

Asbestos in Soil and Made Ground (Overview)

Issue Date: 10/03/2025 | Version: 1

AA: Asbestos Awareness

NL: Non-Licensed

LW: Licensed Work

DTM: Duty to Manage

AM: Asbestos Management

AS: Analyst/Surveyor

RP: RPE/PPE



SMG: Soil & Made Ground

OH: Occupational Hazards



Recognition and Grants



UKATA is an approved CITB 3rd Party Awarding Organisation for the Construction Training Register and Construction Training Directory. While there is currently no CITB standard specifically for this course, UKATA is actively collaborating with CITB to establish one. Once approved, this syllabus will be eligible for automated grant payments to levy registered employers.



UKATA is a Member of The CPD Certification Service providing recognised independent CPD accreditation compatible with global CPD principles.



This UKATA syllabus has been reviewed and independently certified as being suitable for CPD purposes by The CPD Certification Service.



UKATA holds ISO 9001 certification and continues to maintain the quality standard through annual auditing. ISO 9001 is a global standard for quality management systems (QMS), requiring organisations to demonstrate that their internal procedures meet rigorous guidelines, ensuring consistent delivery of quality products and services to customers and stakeholders.

Contents

Title	Page No
1. Course Title	4
2. Introduction	4
3. Purpose/Scope	4
4. Occupational Relevance	4
5. Duration	4
6. Learner Pre-Requisites	4
7. Individual Learning Needs	4
8. Instruction/Supervision	5
9. Delivery	5
10. Assessment	5
11. Quality Assurance	6
12. Renewal/Refresher	6
13. Approval Date	6
14. Review Cycle	6
15. Additional Resources	6
16. Learning Outcomes	7
17. Required Course Content	8

1. Course Title

Asbestos in Soil and Made Ground (Overview)

2. Introduction

This syllabus sets out the guidance issued by UKATA for the provision of asbestos in soil and made ground (overview) training for employees whose work could foreseeably expose them to asbestos, as defined within the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR 2012). In particular, people employed on projects to redevelop brownfield sites and or sites that have previously been occupied by industrial buildings that have been demolished, where it is foreseeable that their work will disturb the soils and ground on site and may expose them to ACMs that may be present within the soils on site.

This document provides the syllabus for the training along with guidance on the minimum content of all courses. Tutors can offer bespoke or tailored training for the remainder of any training session, but the core content must be adhered to.

3. Purpose/Scope

The purpose of this training is to provide learners with an understanding of the potential hazards and risks associated with asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) for people working on brownfield sites and highlight the general precautions that need to be followed to avoid the risks from ACMs in soil in both planned work and in emergencies. Additionally, the course offers a comprehensive outline of the legal provisions that enable employees to protect themselves and others during work-related activities.

4. Occupational Relevance

Supervisors and trades personnel, including trainees, such as but not limited to: site managers/supervisors/agents, site remediation employees, construction workers, ground workers, plant and machinery operators, utility installers/ maintainers and other such professionals.

5. Duration

Minimum of 3 learning hours.

(This includes the time allocated for the final exam)

6. Learner Pre-requisite

Learners are required to have successfully completed a [UKATA Asbestos Awareness](#) course within the last 6 months. Proof of this training must be verified by the training provider and should be dated no earlier than six months prior to the start of the course. If the Asbestos Awareness certification has expired beyond this six-month window, learners must undertake a new UKATA Asbestos Awareness course.

7. Individual Learning Needs

The tutor must assess each learner's individual needs before the course begins and adapt the training accordingly.

8. Instruction/Supervision

As a minimum, tutors must meet the following criteria:

- Tutors must have a minimum of at least three years' experience (within the past five years) in the health and safety sector or at least three years' experience (within the past five years) in the asbestos industry which may include, surveying, analytical, removal, consultancy, training, management etc.
- Be able to demonstrate experience of delivering Asbestos Awareness Training.
- Hold a suitable asbestos qualification recognised by the asbestos industry, which may include: asbestos surveying, asbestos management or asbestos removal, or other such qualifications that UKATA deems to be acceptable.
- Hold a recognised trainer qualification, i.e., Level 3 Award in Education and Training, or must achieve this qualification within 12 months of registration with UKATA.
- Must be able to demonstrate a comprehensive practical working knowledge, within the asbestos industry, including its legislative requirements relating to contaminated land;
- A successful UKATA Audit, or an internal Audit undertaken by the Member company they are working for at the highest category of training the Tutor will deliver on behalf of the Member.
- After meeting the above criteria, the Tutor is required to pass the UKATA Asbestos in Soils Awareness Tutor Knowledge Test.

9. Delivery

Training must be delivered in a suitable environment and in accordance with the UKATA [Training Centre & Equipment Minimum Standards](#). All equipment must be of a suitable quality and quantity for learners to achieve learning outcomes and must comply with relevant legislation.

The class size and tutor to learner ratio must allow training to be delivered in a safe manner and enable learners to achieve learning outcomes. The approved training delivery methods for this training along with the maximum tutor to learner ratios are:

Classroom: 1:15

Virtual Classroom: 1:12

10. Assessment

Attainment of the learning outcomes will be assessed by a multiple-choice exam consisting of at least 15 questions taken from the UKATA question bank and sat under exam conditions. At the discretion of the tutor, learners shall be permitted to refer to any notes they make during the training session, or the training manual/notes provided by the tutor.

Learners will be required to achieve a score of at least 12 out of 15 (80%) in the exam. Failure to achieve this will result in the learner requiring to re-sit the exam under exam conditions. If a learner fails the second attempt, they will be required to re-sit the course in its entirety.

The exam should have a completion time of approximately 20 minutes, though this is intended as a guideline. Tutors should accommodate the diverse needs of learners, which may include reading the questions aloud when necessary. However, no assistance may be provided in answering the questions.

11. Quality Assurance

Quality assurance against this syllabus requires verification and approval of the presentation materials, exam papers, course handouts and tutor narrative. Independent audits are carried out to demonstrate conformity with the training standards set by UKATA and each tutor maintains a CPD record that aligns with the UKATA [Tutor Competency Framework](#).

UKATA prides itself on numerous accreditations and certifications that reflect our commitment to the highest standards of service and quality. A detailed list of these can be accessed at: [UKATA Accreditations](#).

12. Renewal/Refresher

Certification for this training course will be valid for one year.

It is recommended that renewal/refresher training is carried out annually.

The duration of refresher training is determined by a training needs analysis (TNA) conducted by the training provider and should be a minimum of 1.5 learning hours.

Learners must provide evidence of their previous UKATA Asbestos in Soil & Made Ground Overview (or refresher) training, completed within the last 12 months. If unable to verify recent certification, learners will need to undergo the full training course again.

Following the certification expiration date, a grace period of six months is permitted for refresher training to be delivered. The employer should, in this case, carry out a TNA and discuss the training requirements with the training provider.

13. Approved Date

01/02/2025

14. Review Cycle

Either on request or within 3 years from approval date.

15. Additional Resources

View	Managing and working with asbestos - Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012(CAR 2012) - Approved Code of Practice and guidance.
View	Asbestos: The Analysts' Guide.
View	Asbestos: The Survey Guide.

16. Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Explain the various pathways through which asbestos can contaminate soil, including historical building remains, land use records, and unintentional deposits.
- ✓ Detail methods for sourcing historical data on land use such as planning approvals and land registry documents to assess potential asbestos contamination.
- ✓ Distinguish between free fibre contamination and product contamination in soils, explaining the implications of each.
- ✓ Outline the comprehensive process for conducting soil and land investigations, from initial assessments to detailed sample analysis.
- ✓ Describe various techniques for soil sampling, including strategic sampling methods, and the importance of sample depth and soil analysis techniques.
- ✓ Interpret the results from gravimetric analysis and other soil analysis methods to identify asbestos presence and concentration.
- ✓ Discuss scenarios requiring the disturbance of asbestos-contaminated soils and strategies to control such disturbances.
- ✓ Explain critical safety measures, including demarcation and isolation of contaminated areas, and emergency planning for excavation works.
- ✓ Detail the protocols for decontamination of equipment and personnel after disturbing asbestos-containing soils.
- ✓ Explain various remediation strategies for managing asbestos found during soil disturbance, weighing the benefits and limitations of each.
- ✓ Discuss the regulatory framework surrounding the safe handling and disposal of asbestos, particularly focusing on compliance with CAR 2012.
- ✓ Evaluate the long-term management requirements and safety implications of leaving asbestos materials in situ.
- ✓ Provide a simplified overview of asbestos legislation within the broader scope of health and safety laws.
- ✓ Outline key asbestos-related regulations, with a focus on Regulations 5 and 6 of CAR 2012.
- ✓ Explain the basic principles under Regulation 4 for managing asbestos-containing materials, emphasising safe systems and workplaces.

17. Required Course Content

MODULE 1	DURATION: APPROXIMATELY 50 MINUTES
	<p>Understanding the Origins and Contamination of Asbestos in Soils:</p> <p>1.1 Explain the various way that asbestos can be found in soils and the source of the contamination. This should include previous buildings and how to source information about the history of the site such as planning approvals, land registry and why asbestos materials were left on site. Other sources of contamination should include fly tipping, previous and historical use of the site and likelihood of contamination from manufacturing plants and natural contamination. Explain the difference between free fibre and product contamination.</p>
MODULE 2	DURATION: APPROXIMATELY 35 MINUTES
	<p>Identification and Analysis of Asbestos in Soils</p> <p>2.1 Explain the process in undertaking soil and land investigation exercises from inception through to sample analysis. This is to include reference to preliminary assessment, desktop study and main assessment, visual surface survey, soil sampling, judgemental and strategic sampling, depth of samples, boring, cone and quartering, soil analysis, gravimetric analysis and interpretation of the results.</p>
MODULE 3	DURATION: APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES
	<p>Managing Risks Associated with Disturbing Asbestos-Contaminated Soils</p> <p>3.1 Explain the scenarios when the contaminated soil needs to be disturbed and how this disturbance needs to be controlled. This should include excavation and identifying hidden asbestos materials during excavation and the need to isolate the area, protective measures, separation of asbestos areas and non-asbestos areas. The need to identify any suspicious products and the process in determining the suspicious materials. Explain the need to plan for emergencies during excavation and decontamination of plant and personnel. Where asbestos is known and the excavation and disturbance is planned, should include: demarcation of the areas, site personnel training, plans of work, material management planning, decontamination, LW, NLW, NNLW in the need to ensure compliance with CAR 2012.</p>
MODULE 4	DURATION: APPROXIMATELY 35 MINUTES
	<p>Understanding Asbestos Legislation in Soil Remediation Context</p> <p>4.1 Explain what remediation options are available when asbestos is found during soil disturbance and excavation works. This will include an overview of leaving the contaminated material in situ and the long-term effects and management requirements, on-site reuse when it is viable to do so and the implications of such remediation works, on-site treatment, hand picking from the ground, hand picking from a picking line and the benefits of such a decision, screening, stabilisation, off-site treatment and disposal.</p>
MODULE 5	DURATION: APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES
	Legislative Framework for Asbestos Management
	5.1 Understand in simple terms where asbestos legislation fits in the wider context of health and safety legislation (safe systems and safe places of work, risk assessments, method statements).
	5.2 Outline of the legislation governing asbestos and work with asbestos, particularly Regulations 5 and 6 of the CAR 2012.
5.3 Outline the basic framework (Regulation 4) for managing ACMs.	