

Asbestos Leadership Group Minutes			ALG/MIN/22/02/2017
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Asbestos Leadership Group (ALG)	
Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Asbestos Leadership Group held on Tuesday 22 nd February 2017 Venue – The Health & Safety Executive, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds LS11 9AT	
Present (HSE)	Members
Ian Strudley, CD Health Unit – Chair Archie Mitchell, Head of ALU Rosie Bricis, ALU Amy Kalay, CD Health Unit Tim Shambrook, CD Health Unit Wendie Drammeh, HSE Leeds	David Tucker, Land Securities Stephen Platkiw, ATAC Paul Beaumont, IATP Steve Sadley, ARCA Graham Warren, ACAD John Richards, RICS Chris Bishop, UKATA Melanie Tolson, Calderdale BC / LAs Shona Farrell, NFDC Richard Morgan, GMB Colette Willoughby, BOHS Colin Smith, UKAS Judith McNulty-Green, IOSH Phil Bates – ECA / SBTAF
Apologies Bernice Charnock, HSE Secretariat Martin Gibson, HSE Susan Murray, Unite Peter Wilson UCATT Tricia O'Neill, Skanska / Build UK	
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 all	

Item	
1	Introduction, apologies, welcome, etc. (Ian Strudley)
1.1	Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting in Leeds and informed members there would be a fire alarm test at 1030. He ran through domestics and read apologies (as above).
1.2	For the benefit of new faces around the table everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief outline of their roles. Ian explained how UCATT were now part of UNITE and there was discussions being held as to who would represent the unions at future meetings.

	<p>Ian also explained Tricia O'Neill from Skanska (Build UK contractor member) and Andrew Dixon from The Federation of Master Builders had both been approached to attend the meeting. Tricia was unfortunately unable to attend today but did want to attend in future. Andrew was unable to accept the invitation but Ian suggested he would speak further to see if a FMB member might be able to contribute instead.</p>
2	Minutes of the 47th meeting held on 29th November 2016 (Ian Strudley)
2.1	<p>The minutes of the meeting were agreed. All minutes, meeting papers, etc. are available on the ALG web community</p>
3	Matters arising from the minutes
3.1	4.1 ACTION 1 – Group to consider ideas for future work and bring the ideas to the next ALG Meeting. This was to be discussed in the afternoon workshop and the ideas would be assembled into a draft action plan for discussion at the next meeting.
3.2	<p>5.2.1 ACTION 2 – Steve Sadley to feedback about digital airflow measurement at next meeting. Steve spoke about the use of a digital anemometer device for NPU airflow testing but suggested the device's fragility produced a lack of reliability compared to traditional measurement methods. Steve agreed to send the data from the tests to the Secretariat.</p>
3.3	<p>5.2.2. ACTION 3 – Martin Gibson to feedback on DOP questionnaire. In Martin's absence Archie gave a brief update on what had been established from a questionnaire canvassing approximately 15 companies. He reflected that there are many methods in place used to carry out airflow testing and that a common standard for accurate testing of NPUs is needed.</p>
4	ALG Updates
4.1	<p>Archie Mitchell – ALU, HSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archie spoke about the statistics on ALG Community site and said these would be uploaded before future ALG Meetings. • Archie apologised that licensed contractors' information on HSE's website is not currently up to date. He explained how work was being carried out on HSE's website to improve the system reliability and was hopeful this would be resolved shortly. He said asbestos continues to be a top priority for HSE and our CEO Richard Judge is personally committed to ensuring HSE's IT systems deliver efficiently. Of particular note is that asbestos licensing processes will be digitised too. • Processes for registering 'Concerns' are likely to change in the future. ALU members will be consulted when further details are known. • Archie gave details of changes in the ALU team : Many members had already met Bernice Charnock, who is looking after the ALG secretariat role. Rosie Bricis had joined the team at the start of 2017 and is a replacement for Jon Dry who is to move back to HSE's Office for Nuclear Regulation in April. Billie Wilson has left now left HSE.

4.3	<p>Judith McNulty-Green – IOSH Judith spoke about No Time to Lose Campaign. This campaign aims to help raise awareness of the causes of occupational cancer and help businesses better understand what action to take to prevent or control the risks. She spoke about the next phase of the campaign which, on asbestos, may include a Pledge to be signed by organisations and new training material. Those who sign the Pledge will be challenged to prove what achievements they have made. This phase of the Campaign will be launched early 2018 and IOSH thanked HSE & BOHS for their supportive collaboration. The Chair commented on how as a group, good news stories are not publicised enough and the Pledge sounded like a good way of sharing success.</p>
4.4	<p>Colette Willoughby – BOHS Collette spoke about BOHS's Breathe Freely Campaign and the plans for the BOHS Conference in April 2017 at which Martin Gibson is to give a presentation. Members discussed the HSL project ongoing with Licensed Contractors. The Chair suggested that someone from HSL could be invited to future ALG Meetings with a view to sharing relevant intelligence on their work.</p>
4.5	<p>Richard Morgan – GMB Richard announced that in conjunction with the joint union asbestos committee an asbestos in schools campaign day is to be held on 4 July.</p>
4.6	<p>Steve Sadley – ARCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARCA been looking at Competence Management Systems for many years but now feel they are making headway. He said he had spoken with Ian Roxley from UKAS who can explain the schemes available but cannot personally recommend any.
4.7	<p>ALG Technical Working Group Martin Gibson Chaired a technical working group in January which was the first meeting held for 18 months. The meeting was used as an opportunity to review any ongoing issues and to discuss what might be taken forward in the future. Representatives of the Glass & Glazing Federation also attended and a lengthy discussion was held about the removal of soffits, particularly in the domestic sector and the appropriate use of controls to prevent exposure to any ACMs. Discussion centred around reduction of control regimes without necessarily evidence that the risk has been mitigated. The trade association were asked to come back with examples where existing guidance could be reviewed to reflect current working practice.</p>
4.8	<p>John Richards – RICS John spoke briefly about RICS Asbestos Working Group and the maintenance of that group.</p>

4.9	<p>Chris Bishop – UKATA Chris asked for clarification on the timespan of operative training certificates. Members discussed the length of time certificates lasted and debated the need for certificates providing there was assurance that appropriate training had been undertaken. It was agreed that whilst certificates provide confirmation that training has been completed there is no legal requirement to have them.</p>
4.10	<p>Ian Strudley – HSE Ian spoke about HSE's Health Strategy that was launched in December 2016. He mentioned that HSE was focussing its strategic approach on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with others - Championing the need for prevention - Focussing on inspection and enforcement where appropriate <p>There are three key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupational Lung Disease • Musculoskeletal Disorders • Work-related Stress <p>The Health in Construction Leadership Group held their 2nd summit event recently where leaders of construction companies were challenged to commit to improvements. More than 100 CEO / senior leaders attended. In a separate afternoon session attendees participated in workshop sessions on respiratory disease, 'design for health', and mental health. The event also provided the stage for the launch of Mates in Mind – an initiative to help reduce the incidence of suicide in UK construction and improve and promote positive mental health across the industry.</p>
5	<p>Any Other Business</p>
5.1	<p>Colin Smith – UKAS Colin raised the feasibility of using scanning electron microscopy as an improved laboratory detection method compared to the traditional phase contrast method. However members suggested there are probably only 4 such electron microscopes available for use and whilst its use might lend itself toward a higher standard the logistics and costs of doing so would be unreasonably disproportionate. Ian agreed however to discuss the issue with HSE Asbestos Policy colleagues.</p> <p>Colin also raised the possibility of inviting HSE's Northern Ireland colleagues to participate in future ALG meetings. Archie said they were constantly in touch with their HSE NI colleagues.</p>
5.2	<p>Steve Sadley – ARCA Steve raised the issue of electrical and gas safety integrity in decontamination units and asked for member views on the adequacy of the ECA guidance on the topic.</p>
5.4	<p>Members also discussed the use of paper and/or cloth bags in vacuum units and an issue around equipment being returned to hire companies not properly decontaminated.</p>
6.1	<p>'Workshop' – For the remainder of the meeting the members were split into two groups to consider what issues and initiatives the group might usefully engage in for future deliverable work. The outputs from these group discussions would then be combined and a draft action plan put together for consideration at the next</p>

	ALG meeting.
7.1	The next meeting will be: Date – Tuesday 22nd June 2017. Venue – HSE Office The Lateral Leeds Time – 10am – 2pm

ALG ACTION TABLE – Wednesday 22nd Feb 2017

<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>
3.2	Action 1 - Steve agreed to send the NPU Digital readout data from the tests to Ian and Archie.
4.4	Action 2 - Archie agreed to speak with Martin Gibson to obtain more information regarding the Clearance Testing Project HSE carried out.
4.4	Action 3 - Ian to seek an HSL representative for future meetings.
4.7	Action 4 - Ian said he would investigate why HSG210 – Asbestos Essentials (4 th edition) was not on HSE's website and report back.
5.1	Action 5 - Ian to enquire HSE policy view on use of SEM v PCM