Meeting Number 33 **Date 7th Mar 2022**

Asbestos Network Technical Working Group (ANTWG)

Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th Mar 2022 via MS Teams

Present:
Sam Lord (SL) (HSE/Chair/Minutes), Jonathan Grant (JG) (BOHS/FAAM), Steve Watkins (SW) (Industry), Graham Warren (GW) (ACAD), Steve Sadley (SS) (ARCA), 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 Introductions, apologies and welcome:

SL welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received from Colette Willoughby.

2 Minutes of ANTWG meeting (No.32) and acceptance:

The minutes from Oct 2021 (No 32) meeting were accepted.

Action: Finalised minutes to be sent to AsbNet members via AsbNet Secretariat. (SL)

3 Matters/actions arising from Meeting No.32 October 2021

1	SL to check with Archie Mitchell that it is ok for Colette Willoughby to re-join the group representing NORAC	**This has been agreed and Colette informed**
2	Minutes of accepted ANTWG meeting (No 31) to be sent to AsbNet members via AsbNet Secretariat. (SL)	**Completed and sent out to AsbNet on 13/10/21**
4b	**Abrasive Blasting Removal Systems Appendix** Review how different the revised Appendix is with a view to justifying a re-issue (SL)	**Update March 2022 meeting including an additional request relating to dry ice systems**
4c	**Decontamination Unit Services (Gas and Electrical Safety) Appendix** GW to send finalised version to SL to circulate to Asbestos Unit for final comment	**Complete**
4d	**Personal Sampling, Health & Exposure Records Appendix** Document to be updated by GW SL to complete an initial review and circulate to AU (Deb Walker) for initial comment	**Complete** **Complete**

4a	**NPU Connection and Disconnection**
	Work on this is on-going with new photos etc. **Action:** Complete by end of March 2022 with a view to providing a final version for the next TWG meeting.
4b	**Abrasive Blasting Removal Systems**
	SL reviewed this Appendix and confirmed that the only significant change was additional guidance on additional physical protection of sheeted areas of enclosures. SS had been asked by an ARCA member whether the scope of the Appendix would include dry ice methods. SL completed a quick internet search to establish commercially available methods. **Action:** TWG members to find out what methods were being used a view to getting industry informed guidance on preferred applications e.g., removal of sprayed residues from metal vs pitted concrete, removal from calcified pipework.
4c	**Decontamination Unit Services (Gas and Electrical Safety)**
	SL and GW held a meeting in December 2021 to go through the comments from HSE Asbestos Unit. SS sent round a copy of a table from a previous which collated DCU checks, frequency and training requirements of those undertaking them. GW to review this with a view to including a version in the Appendix which was acknowledged as only covering the earthing aspects (SL reminded TWG that the intention is only to clarify/update not re-write guidance that is already in HSG247.) **Action:** SL to confirm by e-mail to GW HSE interpretation of ACOP requirement at para 521 'Suitable hygiene facilities, whether purpose built on site or a transportable dedicated decontamination unit (DCU), must be provided on the site and be fully operational before any work (including ancillary work) starts.' Clarity was required whether this meant must be always running or having set up the DCU to a fully operational status and completed checks to verify, the unit could be turned off until needed. **Action:** GW to finalise and send round to TWG members for review at May 22 meeting.
4d	**Personal Sampling, Health & Exposure Records**
	Work has progressed but the content and scope is still to be decided. SL has almost completed latest revision and expressed intention to provide greater clarification and explanation about types of personal sampling. **Action:** SL to complete this and discuss with GW with a view to issuing to TWG members for further consultation.
4e	The Appendix status table was updated. **Action:** TWG members to provide intelligence on the use of differential pressure monitors for measuring negative pressure in enclosures.

	Action: GW advised that the 'Skip design for asbestos waste' appendix was near completion, and he will aim to send round to TWG members with the intention of finalising at the next meeting.
5	**AOB**
5.1	**Appendix numbering conventions** – GW noted that the Licensing WG was producing an Appendix and using the same numbering convention. SL suggested that prior to issuing a number to an Appendix this be agreed with other working group Chairs to ensure the same number is not used twice.
5.2	**Transit of waste through bag lock (SL) –** query relating to procedure being questioned by HSE at license application/renewal. Industry was reported to widely adopt procedure of outside worker entering the bag lock (wearing RPE and single coverall) and assisting in the bagging of waste in the middle section. SL made reference to the soon to be published research report that identified detectable asbestos fibres on those persons undertaking waste run. SL stated that she thought the position in HSG247 was clear that the waste bags were placed in final stage for collection. It was acknowledged that some of the industry interpreted this to mean that the outside person simply collected the waste from outside, and the inside person would decontaminate boots prior to entering the bag lock but would be permitted to enter the second stage and place the bag in the final stage. **Action:** SL to send link to report when published **Action:** TWG to draft an appendix to clarify this and to consider large baglocks and combined airlock/baglocks
5.3	**Bagging of H-vacs after licensed asbestos removal work (GW/SS)**– a number of issues were raised, and SL had sent an e-mail response but also suggested discussion at TWG. **Q.** Does the hose and attachment needed to be removed and double bagged? **A.** Yes it does because it can't be effectively decontaminated. Clarification was sought whether bagged vacs needed to be carried in the waste compartment of vans as this was considered the best place for them in case there was a spillage. SL stated that whilst they clearly contain asbestos, they are technically not waste, and the reason for double bagging is to prevent accidental spillage. The issue of the vacuum being used for non-licensed work following use for licensed work was raised. The design of H-vacuums was briefly discussed, specifically to eliminate the accidental opening of the vacuum (via clips) – these are currently taped/cling filmed to prevent this. Also, the cleanability of the units such that they could be more easily decontaminated to further minimise external contamination. Reference was made to the British Standard for H-Vacs which includes some design criteria **Action:** SL agreed to contact Chair of Equipment Manufacturers working group to see if this is something they could address.
5.4	**Accepted packaging for Transport of Asbestos Contaminated Soil (SS)** – SL referenced the CAR SOIL guidance which was written by a working group with HSE representation. Specifically pages 91-94 https://www.claire.co.uk/projects-and-initiatives/asbestos-in-soil

5.5	**AIB soffits and ventilation requirements (full enclosures) (SS)** – a query had been raised concerning what guidance should be applied in terms of air change rate for soffit removal– the L143 ACOP requirements (8 acph for enclosures >120m^3 or 1000 m^3/hr for enclosures less than 120 m^3) or the 03/11 memo which states a minimum of 20 acph. The key point is that negative pressure in the enclosure in all areas is continually maintained at a minimum of -5Pa. That is the end point to work back from. What this looks like in terms of acph – a minimum of 20 acph seems a reasonable starting point given unsealed voids and enclosures can be quite long. **Action:** TWG members to gain data from LARCS to verify this, particularly as there is a range of soffit designs and this could be used to provide further clarification for any future guidance on this.
5.6	**Communication with other AsbNet working groups** – SL suggested that the easiest way was for the Chairs to meet and keep in contact to ensure effective communication and appropriate cross group working is maintained. **Action:** SL to action by setting up inaugural meeting.
5.7	**Clarification of the means by which NPU flow rate is checked on site prior to the start of works (SS)** – some LARCs were being challenged by HSE inspectors if they did not check this using an anemometer or the volume flow rate gauge on the NPU (if fitted) and were solely reliant on the last DOP test cert reading and flap deflection. SL clarified that there is a clear ACOP requirement at para 395 *Before starting work in the enclosure, a thorough visual inspection and smoke test must be conducted to check the enclosure's integrity. The filtered air extraction equipment must be tested to ensure it is achieving negative pressure and the required air change rate.* SL also reminded the TWG of the Appendix which had been issued to assist LARCs to do this on-site *Appendix 19/2 Measuring the inward Air Flow of a Negative Pressure Unit.* **Post meeting Note:** GW queried whether this Appendix had been published, SL to look into this.
6	**Date of Next Meeting**
	6th May 2021 via MS Teams

Appendix Guidance Documents Status Update (7 March 2022)

Appendix Title	Lead Author	Proposed Completion Date	Current Status	Addition resource required from AN on a Task and Finish basis?
NPU Connection and Disconnection	SS	May 22	Amends to photos etc to be completed by end of Mar 22 for final approval by TWG	
Abrasive Blasting Removal Systems – *revision only*	SL	May 22	Amends discussed at Oct 21 meeting, SL to check how different the version is and consider if justification for re-issue. March 22 - Members to provide details of current use of abrasive blasting including intel on dry ice systems.	
Decontamination Services (Gas and Electrical Safety in DCUs	GW	May 22	June 21 - To be sent to HSE Specialists for final review. Aug 21 - HSE AU to have a final review before publication. Oct 21 – review complete, final amends to be made.	
Personal Sampling, Exposure and Health Records	GW	Aug 22	Working draft discussed in April 21 Oct 21 - Revised draft to be completed and circulated for comment initially by SL and DW (AU)	
Skip Design for Asbestos Waste	GW	May 22	Initial draft and scope agreed in April 21 and circulated to TWG for initial comment Oct 21 – Put on hold to allow work on other appendices to be completed. March 22 – final draft to be circulated for comment	
Equipment to measure differential pressure	SL	Aug 22	Intelligence being gathered from LARCs who use this equipment.	

SUMMARY ACTION TABLE Meeting #33 (March 2022)

ITEM	ACTION
2	**SL** to send finalised minutes of Oct 21 meeting (#32) to be sent to AsbNet members via AsbNet Secretariat.
4a	**NPU Connection and Disconnection Appendix SS** to complete by end of March 2022 with a view to providing a final version for the next TWG meeting.
4b	**Abrasive Blasting Removal Systems Appendix - TWG members** to find out what methods were being used a view to getting industry informed guidance on preferred applications e.g., removal of sprayed residues from metal vs pitted concrete, removal from calcified pipework.
4c	**Decontamination Unit Services (Gas and Electrical Safety) Appendix - SL** to confirm by e-mail to GW HSE interpretation of ACOP requirement at para 521 'Suitable hygiene facilities, whether purpose built on site or a transportable dedicated decontamination unit (DCU), must be provided on the site and be fully operational before any work (including ancillary work) starts.' **GW** to finalise and send round to TWG members for review at May 22 meeting.
4d	**Personal Sampling, Health & Exposure Records Appendix - SL** to complete this and discuss with GW with a view to issuing to TWG members for further consultation.
4e	**Equipment to measure differential pressure Appendix - TWG members** to provide intelligence on the use of differential pressure monitors for measuring negative pressure in enclosures.
4f	**GW** advised that the **'Skip design for asbestos waste' appendix** was near completion, and he will aim to send round to TWG members with the intention of finalising at the next meeting.
5.2	**SL** to send link to 'Asbestos exposures to workers in the licensed asbestos removal industry' report when published. **TWG** to draft an appendix to clarify 'transit of waste through bag lock' and to consider large baglocks and combined airlock/baglocks.
5.3	**SL** to contact Chair of Equipment Manufacturers Working group to see if the design of H-vacuums specifically to eliminate the accidental opening of the vacuum (via clips) is something they could address.
5.5	**TWG members** to gain data from LARCS to verify whether the minimum of 20 acph guidance achieves adequate negative pressure (i.e minimum of -5Pa) in a full enclosure, as there is are a range of soffit designs and this could be used to provide further clarification for any future guidance on this.
5.6	**SL** to set up inaugural meeting with other AsbNet working group Chairs.