

Asbestos Network - Meeting Notes - 17 March 2021

Meeting held via Zoom, hosted by ARCA

Attendees

Archie Mitchell, Chair	AM	HSE, Head of ALU
Alan Willoughby	AW	BOHS, FAAM
Andy Lewis-Thomas	ALT	FDEM
Chris Bishop	CB	UKATA, representing CE
Colette Willoughby	CW	BOHS, FAAM
Dan Shears	DS	GMB
Daniel Barrowcliffe	DB	HSE Science Division
Deborah Walker	DW	HSE ALU
Graham Warren	GW	TICA-ACAD
Gren Tipper	GT	CCLG
Helen Ratcliffe	HR	HSE Asbestos Policy
John Richards	JR	RICS, Thames Labs
Jonathan Grant	JG	NORAC
Louise Wainwright	LW	UKAS
Monica Kumar	MK	Islington LA, London Boroughs Asbestos Group
Paul Beaumont	PB	IATP
Peter Crosland	PC	CECA, CONIAC Tackling Ill Health Working Group
Radha Hirani	RH	HSE Construction
Rob Miguel	RM	Unite
Rosie Bricis	RB	HSE ALU
Sam Lord	SL	HSE Occ Hyg
Steve Sadley, Zoom host	SS	ARCA
Tony Vozniak	TV	APS

Apologies

Craig Evans	CE	UKATA, represented by CB
David Tucker	DT	Land Securities
Judith McNulty-Green	JM	IOSH

Actions from meeting 17 March 2021

- (1) **ALL** to forward feedback on the DTM flowchart to SL by 30 Apr 21.
- (2) **Management WG** to follow up with the trade associations re making the DTM flowchart available via their websites.
- (3) **RB** to confirm lead and background to the Communications WG.
- (4) **JG** to circulate to members notes from the 27 Nov 20 Surveyors and Analysts WG meeting.
- (5) **AM** to circulate to members notes from the 19 Feb 21 Deliverables WG meeting.
- (6) **RH** to circulate to members minutes from the 3 Mar 21 CONIAC meeting.
- (7) **PC** and **PB** to clarify route to approval for documents released via CONIAC and advise members.
- (8) **ALL** to advise RH if future proposed meeting dates are not suitable.

Agenda

- 1 Welcome, introductions, domestics, apologies
- 2 Minutes of previous meeting
 - agreement/amendments of 27 Jan 21 meeting minutes
 - update on actions
- 3 Updates from Working Groups
 - Technical - SL
 - Licensing - DW
 - Management - AW
 - Surveying and Analysts - JG
 - Communication - tbcSignificant items affecting the activity of the Asbestos Network and subsequent actions required
- 4 Report on CONIAC-CLC activity
 - role of Asbestos Network, update and delivery - PB and GT
 - actions agreed by Asbestos Network
- 5 Dates for next meetings

1 Welcome and introduction

Thanks given to SS and to ARCA for hosting the meeting via Zoom.

2 Minutes of meeting held 27 Jan 21

2a Agreement and amendments

Minutes from meeting held 27 Jan 21 agreed.

2b Actions from meeting 27 Jan 21

Actions (1), (5) (6), (7), (8) and (9) completed. The following actions were outstanding:

- (2) **ALL** to forward feedback on the DTM flowchart to SL by 10 Mar 21.
SL had received good feedback from PB. Any further feedback to be forwarded to SL.
- (3) **Licensing WG** to forward to members the draft risk assessment by 5 Mar 21.
- (4) **ALL** to forward comments on the draft risk assessment to RH by 12 Mar 21.
See agenda item #3.
- (10) Dates of future meetings had been revised in order to follow the dates of CONIAC meetings.
See agenda item #5.

3 Updates from Working Groups

Technical (SL) - meets every two months; thanks given to CW for summarising and preparing the minutes for meetings held 11 Dec 20 and 12 Feb 21, which have now been emailed to AsbNet members.

Post meeting TWG guidance, Asbestos "Cleans" (Environmental Cleaning), is available as an appendix to AsbNet meeting minutes on the trade association websites.

Licensing (DW) - WG had met 11 Mar 21 to discuss the risk assessment; decision made to move away from generalities, look at real life examples and use the hierarchy of control; the document was still in preparation. Notes from meeting emailed to AsbNet members (copied below). Next meeting 5 May 2021.

Management (AW) - WG had met twice since the last AsbNet meeting and notes had been emailed to AsbNet members. See agenda item #5 re dissemination of AsbNet guidance but, for the time being, the flowchart can be made available via trade association websites as an appendix to AsbNet minutes.

Communications - CW advised she was not the lead for this group. HSE will follow up.

Surveyors and Analysts (JG) - minutes from meeting 27 Nov 20 ready and will be circulated.

Deliverables (AM, PB) - PB provided an update, WG had met 19 Feb 21 and meeting notes would be circulated.

Update from HSE (AM)

- Post-implementation review (PIR) of CAR12 is in progress and HSE is due to communicate a schedule soon. PIR isn't a review of the policy but of the effectiveness of the Regulations.
- Regulatory fees, for example asbestos licensing, will increase from 1 Apr 21 by 2.2%, <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2021/33/made>.

4 Role and function of Asbestos Network - working with CONIAC and CLC

GT, PC and PB briefed members on the CITB programme for Net Zero Carbon and the CONIAC Working Groups, including the Supporting Small Employers Working Group (SSEWG) plan of work.

Post meeting - copy of CONIAC SSEWG Plan of Work 2021 and link to CITB's Net Zero Carbon report, https://www.citb.co.uk/documents/research/building_skills_net_zero_uk_summary.pdf, emailed to members 17 Mar 21.

Information from the CONIAC meeting held 3 Mar 21 would be forwarded to members when it became available. RM had raised some questions at CONIAC that were relevant because of the potential to be involved in, for example, safety cases.

CONIAN meeting 22 Mar 21 was open to a limited number of people, link emailed to members; speakers presentations will be forwarded to members when available.

5 Any other business

- There was a brief discussion about how guidance produced by AsbNet could be disseminated effectively. At previous meetings, it had been suggested that the DTM flowchart could be a test case for future guidance and could be put through HSE's Publications Governance Group (PGG); this is still an option. There are also opportunities for publicising guidance via trade unions, CONIAC/CONIAN and, ultimately, the CLC, which has established a dialogue with industry that AsbNet can use.
- A question was raised about AsbNet links to the Building Safety Regulator (BSR). BSR is not set up yet as the Regulations validating it are still in progress and timescales are still unknown. The biggest issue with BSR will be fire safety but building safety is also very important, eg structural safety and asbestos, so it's likely that AsbNet will be linked to BSR.
- CW highlighted that the EU is undertaking a review of occupational exposure limits; ECHA was looking at the science and epidemiology (which included a control limit of 0.01 instead of 0.1) and the final date for opinions was 1 Apr 21, https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/23456411/oel_asbestos_report_en.pdf/4605fc92-18a2-ae48-f977-4dffdecfec11. HSE is monitoring the situation.
- RM reminded members about the Workplace Health Expert Committee, <https://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/committees/whcec/>, though this is not tri-partite. Trade unions are still affiliated with EU bodies and a lot of initiatives have come out of these and also been proposed, eg Green Deal Initiative, Asbestos Register, mandatory screening before buying and selling houses etc.

6 Future meetings

The dates proposed for future meetings were changed post-meeting in order to allow more time for minutes and feedback from CONIAC meetings to be circulated. The revised meeting dates are:

Wednesday 7 July 2021	1030 - 1300
Wednesday 13 October 2021	1030 - 1300
Wednesday 12 January 2022	1030 - 1300

HSE has emailed links to members for future AsbNet meetings, which will be hosted via Teams. As not all members had had good experiences with Teams in the past, HSE will trial its use for the time being and gauge feedback.