementing the turkey and tinsel and goodies to suit all tastes. What's more, once empty, the basket itself makes the perfect partner for that summer picnic we will all be looking forward to, come the New Year.

So get those survey forms filled in and sent back if not done already, and a few minutes work could be transformed into a hamper bursting with luxuries and festive spirit. The sooner you fill in and return the survey, the sooner your name goes in the hat, so don't 'hamper' your chances of winning, fill it in today. Good luck!



Hamper contents

Wines

- 1 x Vina Mateo Sauvignon Blanc (75cl)
- 1 x Vina Mateo Merlot (75cl)
- 1 x Casa D'Amello Prosecco (75cl)

Products Included

- 1 x Marc de champagne truffles (145g)
- 1 x Luxury salted caramel nuts (230g)
- 1 x Collection Star Christmas cake (465g)
- 1 x Belgian Collection Metropolitan Biscuits (150g)
- 1 x Luxury gold teabags (250g)
- 1 x Collection intensely fruity Christmas pudding (454g)
- 1 x Marzipan collection (200g)
- 1 x Classic House Blend Coffee (227g)

Ts and Cs

Usual UKATA Member Ts and Cs apply. Member companies only. No limit on the number of directors and employees that can enter from a Member company, but only one entry per individual. All surveys must be answered honestly and in full, to be entered into the Prize Draw. No cash alternative. No alternative prize. Judge's decision final. The winner agrees to publicity in the next UKATA Matters, on UKATA's website and social media streams, etc. The hamper will be couriered from UKATA to the winner, for delivery Monday 15 December. To ensure you receive your hamper before Christmas, you need to be available to receive the delivery on Monday 15 December, otherwise it will be delivered in the next available delivery slot.

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BQI Insurance

With asbestos related trades remaining the preserve of specialist insurance products, it is important to work with a broker who can arrange products to cater for your every need.

Whether you provide training services to the industry, or are involved in licensed removal work, BQI Insurance are in a position to provide first class products while at the same time ensuring competitive premium levels.

Both Professional Indemnity and Liability covers can be placed on our asbestos facilities, and we have excellent arrangements with underwriters to deliver the associated covers you require for your own premises and vehicles.

To discuss your needs with one of our advisers, please call us on: 01738 448741



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