

Asbestos Liaison Group Minutes			ALG/MIN/02/2016
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Asbestos Liaison Group (ALG)

Minutes of the 46th meeting of the Asbestos Liaison Group held on Thursday 11 February 2016 at HS Peasholme Green, York

<p>Present (HSE) Simon Longbottom, Head of Construction Policy Sector Archie Mitchell, Head of ALU Jon Dry, ALU Rob Hirst, FOD Construction Martin Gibson, HSE Dominic Elliss, ALU</p>	<p>TAs/TUs David Tucker, Land Securities Susan Murray, Unite Richard Morgan, GMB Stephen Platkiw, ATAC David Nichol, UKATA Richard Barker, BOHS Chris Gilliead, IATP Colin Smith, UKAS Jim Caldwell, NFDC Steve Sadley, ARCA Graham Warren, ACAD Peter Wilson, UCATT</p>
<p>Apologies Craig Bell, HSE Annette Leppla, ALU Melanie Tolson, LA</p>	<p>Guests Lucy McDonnell, HSE Oliver Smith, F-DEM</p>

Asbestos Liaison Group web community is available at:

<http://webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/connect.ti/asbestosliaison/groupHome>

Please note that you do not need to be a member of this community to view its contents – it is open to

Item	
1	Introduction, apologies, welcome, etc. (Simon Longbottom)
1.1	Simon welcomed Richard Barker (deputising for Collete Willoughby)(BOHS), Oliver Smith (F-Dem) Lucy McDonnell (HSE) and Dominic Ellis (ALU) to the meeting. Apologies and deputies noted above.
2	Minutes of the 45th meeting held on 20 October 2015 (Simon Longbottom)
2.1	The minutes of the meeting were agreed. All minutes, meeting papers, etc. are available on the ALG web community (see link above). The meeting noted the omission of Martin Gibson from the list of attendees for Februarys ALG meeting. Martin was in fact present.
3	Matters arising from the minutes
	<p>Item 5.1 1. Dave Nichol to update the ALG on what UKATA is doing on broadening out the work it is doing (covered in the main agenda).</p> <p>Item 5.2 2. Helen Ratcliffe to send John Richards the Consultant's Report on the Asbestos Directive or a suitable link. - Discharged 3. Analysts report to be considered for circulation by HSE units together should it come out before the next ALG (not yet published).</p> <p>Item 5.4 – HSE have lost the staff that were doing the work, but new staff have</p>

	<p>reviewed it and it now just needs clearance for publishing.</p> <p>4. Future ALU stats on refusals/conditional refusals to be broken down into new and renewals – Published in today’s presentation.</p> <p>5. ALU to consider restructuring the agenda to move the ALU update item further up - Discharged</p> <p>Item 6.3</p> <p>6. Federation of Decontamination Equipment Manufacturers invite to send a representative to the next ALG to explain the association - Discharged</p>
4	ALG Updates
4.1	<p>ALU – Licensing Consistency – Dominic Elliss gave a presentation covering the work that he has been doing with ALU on licensing consistency in HSE (see accompanying PowerPoint presentation).</p> <p>Dominic’s presentation was well received and Susan Murray welcomed the work being done by HSE/ALU and the continuing robust system for licensing. Steve Sadley asked about what work was being done to improve the consistency of inspections at site. Dominic pointed to the peer review exercises as a practical example of what the project had been doing and encouraged licence holders who felt there were inconsistencies with inspections by HSE to approach their local ALPI with any specific issues. The meeting discussed personal monitoring as an example of what is being looked at during site inspections. Dominic explained how HSE is moving forward on personal monitoring – ALPIs are providing more details and fully addressing personal monitoring at assessment. Training Needs Analyses is another area where more detailed assessment is being encouraged, particularly in relation to labour supply workers. Jim Caldwell asked if the additional work HSE was doing would result in higher costs for licensees. Dominic pointed out that fees are based on the cost of the regime, so may change in the future. Martin Gibson updated the meeting on how personal monitoring features more prominently in the Analysts Guide. Licence holders need to ensure that monitoring takes place for a sufficient period to cover any removal activity taking place. Jim Caldwell asked where the project would go next. Dominic said that ALU would revisit the issue of consistency in a few months’ time to see if the desired improvement has actually happened as the project is a long term project and it will take time for what has been done to reflect in licence terms. The result going forward should be assurance that applicants are being assessed against the same criteria nationally. Peter Wilson asked about a possible grading system for licence holders but Dominic pointed out that any system like that would not tell the whole story and would be misleading. Archie Mitchell pointed out that ALU intended to share performance summaries with licence holders as a matter of course and this would help provide further clarity on how licensing decisions are being reached.</p>
4.2	<p>HSE Operations Update – Rob Hirst provided updates on enforcement activity which can be viewed via the following links:</p> <p>http://press.hse.gov.uk/2016/man-fined-for-potentially-exposing-members-of-the-public-to-asbestos/</p> <p>http://press.hse.gov.uk/2016/two-companies-fined-after-disturbing-asbestos/</p> <p>http://press.hse.gov.uk/2016/barnstaple-gas-engineer-prosecuted-following-unsafe-asbestos-removal-at-a-tenants-home/</p> <p>http://www.ppconstructionsafety.com/newsdesk/2016/04/11/asbestos-disturbed-and-removed-without-licence/</p>

<p>4.3</p> <p>4.4</p> <p>4.5</p> <p>4.6</p> <p>4.7</p>	<p>The meeting discussed the differences in fines as a result of prosecutions and Rob Hirst explained that the large differences in the amount of a fine was because some fines are levied against individuals whilst others are based on Company turnover, hence the disparity.</p> <p>ALU – Statistics and Notification Issues – Archie Mitchell gave a presentation covering the latest stats on inspections, notifications and statistics. See accompanying PowerPoint presentation. Archie went on to explain the stats on licence refusals by HSE. 38% of new applicants are refused and 23% of these are an outright refusal, which is higher than with renewals, but most reapply and are ultimately granted.</p> <p>Archie briefed the meeting on organisational changes in HSE resulting in ALU now being part of HSE’s Operational Services Division as opposed to Construction Division.</p> <p>Archie also apologised on behalf of HSE for the problems licence holders may have encountered when HSEs servers recently crashed resulting in the ASB5 notifications system being out of service.</p> <p>ACTION 1 - Future licensing statistics to be added to the ALG Community site.</p> <p>Competency and Training – UKATA – Dave Nichol updated the meeting on broadening out the work UKATA is doing following the new ARMI competency guidance. UKATA met on the 20th April to discuss how competency could be incorporated into training. The meeting was very productive and it was decided that a further meeting should take place on the 27th June. The issue is therefore ongoing and Dave will provide a further update at the next meeting.</p> <p>ACTION 2 – Dave Nichol to provide a further update from UKATA on competency and training at the next ALG.</p> <p>Federation of Decontamination Equipment Manufacturers (F-Dem) – Oliver Smith – Oliver was invited to attend the ALG to provide some background on the organisation. Oliver gave a presentation which accompanies these minutes.</p> <p>Technical Working Group – Martin Gibson – Martin explained that the TWG had not met since the last ALG meeting, so there was therefore no update to give.</p> <p>Asbestos Policy – Update – Craig Bell – Unfortunately no one from the Asbestos policy team was able to make the meeting. It was agreed that an update on policy matters would be circulated with the minutes.</p> <p>ACTION 3 – Asbestos Policy Update to be circulated with ALG Minutes when finalised. See below:</p> <p>Minor revisions to HSG210 ‘Asbestos Essentials’ have been completed and draft document is now with HSE’s publications team for pre-publication work (e.g. formatting and layout design). No date yet available on publication. We will advise when this becomes clear.</p> <p>Revision of the Analysts’ Guide continues. Review of comments from stakeholders on latest draft is now taking place.</p>
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	<p>Members to be aware that a CL:AIR (Contaminated Land: Application in Real Environments) intends to publish its 'industry guidelines' this summer. The guidance covers the application of the requirements of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 to contaminated land, demolition waste, etc. The document will be a free publication. We will circulate a web link when we have it.</p>
5	Any Other Business
5.1	<p>Future ALG Meetings – Simon Longbottom asked the meeting if there would be any objections to future ALG meetings being held in HSE's London Offices (Rose Court – Southwark) as Construction Sector have more capacity to manage the ALG meetings if they are held there. Simon also questioned whether the frequency of the meetings at 3 per year was still appropriate. No one raised any objections to the venue being moved following the next ALG which is already booked for Mallard House, York. It was requested that the frequency of meetings remained at 3 per year.</p>
5.2	<p>Rob Hirst raised a point re Quill Blasting. Although there have not been any Quilling jobs in the North East Rob had seen 3 elsewhere. Licence contractors on these 3 jobs were not aware of the TWG minutes discussing Quilling and Rob made the point that awareness of the guidance needs to be raised across the industry. Steve Sadley said that Quilling guidance was available through the ARCA website and had also been highlighted in ARCA news. Steve added that many companies believed that HSE did not want them to use Quilling as a method of removal. Martin Gibson said that although HSE does not object to the use of Quilling, current monitoring is not suitable for this type of removal work. Archie Mitchell suggested that awareness of HSE guidance could be heightened through the asbestos community pages.</p> <p>ACTION 4 – ALU to add a note to the community pages referring to the minutes.</p>
5.3	<p>Peter Wilson drew the meetings attention to the UCATT Health and safety initiative looking at Health and safety from a workers perspective. The initiative will look at 5 themes on health and 5 themes on safety and will begin next week. Peter also circulated a leaflet detailing the results of UCATTs health and wellbeing Survey.</p>
5.4	<p>Susan Murray drew the meetings attention to the forthcoming Mesothelioma Day which is the first Friday in July. Susan also informed the meeting of the launch of the health in construction leadership group – launched to raise the bar on health issues. 2 Events have been held so far, 1 for CEOs in January and there will be a further event for health and safety practitioners.</p>
5.5	<p>Dave Tucker informed the meeting that land securities are offering a service to their industry clients covering what is actually involved in creating an "asbestos free environment". Martin Gibson suggested that it would be good for this subject to be covered in the new Licensed Contractors Guide; Dave said that he would be happy to feed into the TWG on this.</p>
5.6	<p>Colin Smith updated the meeting re the UKAS Quality management System Scheme for contractors.. The idea is to design a scheme around certification bodies to enhance certification. Steve Sadley said the ARCA just resurrected a similar scheme and would be happy to work with UKAS on the issue.</p>

5.7	Steve Sadley raised the issue of labour agency workers and said that the quality of the agencies/workers has dipped significantly since the labour agencies stopped being licensed. Simon pointed out that licence holders still have the responsibility to ensure the competence of anyone they employ. Susan Murray asked about guidance on this issue and Simon said that it is still covered in the current licensed contractors guide, but will be dealt with in more depth in the new guide. Steve Sadley said that there is also guidance from ARCA on this.
7	Time, date, location of next meeting
7.1	The next meeting will be held at 10.45am on Tuesday 11 th October 2016 at HSE's Office, Mallard House, York.

ALG ACTION TABLE – TUESDAY 7TH JUNE 2016

Item	Action
4.3	ACTION 1 - Future licensing statistics to be added to the ALG Community site.
4.4	ACTION 2 – Dave Nichol to provide a further update from UKATA on competency and training at the next ALG.
4.5	ACTION 3 – Asbestos Policy Update to be circulated with ALG Minutes when finalised.
5.2	ACTION 4 - ALU to add a note to the community pages referring to the TWG minutes covering Quilling.