

Introduction

This syllabus sets out the guidance issued by the UK Asbestos Training Association (UKATA) for the provision of asbestos in soils awareness training, as contained within the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR). The document provides the syllabus for the training along with guidance on the minimum content of all courses.

Asbestos in soils awareness training is required to be given to employees whose work could foreseeably expose them to asbestos. In particular, it should be given to all 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. Exemption from this requirement would apply only where the employer can demonstrate that work will only be carried out on sites in which the soils are free from risk of airborne fibres.

NB:

- Asbestos in soils awareness training is not training to work with any forms of asbestos. It is likely to form the first part of training for work on sites that contain ACMs within the soil. On its own it does not meet the legal requirements laid down under the CAR.
- The document provides the training syllabus requirements along with guidance in relation to the minimum 'mandatory' course content for all courses.
- Training providers/trainers can offer bespoke or tailored training for the remainder of any training session; providing that the 'mandatory' core requirements are delivered.

This syllabus is open to all UKATA Professional Members as an extension course offered and approved by UKATA. Applicants must be able to demonstrate compliance with this syllabus by way of material verification which must include course presentation, course handouts, proformas, the documentation used and or referred to; and details in relation to the trainer's knowledge and understanding of the CDM 2015 Duty Holder's responsibilities and details of the course assessment/examination process.

Purpose

The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, Regulation 10 requires every employer to ensure that adequate information, instruction and training is given to their employees who are, or who are liable to be, exposed to asbestos, or who supervise such employees.

This syllabus is concerned only with asbestos awareness training for people working on brownfield sites as per paragraphs 232 and 233 of the associated code of practice and shall be defined as 'Asbestos in Soils Awareness Training'.

The syllabus will assist employers to meet their legal obligations by explaining the properties of asbestos and its effects on the health of individuals, the types, uses and the visible manifestation of asbestos in soils. The course will also highlight the general precautions that need to be followed to avoid the risks from ACMs in soil in both planned work and in emergencies.

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Course Objective

To provide an awareness of and develop knowledge amongst employees regarding the hazards and risks posed by soils and surrounding ground on sites that may contain ACMs. The course further gives an overview of the legislative measures and guidance available to safeguard employees.

Delegate Pre-requisite or Prior Learning

UKATA certificated asbestos awareness training (within 6 months).

Duration

The duration of the training can be divided into three categories; the chosen category should be determined by undertaking a training needs analysis on individual delegates attending open courses or discussions with the client at the time of booking to establish the correct course and duration for the training:

- ASA1) Initial training with NO previous asbestos awareness training undertaken,
- ASA2) Initial training with previous UKATA certificated asbestos awareness training (within 6 months),
- ASA3) Refresher training as deemed necessary (see definition below).

Definition:

- ASA1) Initial training with no previous asbestos awareness training undertaken – The expected duration for this training will be 1 day or a minimum of 6 hours tutor/learning time, this training must include the asbestos awareness element as laid down in UKATA Asbestos Awareness Syllabus (A0022).
- ASA2) Initial training with previous UKATA certificated asbestos awareness training within 6 months of the start date. Verification of the asbestos awareness training must be undertaken by the training provider and must be no more than six months from the date of the asbestos awareness training, should the asbestos awareness training fall outside of this then ASA1 training will be required. The expected duration for this training will be ½ day or 3 hours.
- ASA3) Refresher training should be considered if work methods change or gaps in competency have been identified by means of carrying out a TNA. It is important to note that Reg 10 of the ACoP requires employers to make sure that anyone who supervises employees who are liable to disturb asbestos during their work ensures they receive the correct level of information, instruction and training to enable them to carry out their work safely and competently and without risk to themselves or others.

Who Should Attend?

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.

Architects, building surveyors, designers (including principal designers) and other such professionals may require a more developed course which includes the core syllabus in this course, together with an additional module which includes the interaction between the various duties under the Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015 and those within the CAR.

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Delegate Ratio

The maximum number of delegates allowed on a UKATA Asbestos in Soils Awareness Course is 15.

Learning Objectives

On successful completion of this course, delegates should be able to:

- Have an increased awareness of the nature and properties of asbestos in soils and its effects on health, including the increased risk of lung cancer for workers who smoke,
- Be familiar with the types, uses and likely occurrences of asbestos in soils and made ground,
- Know how to avoid the risks from soils and made up ground containing asbestos by understanding:
 - where to obtain information in relation to asbestos containing materials within soils and made up ground on site prior to commencing work,
 - what to do if suspicious materials are found,
 - how to use appropriate workplace precautions, including the risk assessment process, or seek advice on workplace precautions, in respect of the risks of asbestos.
- Have an awareness of the key aspects of the asbestos regulations and how they fit into the broader context of health and safety legislation,
- Procedures to be followed when coming into unintentional contact with ACMs within soils and made up ground and an understanding of the appropriate emergency arrangements, making reference to UKATA Asbestos Awareness Syllabus (A0022).

Course Syllabus

| THEORY MODULES | TIME |
|--|------------|
| Asbestos awareness training (in accordance with UKATA Syllabus A0022) | 3.00 hours |
| Asbestos in Soil Origins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition • Fly Tipping • Manufacturing | 60 minutes |
| Identification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling Strategies • Soil Analysis | 45 minutes |
| Soil Disturbance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accidental, Suspicious material • Planned Work | 30 minutes |
| Remediation options | 45 minutes |

NB: The above times are issued as a guide to the ratio of time spent on each subject matter. The exact timings and running order are at the discretion of the tutor at the time of delivering the training syllabus.

Course Content (Theory Elements)

Asbestos in Soils Origin

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.

Identification

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.

Soil Disturbance

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.

Remediation Options

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.

Outline of Legislation Relating to Asbestos:

- 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),
- Outline of the legislation governing asbestos and work with asbestos, particularly Regulations 5 and 6 of the CAR,
- Outline the basic framework (Regulation 4) for managing ACMs.

Minimum Standards for Training Centre

Training Centre minimum standards:

- a) Physical layout must be comfortable for delegates undertaking training,
- b) Presentation equipment to be of a minimum requirement of the following:
 - overhead projector screen/integrated systems,
 - flip chart,
 - video delivery media unit.
- c) Training facility must comply with all relevant Health and Safety Regulations:
 - building risk assessment,

- induction material for delegates to include fire evacuation procedures and emergency planning,
 - first aid facilities.
- d) Provision of satisfactory welfare facilities that meet legal requirements (for onsite training sessions the welfare facilities must comply with Schedule 2 of CDM 2015 L153 guidance on regulations):
- WC and hand washing facilities,
 - place to consume refreshments,
 - drinking water readily available,
 - adequate heating and ventilation.
- e) Training facility to have relevant reference materials, narrative documents and ACoP Guidance:
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974,
 - The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations,
 - The Control of Asbestos Regulations L143 Managing and working with Asbestos ACoP.

Course Handouts

The training provider must provide detailed course handouts for reference by the delegates throughout the training delivery.

Assessment:

Attainment of the learning outcome for the qualification will be assessed by a multiple choice examination consisting of at least 15 questions under exam conditions in line with the notes (1), (2) below. At the discretion of the training provider, the candidates shall be allowed to refer to any notes they make during the training sessions and the course notes or training manual provided by the training provider.

The questions used must be developed by the training provider and be relevant to the course content and course syllabus. These will be reviewed at the time of the verification and or audit.

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

Notes:

- (1) The examination should have a completion time of approximately 20 minutes, however the tutor should recognise that delegates learning needs are varied and thus the time stated is for guidance only.
- (2) The varied needs of delegates also include the ability to fully comprehend written English and the tutor may read out the questions to assist such delegates. However, no assistance may be offered in respect of providing answers.

Competence:

All training should be provided by someone who is competent to do so, who has had adequate personal, practical experience and who has a theoretical knowledge of all relevant aspects of the work being carried out.

Notes:

The competence requirement for trainers is defined in the UKATA Rules of Membership.

Training providers delivering "Asbestos in Soils Awareness" training must be registered, verified and audited by UKATA.

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Tutors wishing to deliver this syllabus shall be required to provide experience of this subject matter by way of submitting a CV in conjunction with details/information in relation to how and where the tutor gained experience in this area of expertise. A trainer application form should be submitted for each trainer wishing to deliver this training course. All applications will be forwarded to the Membership Committee who will review the trainers experience and expertise which will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Any enquiries regarding this syllabus should be made to UKATA.