



# Welcome to the latest edition of eMatters in the most unprecedented of times.

I sincerely hope that all our members and our wider readership are safe and well. No one could have imagined what our world would face just a few months ago or the effects on our lives and livelihoods.

While the help that has been offered at speed during this crisis may be of benefit in the short term I think we can all agree that it will take us all a long time to get back to where we were prior to the pandemic. I trust also that the swift action of the COO, Chairman and the Board of Directors in looking at innovative delivery methods to see us through the crisis have been of use to our members and clients alike.

UKATA have also needed to adjust the way we operate in this challenging time and take action to ensure the association emerges from the most

difficult of circumstances in a viable state to continue our work.

In this edition, you can read about our members volunteering in a range of ways to help all our key workers, the NHS and other emergency services. I am personally proud that the pandemic seems to have brought out the very best of British spirit in our communities and long may that continue.

It is hoped that with the easing of lockdown measures taking place, there may be light at the end of the tunnel and UKATA will continue to monitor the guidance and adapt if and where necessary to assist in us all getting back to our businesses, in the meantime, may I urge you personally to stay safe by following all the all relevant guidelines to keep yourselves and others safe and healthy.



Jacqui Royall, Editor in Chief





A welcome back from the Chief Operating Officer

# Throughout this pandemic, we have been committed to supporting our members

First and foremost, as a membership association, we want to support our members as much as we possibly can. We appreciate that there needs to be an element of flexibility around our rules and standards, without affecting the high quality of training standards we are recognised for.

We were quick to respond to the outbreak and issued an interim policy to members on 17/03/20, ahead of the UK government imposed lockdown on the evening of 23/03/20. The interim policy permits members to deliver a whole host of training courses by video conference from the UKATA portfolio, following strict standards. More information on this can be found on page 3.

Membership, business, and financial support packages have been offered and very welcomed by members during these uncertain times. In total, we have now offered more than £25,000 in financial support, including extended membership periods, payment holidays, and staged payments.

As the country started getting back to work, we held further discussions in relation to the mechanisms of training delivery, contacting HSE for further guidance, particularly for courses where practical training is required. We introduced the delivery of training by blended learning and permitted face to face training again, with members following government advice and implementing social distancing measures to ensure delegate safety.

The head office team at UKATA also remains one of our top priorities. As the head office is based within shared facilities, our team remains working from home for now and our main contact number



Craig Evans, Chief Operating Officer

is diverted to a single point of contact. We encourage everyone to still contact UKATA using the usual means of communication, by telephone or email and we look forward to reopening the office in early September.

We continue to share the latest information that we receive from Government, HSE, DIT, and our partners at DWP. We have a dedicated COVID-19 Support Page which is updated regularly and also includes heart-warming articles from our members, supporting the NHS and key workers in the fight against coronavirus.

Thank you to our members for sending us their feedback, comments and for sharing their stories. I want to thank all of our members for their continued support and I hope that you all stay safe.



That is a great help in these difficult times

Roger Willey, ACS Physical Risk Control Ltd



We have watched, and have been greatly impressed, by the voluntary work other UKATA members. The PPE and face-fit support for NHS staff is tremendous. They should be justly proud of themselves. Please pass on my best regards and admiration for their work.

I would also like to thank you all at UKATA - you have done great work to support members in this difficult period and to keep us informed of the latest HSE guidance

Ian Pemberton, Human Focus International Ltd



At this time as a company can we say thank you for your continued support during this difficult period, we certainly appreciate the emails outlining different formats we can use in adapting our training and also the various links to HMRC to help with the financial side of the business.

Mark Hall, IASS Ltd



Thank you Craig, really appreciating everything UKATA is doing to support us all. I hope you stay safe.

David Betts, Perses Ltd





UKATA training delivery methods

### **UKATA Supports Members Through COVID-19 Crisis**

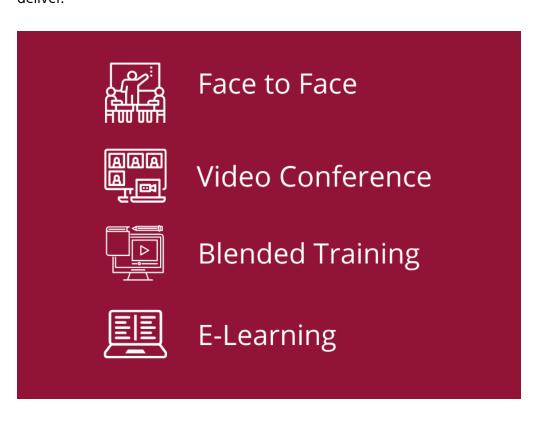
Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, UKATA has been quick to act and provided members with different support to help them through these tough times.

On 18 March, UKATA implemented the Interim Policy to support industry and members. In the policy, it detailed that Asbestos Awareness, Asbestos Awareness Refresher, Duty to Manage and Non-Licensable Refresher training could be delivered by video conference using appropriate software such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom as a temporary measure.

This measure has not only helped our members continue training but also allowed delegates to receive the training that they need in order to conduct their work safely.

On 22 May 2020, a further statement was issued to confirm that video conference training would be permitted for the next three months in order to assist members and industry. The statement also announced that Licensable training was also now included within the list of available courses for delivery, by face to face and blended training which combines both video conference training and face to face training.

Finally, stated in the most recent update, UKATA will be obtaining feedback from delegates to continue to keep the high standards of training members deliver.







# UKATA AGM moved to an online platform

In response to the uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic, it was announced on 3 April that the 2020 UKATA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was being moved to an online platform.

The UKATA AGM, in conjunction with the Asbestos Conference, was due to take place on Thursday 2 July at the Jury's Inn, East Midlands Airport. With the AGM being moved to a virtual platform, unfortunately we had to cancel the Asbestos Conference. However, we are in discussions with the speakers we had lined up and we may soon be in a position to deliver some CPD events via webinar or video link.

# When is the Virtual AGM and what can you expect?

The 12th UKATA Annual General Meeting will be held virtually during September 2020.

UKATA Chair, Graham O'Mahony and UKATA COO, Craig Evans will record the formal business and make this available for members to view from **07/09/2020 to 21/09/2020** on the UKATA website.

The previous minutes, year-end accounts and the pen portraits for the director positions will be available online for members to vote.

#### **Board Director Vacancies**

There are four director vacancies available at the AGM this year and we have already received a great deal of interest in those positions. The available positions include; two asbestos awareness directors, one non-licensable director and one licensable director.

To be a director of the association is an exciting and fulfilling role. The most effective boards are ones which benefit from individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds, experiences and skillsets.

A high performing Board can play an important role in ensuring that the association is truly great and impactful in every activity, programme or service that it delivers.

If you have any questions or wish to speak to a member of the team about the AGM, please contact us on 01246824437 or info@ukata.org.uk.



**UKATA AGM 2019** 

# **Mavis Nye Update**

This year, Mavis Nye was all set to attend the UKATA Asbestos
Conference and provide delegates with an update on her foundation and ongoing treatment. Plans were also underway to organise an auction to sell Ray Nye's wonderful paintings.

Due to the current circumstances, none of this has been possible.

However, Mavis kindly took the time to record a video for members, updating you all on her current treatment and the Mavis Nye Foundation.

We hope to see Mavis and Ray at the UKATA Asbestos Conference in 2021!

If you wish to learn more about Mavis Nye or the Mavis Nye Foundation, please see:

**Mavis Nye Blog** 

**Mavis Nye Foundation** 



Mavis Nye Speaking at the UKATA Asbestos Conference 2017



Video message for UKATA members, from Mavis Nye. Click to watch



From everyone at UKATA, we would like to wish Mavis & Ray a very happy 60th wedding anniversary!





### **UKATA Members aid the NHS with the fight against COVID-19**

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, UKATA members have sprung to aid and assist the NHS in the COVID-19 fight.

You can read their uplifting stories here:

#### **DCUK FM**

Helping NHS doctors and nurses to stay safe, DCUK FM have kindly donated RPE and PPE to two hospitals in Cambridge and London.

The first hospital to receive donations was Guys & St Thomas' NHS Trust in London, where 30 half masks and filters along with 200 coveralls were kindly donated.

Additionally, 50 disposable coveralls, 20 eye protection goggles and glasses, 1000 surgical

gloves and 250 overshoes were donated to Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge.

DCUK FM also has a Just Giving page where you can donate to help NHS staff and volunteers here: <a href="https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dcukfm-covid19-appeal">https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dcukfm-covid19-appeal</a>



DCUK FM RPE and PPE Donated

#### Safety Services (UK)

Safety Services (UK) Ltd have donated all their stock of face fit testing kits to the East of England Ambulance Service. In addition to the donation of face fit testing kits, they have also provided numerous Face Fit Train the Tester courses to the frontline staff.



We are very proud of our staff volunteering to this work and are so incredibly proud and thankful to our wonderful NHS

Jon Austin, Commercial Director for Safety Services (UK)

#### Keltbray

Keltbray, worked on the Nightingale Hospital ExCel support project in conjunction with Lend Lease, Wilson James and the Royal Engineers.

They worked to prepare the land and build a surface car park for circa 2000 NHS cars, close to the Nightingale Hospital at ExCel, in order to support the NHS and the vital work they are doing.

#### **JNC Safety Services**

James Slater of JNC Safety Services Ltd has spent many weeks at various hospitals and hospices in Cornwall carrying out face fit testing on members of staff that need to use face masks in their duties.

James is likely to be spending more time at the hospitals and hospices due to the high number of staff that need to be tested.

#### **Asbestos Training Ltd**

To assist the NHS throughout this difficult time, Asbestos Training Ltd offered all NHS maintenance staff free Asbestos Awareness and Asbestos Awareness Refresher E-Learning courses.

The hospitals and the wards still require emergency maintenance and as such this may involve working in areas where asbestos may be present. They can ensure that training is up to date and protect the very important maintenance work that is being undertaken to ensure wards, hospitals and other key locations can still operate.

Any NHS maintenance department or personnel can make use of this free training.

Please find out more information by <u>emailing</u> or by calling 01763 787150 Option 1 or 3.



#### **MBO Safety Services Ltd**

MBO Safety Services Limited announced that they are supporting their local NHS hospital, the Robert Jones Agnes and Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry.



On Friday 27 March 2020, the staff at MBO Safety Services started working day and night shifts, plus throughout the weekend to face-fit test NHS staff. They do however require fit test solution and all are invited to donate by <a href="mailing">emailing</a> MBO so suitable arrangements can be made or alternatively you can share their Facebook post by clicking here.

#### **Bardon Environmental Ltd**

Bardon Environmental was approached by the Estates team at Barnsley Hospitals Trust who were running desperately low on PPE. So far, Bardon Environmental has donated in excess of 400 pairs of coveralls for the front-line staff.

#### **3B Training Ltd**

3B Training has been supporting the NHS with face fit tests and face fit testing workshops. They have been using their internal knowledge and resources to educate on the importance of face fit testing and wearing a mask correctly.

3B Training has also supported care homes, hospices, NHS Trusts, hospitals and emergency care units with face fit testing, workshops, face fit kits and testing solution.



Supporting the NHS with Face Fit Testing

#### **Elken Associates Ltd**

Brad Luff from Elken Associates Ltd has a couple of community roles including Community First Responder and helping the local Foodbank.

Brad has been a Community First Responder for 20 years. Community First Responders are part of a national force of volunteers, working for their local ambulance trusts.

Their role is to attend serious 999 calls when there is limited ambulance resources available. They are trained in AED use, oxygen therapy and a range of

other life saving techniques and in a frontline role during the current COVID-19 crisis.

Brad is also a volunteer Patient Transport Service Ambulance Driver, with the role of collecting patients in need of essential treatment such as chemotherapy, dialysis and other key treatments that patients may require.





The foodbank, that Brad has been helping, has been operating for 7 years but as you can imagine, it has recently become very hectic. Brad collects food donations from various companies, including Tesco, Morrisons and the Co-op. In addition, he also helps with distribution as required.

As a keen musician Brad has recently put together his own version of Queen's "We are the Champions" with both roles featured and you can listen to it on his Facebook page.

# Bradley Environmental Consultants Ltd

Bradley Environmental Consultants responded to the urgent need for help and is working in partnership with Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust at both City Hospital and Sandwell General Hospital in the West Midlands.

Bradley Environmental have successfully sourced and delivered over 500 half-face respirators and 3,500 FFP3 filters for NHS medical staff and key workers, to supplement what the NHS supply chain has been able to deliver in this period of unprecedented demand for PPE.

A team of Bradley assessors were on site face fit testing and have carried out over 1000 face fit tests, whilst training the Trust's staff on how to wear and maintain the respiratory protective equipment they have issued, keeping them safe. They are working closely with the NHS team leaders to coordinate and supplement the efforts of the NHS' own face fitting personnel.

Company Director, Chaz Reeves said: "I am extremely proud to support Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, they have been one of our key clients for many years and now is the time to give something back".

The dedicated front-line team from Bradley Environmental Consultants will remain at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust for as long as they are needed, and we will continue to provide this vital service.

#### 44

The efforts of our staff to successfully deliver this urgent requirement just shows how people are going above and beyond to support our beloved NHS during this time of crisis. This is probably the most important work our company has ever carried out.

Chaz Reeves, Company Director



#### **Essential Site Skills**

Over the past months, Essential Site Skills' team of fully qualified Fit2Fit testers have helped provide Face Fit Testing and Face Fit Train the Tester to frontline NHS staff fighting Covid-19. While it is essential that hospitals get the PPE they need, this equipment is only of use if the correct training or testing has been undertaken.

In early April, Essential Site Skills delivered Face Fit Train the Tester sessions to staff members of the Nottingham NHS Trust. This provided vital, handson experience in using PPE correctly, to boost their ability to test frontline staff. ESS provided this training free of charge from their Eastwood head office, following strict social distancing guidance in the process.

Essential Site Skills trainers are also working alongside A-Plant Safety's RPE team and We Fit RPE to fit test staff at the newly-opened Nightingale hospital in London. Working in shifts, several of their experienced trainers have spent

the last two weeks away from their families and will continue to for the foreseeable future in order to ensure NHS staff are protected and supported in their ability to save lives. This is tough, tiring but incredibly important work and a rewarding chance to be part of national effort to beat the virus.

Essential Site Skills want to help our brilliant health service in whatever way they can, and their expertise in face fit training and testing could make a huge difference to those fighting Coronavirus on the frontline. You can contact the team by emailing <a href="mailto:info@essentialsiteskills.com">info@essentialsiteskills.com</a> or by calling 0115 8970 529.





Face Fit Train the Tester Session



Essential SIte Skills, Face Fit Testing

# Caerphilly County Borough Council

Caerphilly County Borough Council has seen the redeployment of hundreds of staff to assist with the immediate needs of response to COVID 19.

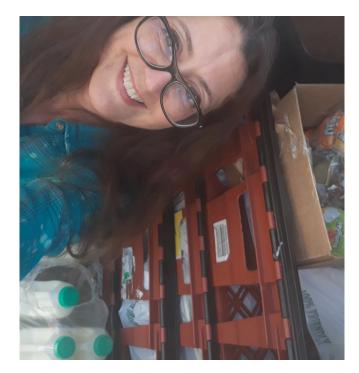




Faye Harrison, Apprentice, Caerphilly County Borough Council

Part of this includes the provision of free school meals. The Authority took the decision to provide actual meals rather than a voucher replacement and this ensures those that need it, receive 5 frozen meals, bread, milk, fresh fruit and vegetables delivered to their homes every week.

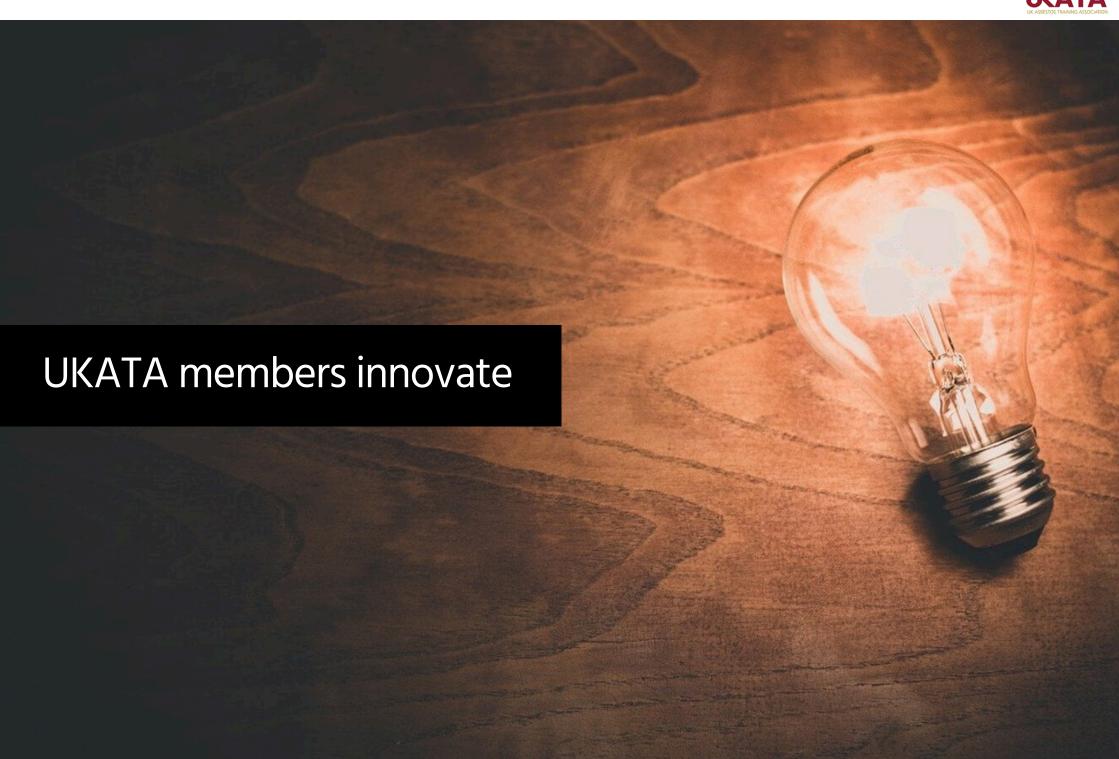
Their Asbestos Officer/Trainer Helen Hill, and apprentice Faye Harrison have been delivering these vital provisions.



Helen Hill, Asbestos Officer/Trainer, Caerphilly County Borough Council







# **UKATA Members Innovate During COVID-19 Crisis**

During the COVID-19 crisis, UKATA members have developed innovative ways to deal with the virus. You can find their stories below:

#### **SOCOTEC Asbestos Ltd**

# SOCOTEC Introduces New Environmental Swabbing Method for COVID-19 Detection

SOCOTEC, has introduced a new environmental swabbing procedure to determine the presence of SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus) on surfaces across a range of workplace environments.

The new method has been adopted in light of preliminary research which indicates that the COVID-19 virus has prolonged tenacity on surfaces, with contact via contaminated surfaces suggested as a possible cause of infection.

This swabbing procedure can be applied across a variety of workplace environments, including offices, factories, communal/public areas and public transportation, testing such surfaces as door/grab handles, light switches, HVAC vents, table/desk tops, office equipment, control panels, seat backs, sinks and toilet cubicles amongst others.



**Swabbing Procedure** 

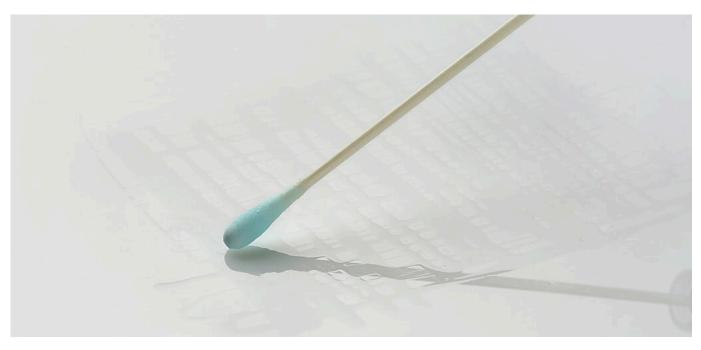
To carry out the test, sterile swabs will be gently rubbed and rolled over a set area of the surface to be sampled. This process is repeated using fresh swabs for all other areas and locations that require sampling. Analysis is carried out by a specialist partner laboratory using Ribonucleic acid (RNA) testing, which detects the presence of SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA fragments.

Results will be reported in a comprehensive format comprising observations, salient points and recommendations for improvement, ensuring full compliance with relevant legislation. Photographic evidence will also be compiled within the report to indicate precisely where samples were taken.

"As certain Government restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic begin to ease, many organisations are now facing the overwhelming task of returning their buildings to full occupancy. SOCOTEC is committed to guiding and supporting its clients as they prepare to resume business operations, ensuring that they remain safe and compliant while doing so," said Norman Sleeth, managing director, Environment & Safety, SOCOTEC UK.

"Our new environmental swabbing method forms just one of SOCOTEC's wide range of testing, inspection and compliance services that aims to get buildings 'business ready', instilling employers with confidence and reassurance regarding occupational health, safety and hygiene as they continue to operate through these uncertain times."

For further information on SOCOTEC's new swabbing procedure during the COVID-19 pandemic, <u>click here</u> or <u>contact us</u>.



**Swabbing Method** 



#### **Olive Learning**

#### Olive Group real tutoring in a virtual world

Olive Group recently announced the launch of its online training platform, My Virtual Tutor (www.MyVT.io), to help organisations struggling to deliver education and training programmes as coronavirus restrictions put an end to face-to-face training. The new platform represents a €5m research and development investment by Olive Group to enable remote learning, upskilling, regulatory compliance and further education. It will compete with generic video conferencing solutions that companies are using in the specialised training environment.

My Virtual Tutor is different to traditional webinar and video conferencing solutions as it uses advanced technologies to transform conventional classrooms and facilitate engaging, accredited digital courses tailored for learners. The platform contains all features needed in a learning environment and was designed using a learner-

centric approach. It also helps tutors to map and co-ordinate the rollout of customised learning materials and content, and many of the courses are created, or co-created by Olive Group.

Brendan Kavanagh, CEO, Olive Group, said, "We are keeping education going in unprecedented times. As coronavirus forces organisations and further education institutions to take drastic measures to protect their staff, students and communities, many are finding that they are no longer able to train or develop people due to their reliance on classroom-based tutoring. Webinar and video conferencing solutions are not



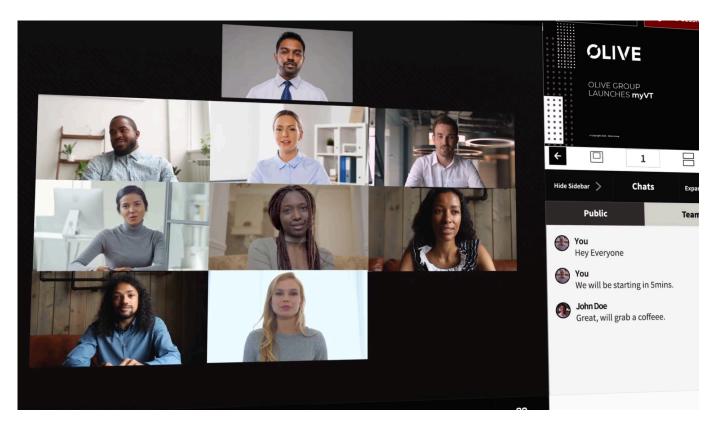
fit for purpose and come with inherent weaknesses and disadvantages when compared with a custom designed, highly secure platform like My Virtual Tutor.

"A particular complication is the cyber-risk associated with training on insecure platforms that are not specifically designed for training. My Virtual Tutor enables an organisation to create secure, low-cost, high-end online training courses that are custom-built to help businesses on-board, train and upskill staff, and also help further education bodies to deliver their programmes in all circumstances."

Since its establishment in 2011, Olive Group has trained more than two million people across the world and created digital learning content in 27 languages. The company operates in a variety of sectors including education, recruitment, healthcare, nursing, pharma, retail, construction, hospitality, and manufacturing. Olive Group's education clients include awarding bodies, independent training providers and colleges.

Brendan Kavanagh, CEO, Olive Group, said, "My Virtual Tutor is a fully integrated system which comes closer to replicating a traditional learning environment than any other online solution, with every conceivable learning set-up facilitated, from full class training, to breakout options facilitating one to-to-one coaching. We can also assist tutors assess learner progress as we enable fun, engaging and interactive tests as course work progresses.

"Educational technology will be needed long after this pandemic disappears and this solution meets tutor needs now and into the future. Companies everywhere are flocking to e-learning given its advantages such as time and cost-saving, as well as its ability to maximise learner information retention, to ensure people and organisations get a great return on investment. We are constantly innovating new technologies such as immersive virtual reality and breaking new ground to further the brave new world of integrated online learning."









UK Asbestos Training Association (UKATA) are proud to announce we have formally joined in partnership with SMAS Worksafe with the aim to upskill SMAS Worksafe members in asbestos and asbestos training.

SMAS Worksafe is a leading registered member of Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP). A health and safety assessment company who take great pride in working with some of the biggest names in construction and provide a second to none service to their members, clients and consultants alike.

Since the launch of SSIP, it is now common practice for construction companies and housebuilders in the UK to require their contractors to hold a valid SSIP certificate before

they start work on site. As a dedicated H&S assessment company, SMAS Worksafe have a team of in-house trained assessors ready to guide members through the application process and gaining their certificate.

Holding a valid SSIP Member Scheme certificate means that a contractor has demonstrated their capability by meeting the 'core criteria'. SMAS Worksafe is trusted by over 45 of the biggest construction companies in the UK to help them ensure full safety compliance for all sites.



What makes SMAS Worksafe stand apart from the competition is that their assessment now includes additional area of compliance such as Environmental and Quality Management. Many construction companies are now asking their contractors to demonstrate their compliance and commitment in these areas.

You can become a member of SMAS Worksafe and gain a SSIP certificate in as little as 3 days and thanks to the SMART application form, when members apply online, they're able to save up to 40% of the work required when renewing the following year.

SMAS Worksafe has enabled thousands of contractors to show their commitment to workplace safety, secure work with trusted organisations and lead the way in safety regulation.

UKATA members will receive regular updates from SMAS Worksafe on subjects such as health & safety, environmental and quality management, modern slavery and anti-bribery and corruption whilst SMAS Worksafe members can expect regular information and updates from UKATA around asbestos and asbestos training.



It made absolute sense and we are delighted to partner with SMAS Worksafe. Our collaboration recognises the quality standards of both organisations and aims to assist members and the wider industry alike to demonstrate their commitments to workplace safety

Craig Evans, UKATA Chief Operating Officer



The aim of this partnership is to raise standards in asbestos across the industry. I look forward to working with the team at UKATA to ensure that our members are kept up to date with all the relevant asbestos information and know how to identify relevant and accredited training

Trish Meyer, SMAS Worksafe Business Development Manager







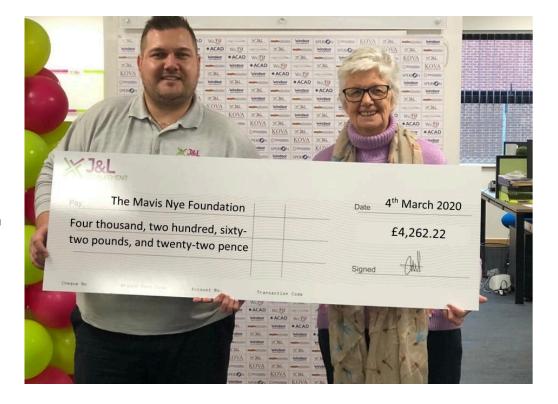
Industry Associate charity pool competition

From J&L Recruitment

# Just before the dreaded Coronavirus hit the UK, J&L Recruitment arranged and hosted a Charity Pool Competition in aid of The Mavis Nye Foundation

Just before the dreaded Coronavirus hit the UK, J&L Recruitment arranged and hosted a Charity Pool Competition in aid of The Mavis Nye Foundation. The whole day was focused on raising as much money as possible to donate to The Mavis Nye Foundation to help with treatments and research into this life changing illness. The day was incredibly successful, and they managed to raise an amazing amount to the total of £4,262.22!

Mavis Nye is an incredible woman who has been suffering with Mesothelioma since 2009, she has undergone numerous different treatments and trials and had a breakthrough in 2014 where she was part of a two-year trial, known as the Keytruda trial. This was a huge success and put Mavis in remission, where she had a great year of no treatment and no progression. Unfortunately, in 2019 a scan showed new growths. Since this she has been on a new trial called Hyper trial which is keeping the growths stable and everyone in high hopes that Mavis will be able to defeat the disease once more.



The day included numerous competitive 'knock out' pool games and a raffle full of prizes to be won. It started off with over 30 contestants until they got down to their final 2 who had an exciting finale match with Mavis cheering them both on.

James Johnson, Managing Director for J&L Recruitment commented

"The day was very full on and we did not stop all day! The first match was at 8:30 and the last was at 4:30, with our office neighbour George collecting the trophy in the last match! It was great to get some industry suppliers involved, particularly Empire and Windsor Waste which helped us raise some serious cash!

Mavis did say that it was the most amount anyone has raised for her and we are now itching for someone to beat this. Mavis is part of an amazing campaign and she is helping to develop researchers who will focus on life-threatening asbestos illnesses. She is one of the most positive and pleasant ladies I have ever had the pleasure of meeting and I hope we can support her for years to come!"

In addition to this, J&L Recruitment managed to round up a generous number of sponsors for the day and they cannot thank them all enough for their contribution.

They would like to say a huge thank you to Empire Asbestos, Windsor Waste Management, ACAD, WeFitRPE, CATO Consultancy, Sperion Ltd, Prime Safety, Kova Asbestos Consultants and Sullivan Contract Services. Finally, an additional thanks to RiverStone who also ran an additional charitable event in the aid of The Mavis Nye Foundation.

To have the pleasure of having Mavis Nye attending the day and cheering their players on was also a great time for everyone involved.





E R A S E

Real life stories

Jill & Paul Cook - Erase Meso

# Erase Meso – the only charity dedicated to funding research into mesothelioma

Erase Meso is one of a number of charities that the UK Asbestos Training Association (UKATA) supports. Set up by Paul and Jill Cook in 2019, the charity raised over £84,000 in its first six months.

Erase Meso differs from all other mesothelioma charities in that it raises funds purely for research purposes. Its aim is that one day mesothelioma will no longer be a death sentence, but a curable disease. Here, we discover what drove Paul and Jill to set up the charity.

Paul Cook, a 43-year old father was a keen kayaker, kitesurfer, golfer, squash player, cyclist and diver at the peak of fitness when a bout of suspected flu hit. Like many, he continued working and delayed visiting a doctor, choosing to soldier on.

Paul's condition deteriorated and he was admitted to hospital with pneumonia. It was there the medical team discovered that he had a collapsed lung. Further investigations continued after immediate surgery to re-inflate the collapsed lung. Paul had never heard of mesothelioma before his diagnosis in November 2017 – malignant pleural mesothelioma.

Working in recruitment and similar office-based roles all his career, Paul had never worked in an environment that would be perceived as being at high risk for asbestos exposure. He has no idea where or when his exposure to asbestos occurred.





Paul Cook, Erase Meso

Paul was given a devastating prognosis of between 6-18 months to live, which tragically is the case with any late stage mesothelioma diagnosis as there is currently no cure. 55% of late stage mesothelioma diagnoses are fatal within the first six months, 40% within the following six months.

Determined to defy the odds, Paul's treatment began. He endured six rounds of three types of chemotherapy, a seven-hour surgery to remove the lung lining and 30% of his right lung, radiotherapy, lung drains and intensive rehabilitation. By June 2018, it was good news. The cancer was in remission.

Early on in his mesothelioma journey, Paul vowed that if he survived long enough, he would campaign to make a difference in the world of mesothelioma - to raise awareness, to raise funds for research to erase meso. In 2019, after just months of remission status, Erase Meso was officially launched.

Investment into mesothelioma research is severely underfunded. The UK has the highest

incidence of mesothelioma in the world with over 2,500 deaths per year.

Fundraising began with no small challenge – a group of 15 amateur cyclists, including 'Meso Warriors' Paul Cook and Nigel Shaddick, cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats in just 10 days, raising over £50,000 for the charity along the way.

Nigel (51) is also battling mesothelioma and has taken part in a new drug trial carried out at Edinburgh University. His doctors are amazed at his response and cite his cycling as "very helpful" in his fight against his tumour.

As well as the epic LEJOG bike ride, there have been numerous fundraising events including the Erase Meso Ball. In its first six months registered as a charity, Erase Meso raised more than £84,000 specifically for the funding of further scientific research into the treatments and eventual cure for mesothelioma. There is lots of very promising research taking place in the world of mesothelioma. Research is currently underway to find genetic changes that may cause mesothelioma. Other studies focus on finding

specific blood markers that could help detect early-stage mesothelioma. Blood markers are substances found in higher than normal amounts in the blood of someone with cancer.

Researchers are also evaluating new treatments for mesothelioma, including several promising new drugs, gene therapy, new methods of radiation therapy, and immunotherapy. Immunotherapy is designed to boost the body's natural defences to fight the cancer. It uses materials made either by the body or in a laboratory to improve or restore immune system function.

The research, however, cannot continue without funding. Charities such as Erase Meso give hope to Meso Warriors, their friends and family every day.



If you are able to donate, fundraise, or help in any way, please visit the charity's website at erasemeso.org.





# 50 per cent of patients had treatment affected and 64 per cent said scans or appointments changed

National charity, Mesothelioma UK has surveyed asbestos-related cancer patients about their treatment and care experiences during the coronavirus pandemic. Patients were asked about any impacts on their treatment schedule, hospital appointments and scans, the patient shielding list, contact with health care teams, and other areas affected by the pandemic.

The key findings from the 64 responders to the survey include:

- 50% said their treatment had been affected including postponement of chemotherapy and entry onto clinical trials
- 64% said their scans or outpatient appointments had been changed, cancelled or postponed.

- 52% automatically received a letter from the NHS advising them they were on the patient shielding list
- 28% experienced difficulty obtaining shopping including medicines

Mesothelioma is a cancer related to exposure to asbestos and predominantly affects the lining of the lungs. The UK has the highest incidence of the disease in the world with around 2,700 people diagnosed each year.





**Supporting People With This Asbestos Cancer** 

Based on the responses, Mesothelioma UK makes the following recommendations:

- Cancer treatments should be reinstated as soon as it is safely possible and alternatives such as home treatment should be considered to avoid hospital visits for the most vulnerable
- Telephone or video consultations are acceptable and should be considered after the pandemic
- 3. Review of the shielding patient list with clearer guidelines
- 4. Hospital and community prescriptions to be compatible and home delivery service for prescriptions to be considered

Head of Services for Mesothelioma UK, Liz
Darlison commented: "Understandably, the
COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on
healthcare services, and we understand that
decisions made about cancer patients' treatment
and care are made with their safety in mind.
Sadly, some patients have said they feel
frightened, in limbo and even abandoned.
However, Mesothelioma UK wants to reassure

patients that they really matter, and everything is being done to get their treatment and care back on track.

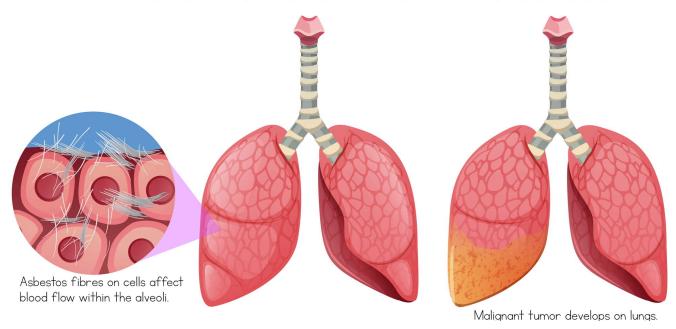
The charity funds a team of dedicated nurse specialists in NHS trusts who have been supporting individuals and families, sometimes in desperate situations. As part of our ongoing and comprehensive support for patients, Mesothelioma

UK will do all it can to share the survey findings appropriately with any groups, organisations and health care providers, to ensure that the voices of our patients are still heard."

For more information about Mesothelioma, please click here:

Mesothelioma UK

#### Process of mesotheliama cause from asbestos



# In order to raise money for the charity and to also keep people engaged, Mesothelioma UK are appealing for people to hold a virtual coffee morning whilst we are all in lockdown.

In order to raise money for the charity and to also keep people engaged, Mesothelioma UK are appealing for people to hold a virtual coffee morning whilst we are all in lockdown.

Breathing in asbestos fibres can lead to asbestosrelated disease, which is the UK's biggest workplace killer. There are over 5000 asbestosrelated deaths each year, with over 2500 being due to mesothelioma.



Asbestos Fibres

Mesothelioma is a type of cancer that affects the lining of the lungs and has a long latency period averaging 30 – 40 years from the time of exposure to the time of diagnosis. Currently, there is no cure for mesothelioma, but treatment is given to try and help the symptoms.

Mesothelioma UK is a national specialist resource centre, specifically for mesothelioma, providing free specialist mesothelioma information, support & improved care and treatment for patients and carers.

The charity integrates into NHS front line services to ensure specialist mesothelioma nursing is available at the point of need. This is achieved through a growing network of specialist mesothelioma nurses, regionally based in NHS hospitals but funded by Mesothelioma UK.

To get involved with the Mesothelioma UK Virtual Coffee Morning, open up a video chat on a day of your choosing, and invite people to join you with a cuppa. People can donate as much or as little as they want. Mesothelioma UK have suggested the price of a standard cup of coffee as a starting point.



UKATA Staff, Mesothelioma Virtual Coffee Morning

To encourage others to get involved, Debbie Nixon, Nathan Shaw, Sasha Brailsford and Max Floyde held their own coffee morning and shared all over social social media encouraging others to hold their own.

If you have any questions or need anything specific, please direct your queries to info@mesothelioma.uk.com and you can donate to the Just Giving page here:

**Mesothelioma UK Just Giving Page** 



If you can, please share and encourage others to share the donation page the #mesomorningcoffee hashtag and any photos on social media as much as they can so we can get as many people involved and most importantly keep in touch!

You can download our lovely new Meso UK bunting to print and hang up as decoration here and if you need any other materials let our fundraising team know and we will do our best to post out what you need whilst we are working from home.

Alyshia Riley, Senior Digital Giving Officer





British Lung Foundation - update

Mesothelioma Patron



The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has created a great increase in the need for the BLF's services including the Helpline team who offer invaluable emotional support and specialist health information to people affected by lung disease.

Since the outbreak, the BLF has been receiving three times the usual volume of calls. In total the small team has received over 312 calls which is a record within the organisation.

The charity has also been affected by the cancellation of multiple fundraising events that were planned throughout the year. Now, they need your help more than ever.

Back in July 2019, it was announced at the UKATA AGM that the association and the BLF would be joining forces to raise awareness and help support fundraising activities to help fund research and support those affected by lung conditions cause by asbestosrelated diseases.

On Sunday 26 April 2020, the BLF launched the 2.6 Challenge to try and raise the crucial funds needed to keep the charity going.

Since then, Membership Manager, Sasha Brailsford rose to the challenge and ran a whopping 2.6 km in 21 minutes 43 seconds. **Now, it's your turn.** 

To take part in the 2.6 Challenge, you need to dream-up an activity based around the numbers 2.6 or 26. Some

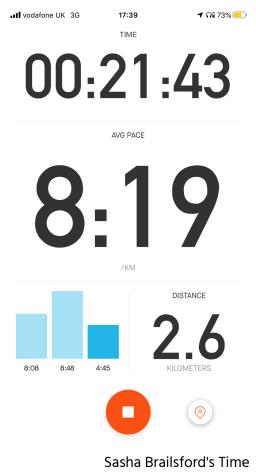
examples could be to run 2.6 miles, do 26 press-ups or remain silent for 26 minutes.

To start your fundraising, you can set up a Just Giving Page <a href="here">here</a> and promote it to your friends, family, and co-workers to donate and get them involved. The only rule for the 2.6 Challenge is to follow the <a href="Governments Guidelines">Governments Guidelines</a> on how to exercise safely.



Sasha Brailsford's Route

If you need more information about the 2.6 Challenge, you can find it on the BLF's website here.



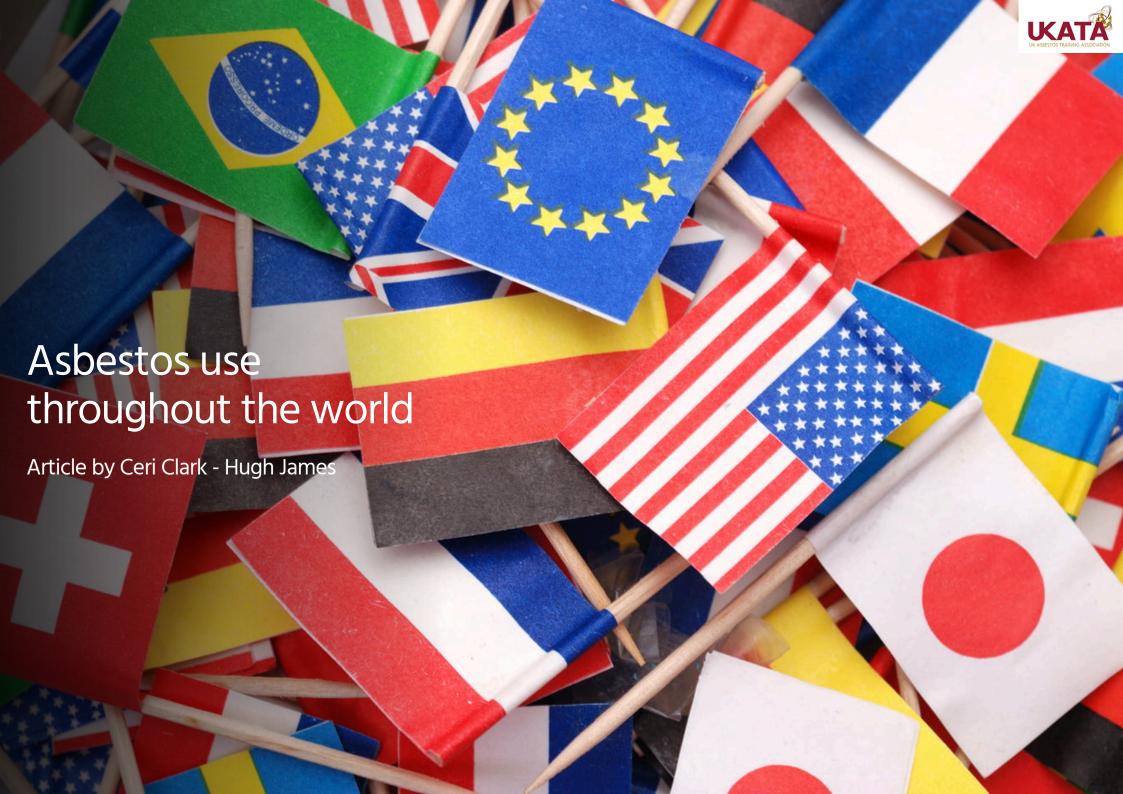
### Love Your Lungs Week: 22 - 28 June 2020

Love Your Lungs Week is the UK's lung health awareness week, led by Asthma UK and the British Lung Foundation. This year, they were focusing on using technology to stay connected. They supported people through all of their digital channels, including their website, social media and their technology for lung health hub.

One in five people in the UK are affected by lung disease. Living with a lung condition which can be hard; lockdown and shielding have made things even harder. If you're affected by lung disease, you're not alone – the British Lung Foundation will support you to stay home and stay connected.







### Asbestos use throughout the World

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral and known carcinogen. Exposure to asbestos fibres can cause people to develop a number of asbestos-related conditions. The dangers of asbestos to people's health have been documented as far back as the early 1900s. There is no safe level of exposure to asbestos.

As the dangers of asbestos are so well documented across the UK and Europe, asbestos has been banned completely. As a result, some might incorrectly presume that this is the case across the world. Sadly, this is not the case and millions of people remain at risk of asbestos exposure worldwide.



Asbestos bans in the 1980s - 1990s

#### UK

The use of asbestos was only completely banned in the UK just over 20 years ago. The ban was brought in in phases, with blue (crocidolite) and brown (amosite) asbestos being banned in 1985 and white (chrysotile) asbestos being banned in 1999. This is the case despite the dangers of asbestos being well documented for many years before this.

It is important to note that the UK's ban, like most developed countries, only relates to the continued use of asbestos rather than any law on removal. This means that large amounts of asbestos still remain in many buildings, including schools and hospitals.

#### France

France banned the use of asbestos in 1997. At the time, Canada claimed that France was not entitled to prohibit the import of certain asbestos-containing products. The World Trade Organisation considered the matter and ruled that France was entitled to ban asbestos to protect public health. France has since campaigned for a worldwide ban on asbestos.

#### Italy

Italy fully banned the use of asbestos in 1992. In addition, the country made plans for asbestos decontamination both domestically and commercially.

# Asbestos bans in the 2000s

#### **European Union**

Most types of asbestos were banned throughout the EU in 1991; however, chrysotile/white asbestos use was still permitted in certain products such as asbestos cement products, seals and gaskets. In 2005 the European Commission took the step to ban asbestos throughout the EU.

#### **Australia**

Australia has a long history of asbestos production and use, with the material first being mined in the late 1800's. Asbestos was eventually banned in Australia in 2003 but the ban, again, does not cover the handling or removal of asbestos products already in situ.

Australia's asbestos legacy can be most clearly seen in the town of Wittenoom in Western Australia.

Mining in the area began in the 1930s until the mine was shut down in 1966. Even though the mine's closure was over 50 years ago, the entire town was shut down over health concerns due to asbestos contamination. Its official town status was removed in June 2007.

#### Canada

Asbestos was still mined in Canada as late as 2011. The country's last two asbestos mines were eventually closed in 2012 but despite this, the Canadian government still tried to keep the Jeffrey Asbestos Mine open by offering a \$58 million grant.

It was only in 2018 that the Canadian federal government finally passed regulations prohibiting the use, sale, import, and export of all forms of asbestos. This is particularly concerning given the known health risks associated with asbestos and the wealth of information available to the Canadian authorities at the time.

Countries still using or producing asbestos

#### Russia

Russia is the world's largest producer of asbestos. The city of Asbest is home to an enormous mine which generates 500,000 metric tons of white (chrysotile) asbestos each year. It is known as the dying city because of its high rates of asbestos-related diseases. Nevertheless, asbestos producers in the country continue to maintain that the use of white asbestos is safe.



Asbestos Mine, Asbest, Russia

Russia is also the world's second largest consumer of asbestos and it is regularly used in the country for car brake pads, insulation and roofing.

#### China

The world's second largest producer of asbestos is China. In 2012 it came to light that thousands of cars containing asbestos gaskets had been shipped to Australia for sale and almost 25,000 cars had to be recalled.

In addition, China is the world's number one consumer of the mineral and imports from Russia are needed to satisfy the huge demand. Asbestos is widely used in construction work across China, apart from Beijing where its use is prohibited.

#### India

Whilst the mining of asbestos has been banned in India, asbestos is still widely used without restriction.

India's government has advocated the use of alternatives to asbestos and has recommended that asbestos be phased out, recognising the substance as hazardous. In addition, there are various rules and regulations in place in relation to the safe usage

of asbestos products, however, in reality there is no proper enforcement of these rules leaving workers unprotected and at risk.

#### **South Africa**

South Africa was once one of the leading producers of asbestos. The notorious asbestos manufacturer Cape Asbestos takes its name from the Northern Cape mines in the country.

Asbestos was banned in the country in 2008 and regulation was made regarding the use, processing, manufacturing, import and export of

asbestos and materials containing asbestos.

However, materials containing asbestos remain in situ all over the country and the country's deadly history of asbestos mining lives on, with many affected from environmental exposure alone. It is thought that many asbestos related deaths are also underreported so the true devastation to South Africa's citizens may never be known.



#### **United States**

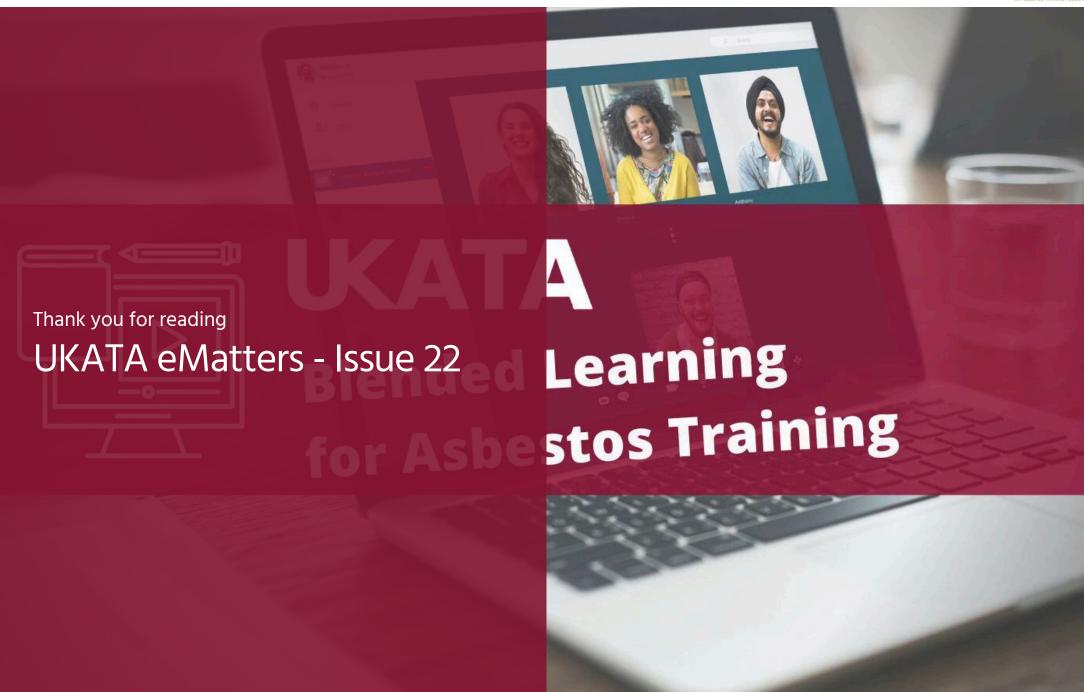
Perhaps most surprisingly, asbestos is still not banned in the United States. It is currently regulated under the Clean Air Act 1970 meaning its use is restricted, however, the US continues to import and use asbestos, with 750 metric tons of asbestos being imported in 2018.

Asbestos can still be found in car brake pads, protective clothing, welding blankets and gloves, as well as construction and roofing products.

The Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos
Now Act is a bill which has been
presented and approved by the
Energy and Commerce Committee
and is now moving to the House of
Representatives. The bill, if approved,
will amend the Toxic Substances
Control Act to ban the use and
importation of asbestos, without
exemptions or exceptions.







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