

## UKATA Asbestos Training – Scaffolding Companies

There have been several instances of inappropriately worded certification in respect of asbestos training certificates for scaffolding companies. This may reflect that the training delivered is not as required, and this is intended to clarify the situation.

Generally there are two distinct types of scaffolding companies:

- a) Those who do not require a licence; and
- b) Those who possess an ancillary Licence from HSE (see ALG Memo 01/10).

The training needs of the two types of company are distinct and should not be confused.

Further, the Control of Asbestos regulations (2006) Approved Code of Practice – L143, Regulation 10 paragraph 124 states there are three types of training;

- Awareness (for those persons liable to disturb asbestos while carrying out their normal work);
- Non-licensable (for those whose work will knowingly disturb asbestos – (see Reg 3); and
- Licensable (for those working with asbestos which is licensable).

For Asbestos Awareness, ACoP L143 paragraph 126 and 127 are explicit and prescribe the following topics to be covered:

- (a) the properties of asbestos and its effects on health, including the increased risk of lung cancer for asbestos workers who smoke;
- (b) the types, uses and likely occurrence of asbestos and ACMs in buildings and plant;
- (c) the general procedures to be followed to deal with an emergency, for example an uncontrolled release of asbestos dust into the workplace; and
- (d) how to avoid the risks from asbestos, for example for building work, no employee should carry out work which disturbs the fabric of a building unless the employer has confirmed that ACMs are not present.

When a Licensed Scaffolders requires training, the ACoP L143 (paragraph 134) lists topics which should be given in addition to the asbestos awareness training outlined in paragraph 127 (shown above). L143 also refers to HSG 247 Asbestos: The Licensed Contractor's Guide, which gives further guidance on the training stating that role specific modules are available within the Guide (See Appendix 4.1). These modules list:

### ***Module 20 Scaffolders: Health risks and avoidance of exposure***

How to avoid exposure when working near asbestos; types of asbestos fibres - characteristics, uses, identification methods (introduction): nature and levels of risk for different groups of ACMs; types of products that may contain asbestos; likely locations; how fibres cause disease; types of asbestos related diseases and how they are related to exposure.



### **Module 21 Scaffolders: Use of RPE, PPE and emergency decontamination procedures**

How to recognise that exposure has occurred; how to deal with minor and gross contamination; decontamination procedures; what RPE and PPE to wear and when.

### **Module 22 Scaffolders: Roles and responsibilities**

Legal responsibilities of individuals, employer and management; the role of the asbestos removal company and SLH; the information that should be shared between all parties and for Supervisors and Managers.

### **Module 23 Scaffolders: Management systems**

RA and POW; introduction to what enclosures are for and how they are built; monitoring of site conditions; site set-up; emergency procedures.

Under the Health & Safety at Work etc Act (H&SAWA) 1974, the Employer has a Duty to provide appropriate information, instruction and training to determine the appropriate training required, the Training Provider has a responsibility to ensure the Employer fully understands the training requirements and limitations of the course and contents. Indeed, should a breach of legislation occur as a result of inappropriate training, then the Training Provider may be implicated under H&SAWA Section 36 "offences due to fault of other persons".

To ensure the correct training is delivered, UKATA Members should:

- a) Confirm the licensed status of the Client / Employer to ensure the training is appropriate to the role;
- b) Ensure that the course content is clearly displayed upon the certificates to avoid ambiguity.

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## Which asbestos training course do I need?

