

# UKATA

## ASBESTOS AWARENESS REFRESHER TRAINING IN ACCORDANCE WITH HSE GUIDELINES (L143 second edition)

### Asbestos Awareness Training:

The revised HSE guidelines in respect of Refresher Training is referred to in paragraphs 269-272 of the ACoP (L143 second edition) as follows:

- “There is no need for employees who receive training for licensable or non-licensable work to do asbestos awareness refresher training.
- Awareness training is only intended to help employees avoid carrying out work that will disturb asbestos. There is no legal requirement to repeat a formal refresher awareness training course every 12 months. However some form of refresher awareness should be given, as necessary, to help prevent those workers listed in paragraph 233 putting themselves or others at risk in the course of their work.
- Refresher awareness could be given as e-learning or as part of other health and safety updates, rather than through a formal training course. For example, an employer, manager or supervisor who has attended an awareness course and is competent to do so, as defined in paragraph 258, could deliver an update or safety talk to employees in house.
- A realistic, common sense approach to refreshing knowledge and skills, based on judgment of individual abilities and training needs, is all that is usually required”.

UKATA has carefully considered these paragraphs and believes that as an Association they shall continually strive to raise and maintain standards up to and exceeding legislative requirements. UKATA Refresher training can be provided with the confidence that all members are audited on a regular basis ensuring that standards are met and maintained.

Certificates of Training as referred to in paragraph 275 of the ACoP (L143 second edition) as follows:  
“There is non legal requirement for employees to be issued with or possess a certificate of training before they can work with asbestos. However, many external training providers issue trainees with certificates to indicate completion of a training course. A certificate is not proof of competency to do the job, but where issued, a certificate is an indication that training has been received and may be kept as part of an individual’s training record”.

**UKATA believes that Asbestos Awareness should be delivered by face to face (classroom) training and that E-Learning is suited for refresher training when used in conjunction with face to face training.**

**UKATA also believes that asbestos awareness training for those trades previously identified by the HSE as at greater risk in the Hidden Killer Campaign and Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, such as electricians, joiners, plumbers etc, would gain significantly more from face to face training.**

**UKATA recommends the following training programme for Asbestos Awareness:**

Year 1	Asbestos Awareness	Face to face (Classroom)
Year 2	Asbestos Awareness Refresher	Face to face (Classroom) or E-Learning
Year 3	Asbestos Awareness	Face to face (Classroom)
Year 4	Asbestos Awareness Refresher	Face to face (Classroom) or E-Learning
Year 5	Asbestos Awareness	Face to face (Classroom)
Year 6	Asbestos Awareness Refresher	Face to face (Classroom) or E-Learning
<b>Ad Infinitum</b>		

**UKATA believes that Asbestos Awareness training should be delivered by face to face (classroom) training and that E-Learning is suited for refresher training when used in conjunction with face to face training.**

A UKATA refresher course is appropriate if delegate has evidence of attending a UKATA Asbestos Awareness Course within 12-18 months and can satisfy the requirements of the TNA (Training Needs Analysis)

The recommended duration of the UKATA refresher course is two hours minimum.

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### Introduction:

*“Such training is required to be given to employees whose work could foreseeably expose them to Asbestos. In particular it should be given to all demolition workers and those workers in the refurbishment, maintenance and allied trades where their work may disturb the fabric of the building because Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) may become exposed during their work”.*

In accordance with Regulation 10, Paragraph 235 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, this guidance is prepared to answer a number of questions covering three broad topics. It will outline the following:

- The properties of asbestos and its effects on health, including the increased risk of lung cancer for asbestos workers who smoke;
- The types, uses and likely occurrence of asbestos and ACMs in buildings and plant;
- The general procedures to be followed to deal with an emergency, eg an uncontrolled release of asbestos dust into the workplace;
- How to avoid the risks from asbestos, eg for building work, no employee should carry out work which disturbs the fabric of a building unless the employer has confirmed that ACMs are not present

**Asbestos is only dangerous if you can breathe in, or ingest, the fibres (dust). Solid asbestos containing material is very low risk. It becomes high risk if it is damaged or the surface deteriorates so that fibres are released either by material falling off or people brushing against it.**

### 1. Operations resulting in exposure to Asbestos:

The Regulations indicate that almost all workers within the Construction Industry will come across ACM's. These include (although not limited to):

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| • General Maintenance Staff                                   | • Electricians                      |
| • Plumbers  | • Gas Fitters                       |
| • Painters & Decorators                                       | • Joiners                           |
| • Plasterers  | • Demolition Workers                |
| • Roofers   | • Shop Fitters                      |
| • Heating and Ventilation Engineers                           | • Telecommunication Engineers       |
| • Computer and Data Installers                                | • Fire and Burglar Alarm Installers |
| • Architects, building surveyors and other such professionals |                                     |

### 2. Types of Asbestos:

There are three main types of fibrous asbestos:

Chrysotile (White)	Serpentine Group
Grunerite /Amosite (Brown)	Amphibole Group
Crocidolite (Blue)	Amphibole Group

There are a further three types which were very rarely used within the UK but do arise as trace elements (all are in the Amphibole Group)

- Anthophyllite
- Actinolite
- Tremolite

### 3. Properties of Asbestos:

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| • Good thermal insulator        | • Stable at high temperatures            |
| • Good electrical insulator     | • High tensile strength similar to steel |
| • Good sound insulator          | • Long flexible fibres                   |
| • Incombustibility              | • Does not degrade over time             |
| • Reinforcing and binding agent |  |

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<b>4. What Types of Asbestos are Dangerous</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All types of asbestos are</li><li>• Amphiboles are</li><li>• Serpentine is</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Category 1 Carcinogens</li><li>Extremely dangerous</li><li>Only slightly less dangerous</li></ul>
<b>5. Entry into the Body:</b>	
One route: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inhalation,</li></ul>	
Diseases likely to develop include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asbestosis</li><li>• Lung Cancer</li><li>• Mesothelioma</li><li>• Asbestos Warts (<i>NB. Callous on the skin rather than skin absorption</i>)</li></ul>	
<b>6. Health Effects:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It can take anywhere from as little as 15 years to over 60 years plus from initial exposure to the development of disease and the symptoms of cancer appearing.</li><li>• This latency period means that many workers may become ill years after they leave a job or have been exposed.</li><li>• Many do not remember when or where they were exposed to asbestos, therefore it is very difficult to take court action as many people have had more than one employer.</li><li>• If you work with Asbestos on a regular basis, your risk of an asbestos related disease is 1:8, however if you smoke your chances increase to 1:2 If you are exposed to Asbestos and you smoke your risk of lung cancer is increased to more than 53 times the rate expected in non-smokers with no asbestos exposure</li><li>• Asbestos related diseases are virtually inoperable</li><li>• Asbestos related diseases cause 1% of all male deaths in the EU (This is rising)</li><li>• Single very large exposure can potentially kill</li></ul>	
<b>7. Asbestos in Buildings:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asbestos has been used within over 4,000 products, the vast majority of which we are building materials- these include the following ACMs: -<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• roof sheets</li><li>• doors</li><li>• wall linings</li><li>• textured coatings (artex)</li><li>• boilers</li><li>• guttering</li><li>• ceilings,</li><li>• vinyl tiles</li><li>• fuse boxes</li><li>• pipe work</li></ul></li></ul>	
The list above is limited. New products are regularly found which contain asbestos.	

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### 8. The Risks of Fibre Release from ACMs

High	Medium	Low
Limpet sprayed coatings	Cements (including roof sheets and flues)	Thermoplastic floor tiles Mastics, sealants, putties etc
Thermal insulation-lagging to pipes, boilers and calorifiers	Fire blankets and curtains	Bitumen roofing felts
Insulation Boards	Paper production	Textured coatings (artex) & Paints

### 9. What the Law Requires is to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, the best standards of Health, Safety and Welfare at work.

In particular (with regards to asbestos) it is necessary to ensure:

- all employees who may disturb asbestos are trained appropriately (at least Asbestos Awareness)
- all are inducted on the contents of Asbestos Register for all works they undertake.

all have in system for employees to report any possible Asbestos findings

**Health and Safety at Work Act:** It is essential for everyone to understand and follow all H&S regulations and requirements otherwise prosecution may result, with heavy fines and even imprisonment likely.

### 10. How Do I Know Where Asbestos Is?

- The law requires owners and managers of sites to establish if there are any asbestos containing materials on their site and to know where they are. This is normally recorded in an asbestos register.
- They must make you aware of this when you come to site. If they don't then you should ask.
- Emergency decontamination procedures need to be in place for the site and they should also be explained to you. If they are not then you should ask.

**Further, if you suspect asbestos to present where you are working, either in material in place or as fallen debris around you then:**

- Stop work immediately
- Inform those around you
- Everyone should leave the area where asbestos is suspected
- Contact your line manager and await their further instructions

### 11. Emergency Procedures

It is of utmost importance that you determine the site's or your company's asbestos procedure and for you to be refreshed on what actions are taken in the event of:

**'Suspected' disturbance of ACMs** - where doubt exists you must treat all materials as Asbestos, until either the duty holder or your company arrange for sampling and analytical testing.

#### **'Known or potential' exposure to ACMs**

If you believe that you may have been exposed and/or contaminated with asbestos material:

- Raise the alarm immediately by getting someone else to report the incident to your supervisor or manager or the person in charge.
- Do not go into occupied areas or buildings until help arrives as you could spread the asbestos contamination.
- Follow instructions which may involve the need to wear respiratory protective equipment and/or protective coveralls, as well as showering in a decontamination unit.

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### Legislation & Guidelines:

- *CAR-Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 including Regulation 4 (The Duty to Manage)*
- *ACoP – Approved Code of Practice and Guidance 2012 L143 (second edition)*
- *CDM Regulations 2015 and ACoP L153*
- *HASWA -Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*
- *COSHH – Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002*
- *MHSWR - Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999*
- *The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005*
- *Special Waste Scotland Regulations 2004*

### 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. 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.

A candidate shall 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 require to re-sit the course in its entirety.

#### Notes:

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.

The varied needs of delegates also includes 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 of Tutors:

“All training should be given by people who are competent to do so and who have personal practical experience and a theoretical knowledge of all relevant aspects of the work being carried out by the employer.”

#### Notes:

- The competence requirement for trainers is defined in the UKATA Rules of Membership.
- Training providers delivering Asbestos Awareness should be registered, verified and audited by UKATA.

### Maximum Number of Delegates:

The maximum number of delegates allowed on an UKATA Asbestos Awareness training course is 15.

Any enquiries regarding this syllabus should be made to UKATA at [info@ukata.org.uk](mailto:info@ukata.org.uk) or telephone 01246 824437