

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

WELCOME to the first edition of the association's newsletter which is designed to keep members up to date with association developments and industry innovations, it is the intention to publish the newsletter (electronically) every two months or so, this issue contains the following articles:

- An update on the association's progress from the chairman Peter Robinson
- Members of the Executive and sub committees
- Current sub committee projects.

## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Since its inauguration and launch in September 2007 UKATA is progressing well towards its increasing number of goals.

The majority of the major players that provide Asbestos Licensed Training in the UK have already signed up for membership. The situation regarding those that provide only Asbestos Awareness and Un-licensed Training is continuing to develop in encouraging ways with growing membership numbers.

As Chair of UKATA, I have been encouraged by the enthusiasm and creativity of our Committees. My role is developing into one of over-seeing, encouraging and working with the Committees rather than working on any of them, because the level of commitment required is too great. This is just what I set out to do – get the Association off the ground and functioning, as fast as possible, with refinement planned for the future. We still have a long way to go.

Our Membership Committee is working on assessment of trainers. This will, of necessity, be fairly basic to begin with, aimed at identifying those that should not be doing training, (if there are any), but will progress through to more advanced assessment and ultimately continuing professional development for all that do asbestos training. There is not a mind-set to condemn people but to consider short-comings and perform training needs analysis of trainers. The Membership Committee is also involved in the rules of membership which is a far more complex topic than might be imagined.

Our Technical & Training Committee is looking deeply into COMPETENCY. That does not mean NVQs for those that have been through that route before. The primary concern is that the distinction between Operative, Supervisor and Manager in Licensed work is not an adequate distinction as to the roles that exist in reality. There are levels of performance in all three of those categories. In general terms, after a New Operative Course, for example, the person will have had to prove themselves competent in certain basic tasks, making them the lowest level of operative. However, through the following year they will be taught other tasks and at refresher will learn more, leading to competency assessment alongside the refresher training. An awful lot of work is required on this but we have some very good people working within, with a lot of appropriate skills and determination to make this succeed.

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What are you going to see in the short terms?

All Members will receive their Registration Certificates. Those that deliver Licensed Asbestos Training will be registering their practical training centres and their trainers will be registered and certificated.

As a consequence it will not be too long before a Licensed Asbestos Operative will have a training certificate indicating that he was trained by:

- X Training provider at
- Y Practical Centre by
- Z Registered trainer.

This is part of the regime that is in development to ensure maintenance and development of quality of training standards. Auditing of training is already going on but our auditing systems will be refined as the year goes on.

We are taking on various aspects that need development. HSE has asked UKATA to look at training for Ancillary Licence Holders that do maintenance of filtered equipment. We are awaiting HSE's initial thought before we proceed. We have also been asked to ensure that members are conforming to the requirements in scaffolder training. Overall HSE has been highly supportive of our efforts thus far.

## COMMITTEES UPDATE

The association has formed an executive committee which comprises elected members and several sub committees comprised of volunteers, the composition of the committees and current projects are as follows:-

### **UKATA Executive Committee**

The function of the executive committee is to oversee the overall management of the association's affairs; the following members were the members who polled the highest number of votes in the election process:

Peter Robinson – Chair (Bradley Environmental Services.)  
Mike Wilkes – Vice Chairman (Cape Industrial Services)  
David Stanley – Treasurer (DS Environmental Services)  
Karin Virco – (OHS Ltd)  
Eddie Strong – (Ferncroft Environmental Services.)  
Steve Watkins – (Hertel UK Ltd.)  
Terry Jago – (ARCA)  
Les Lowe – (Northern Safety, jointly representing NFDC)  
Tony Tynan – (Prime Safety, jointly representing NFDC)  
Terry Barker – (TASC)  
Jim Caldwell – (Circa Consultants, representing NFDC Scotland)  
Max Lopacki – (NATAS)  
Peter Austin – (ACAD)  
David Wilson – (Shield Environmental Services)  
Bruce Sutherland – (Noble Health and Safety)  
Mike Keeligan – UKATA General Manager.

### **Membership Committee**

The function of the membership committee is to refine the association membership criteria, and membership terms and conditions, and implement tutor and membership standard requirements via assessment and auditing.

Eddie Strong – Chair  
Terry Barker.  
Tony Tynan.  
Jim Caldwell.

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### **Technical and Training Committee**

The function of the technical and training committee is to develop training course content, training provider standards, and industry competence assessment standards and procedures.

Steve Watkins – Chair  
Mike Wilkes  
Les Lowe  
David Stanley  
Satish Patel

### **Marketing Committee**

The function of the marketing committee is to promote the interests of the association nationally and throughout the industry.

Karin Virco – Chair  
Peter Robinson

### **Associates Committee**

Whilst this committee is yet to be formed it will eventually represent the views and interests of the members who will be delivering asbestos related training other than licensed training to asbestos removal contractors.

Mike Keeligan will serve on all four committees.

## **CURRENT SUB-COMMITTEE PROJECTS**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

As part of the setting and raising of standards, members will be audited by the association, and additionally all of the members' course presenters will be assessed as to their competence and suitability to deliver asbestos related training courses. Initially the focus will be on those course presenters who are delivering licensed training to contractors, the presenters delivering other asbestos related training will also be assessed in due course. To this end the membership committee is currently working on developing an assessment process for course presenters which will consist of:

- Demonstration of appropriate industry experience.
- An assessment test comprising of a number of written and of multiple choice questions.
- Assessment of course delivery skills during a course audit.

Once a course presenter has successfully been assessed he or she will be issued with an annual association accreditation certificate confirming his or her competence to deliver the appropriate level of asbestos related training.

It is envisaged that all of the course presenters will have undergone assessment before the end of August 2008,

Members auditing is scheduled for the latter part of 2008.

In addition to the above the membership committee is also reviewing the current draft membership criteria and terms and conditions of membership of the association.

Note: Terms and conditions of membership and the draft membership criteria can be found on the UKATA website ([www.ukata.org](http://www.ukata.org) .uk)

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## **TECHNICAL AND TRAINING**

It is one of the association's main objectives to provide the basis for the establishment of an asbestos industry "skills certificate / card" which will be recognised by clients, trades unions, and government bodies as the definitive evidence of asbestos industry competence. To this end the technical and training committee is currently working on the following projects to achieve those objectives:

- The development of question sets for member's use in the delegate assessment process.
- A full review of the content of the training modules for licensed contractor training.
- The development of industry competency assessment standards and procedures for all levels of employees working within the asbestos removal industry.
- A re-definition of supervisor and management responsibility training requirements with a focus on the refresher training procedures.
- A more comprehensive asbestos management training course relevant to the requirements of company directors who have an operational involvement in asbestos removal projects.

## **MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS**

It is the intention to publish the "Asbestos News" newsletter every two months and reflect our member's requirements regarding it's content and style, therefore all members wishing to submit comments or contribute to the newsletter are invited to submit their requirements, ideas, thoughts, etc by 'e' mail to [info@ukata.org.uk](mailto:info@ukata.org.uk) all contributions will be welcome.

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