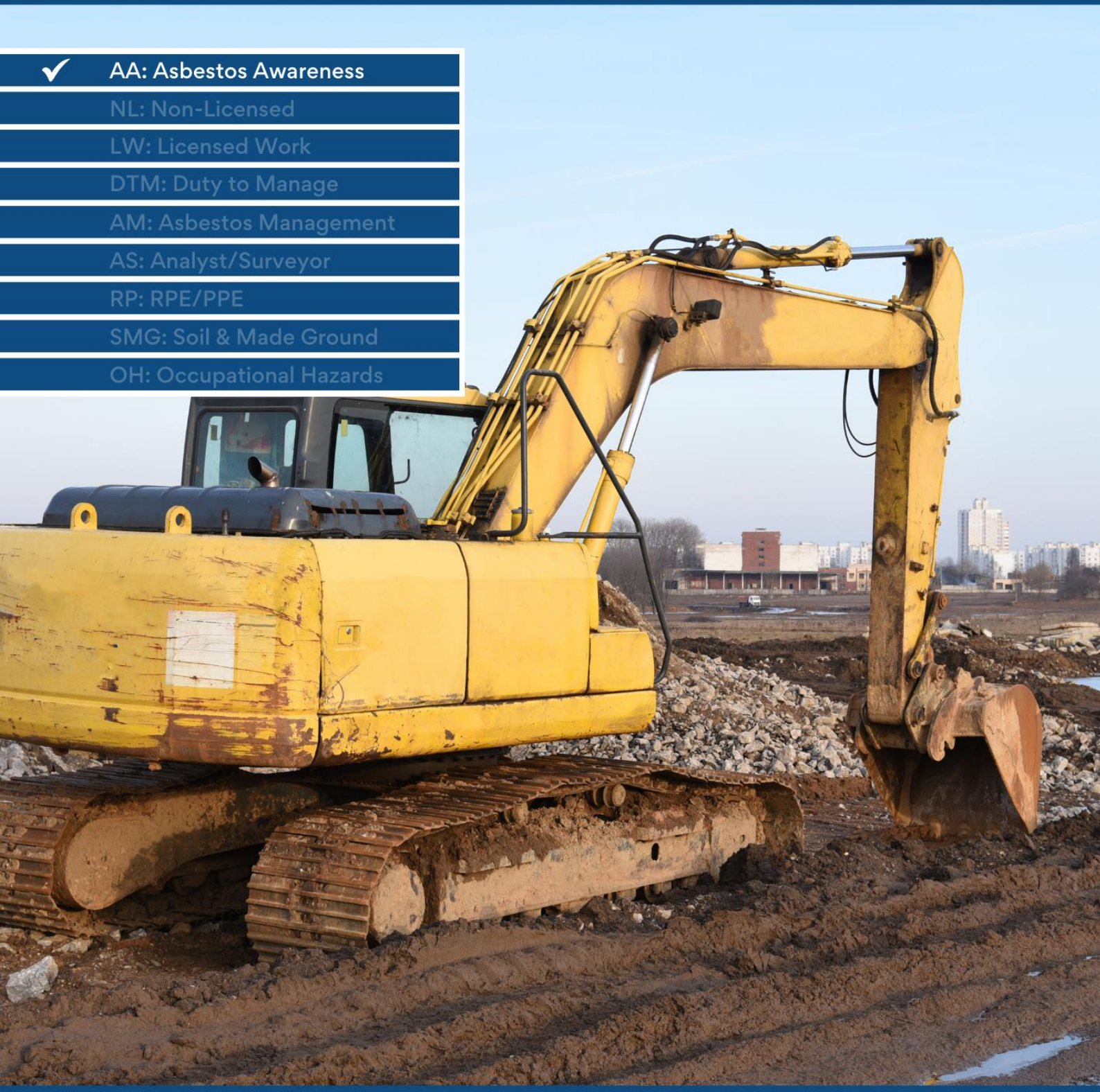
UKATA Syllabus

AA02

Asbestos Awareness for Groundworkers

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



UKATA is a leading non-profit association dedicated to improving the quality and standards of asbestos, silica and dust control training.

Recognition and Grants

UKATA is an approved CITB 3rd Party Awarding Organisation for the Construction Training Register and Construction Training Directory. This UKATA syllabus has been mapped against the CITB standard and is available for automated grant payments to levy registered employers.

Training Type	Grant Tier	Grant Rate	Grant Code
Initial	1	£60	GET0096
Refresher	1	£30	GET2922

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

1. Course Title

Asbestos Awareness for Groundworkers

2. Introduction

This syllabus sets out the guidance issued by UKATA for the provision of asbestos awareness training for groundworkers whose work could foreseeably expose them to asbestos, as defined within the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR 2012).

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.

Asbestos awareness training is not training to work with any forms of asbestos. It is likely to form the first part of training for work with asbestos, but on its own it is does not meet the legal requirements laid down under CAR 2012.

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). Additionally, the course is designed to assist learners to meet their legal obligations when undertaking works on presumed or known contaminated sites and provide them with an awareness of the types, condition, and visual images of what can be found below ground level.

4. Occupational Relevance

Any persons who may encounter asbestos containing materials during their day-to-day work activities whilst undertaking groundwork activities. This would normally include, but is not limited to:

Site investigation engineers, utilities installation and maintenance engineers, ground works operatives, including ground drilling and manual excavations, fencing installation, on site remediation and waste disposal, or any other persons likely to disturb asbestos containing materials as defined in CAR 2012 and JIWG CAR-SOIL 2016.

5. Duration

Minimum of 3 learning hours.
(This includes the time allocated for the final exam)

6. Learner Pre-requisite

There are no learner pre-requisites as part of this syllabus.

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.
- 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 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
E-Learning:	Self-paced (tutor support available as needed)

10. Assessment

Attainment of the learning outcomes will be assessed by a multiple-choice exam consisting of at least 15 questions 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 Awareness (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	Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012: Interpretation for Managing and Working with Asbestos in Soil and Construction & Demolition materials: Industry Guidance (shortened name CAR-SOIL™).
View	Asbestos: The Analysts' Guide, Section 7: Soils and Made Ground
View	Identify the properties of asbestos and its effect on health, including the increased risk of developing lung cancer for asbestos workers who smoke.
View	List of types, uses and likely occurrence of asbestos and asbestos materials in buildings and plant.
View	Identify the difference between licensable work and non-licensable (notifiable or non-notifiable) work.

16. Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Identify and describe the different types and properties of asbestos minerals.
- ✓ Analyse the health risks associated with asbestos exposure, including the impact of smoking.
- ✓ Review general epidemiology and statistics related to asbestos.
- ✓ Recognise various types of asbestos and their common uses.
- ✓ Identify where asbestos and asbestos containing materials (ACMs) can be typically found within buildings and ground, and how they came to be in the ground.
- ✓ Understand the primary purposes behind the use of asbestos in coatings, insulation, asbestos insulating board, asbestos cement, and other asbestos containing materials.
- ✓ Describe the risks of fibre release from various asbestos containing materials.
- ✓ Demonstrate how to find information about asbestos presence prior to starting work.
- ✓ Explain the emergency procedures for situations where asbestos or ACMs are unexpectedly disturbed or discovered during work.
- ✓ Comprehend the role of asbestos legislation within the broader context of health and safety laws.
- ✓ Summarise key asbestos legislation, focusing on Regulations 5 and 6 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations (CAR 2012).
- ✓ Understand Regulation 4's framework for managing ACMs.
- ✓ Have an awareness of JIWG CAR-SOIL™ 2016.

17. Required Course Content

MODULE 1	DURATION: APPROXIMATELY 60 MINUTES
	Outline the properties, risks, and its effects on health of asbestos exposure:
	1.1 Describe the properties of asbestos: • The natural origin and physical properties of asbestos which made it invaluable to construction, transport, and industry. • Crocidolite, Grunerite (aka Amosite) and Chrysotile; the common names and characteristics of these minerals. • The geographical sources of asbestos and brief history of the use of asbestos containing materials and associated bans on types of asbestos and product usage.
	1.2 Outline the risks to and effects on health caused by exposure to asbestos. • The basic structure of the respiratory system in order to understand asbestos related diseases: how asbestos fibres can become respirable; pleural plaques and scars; asbestosis; lung cancer; mesothelioma; risk of developing disease; latency periods; amount of exposure required to cause specific diseases. • Increased risk of lung cancer from smoking and its synergistic effects with asbestos exposure.
	1.3 General epidemiology and statistics. • Provide general statistics on the epidemiology and current HSE statistics on asbestos related mortality.

MODULE 2	DURATION: APPROXIMATELY 70 MINUTES
	Have a general knowledge of the types, uses associated risks and likely occurrence of asbestos and ACMs in buildings, plant and ground, by understanding:
	2.1 Outline the types of asbestos containing material: • Provide a descriptive and pictorial overview in situ and identified within the ground (broken, damaged, fragments, debris) of loose fill, sprayed asbestos, asbestos insulation, asbestos insulating board, asbestos cement and other asbestos containing materials with sufficient information and sequenced in such a way that learners may develop an understanding of the risk levels associated with asbestos containing materials. • Include the concept of free fibre contamination.
	2.2 Explain where asbestos and ACMs can be typically found within buildings and ground: • Illustrate the typical areas of a building where ACMs can be found and their uses within such areas. • Explain typical areas of ground where ACMs can be found and how/why they are found there – poor construction, fly-tipping, demolition etc.
	2.3 Describe the main reasons for the use of asbestos coating, insulation, asbestos insulating board, asbestos cement and other asbestos containing materials.
	2.4 Include a minimum of 20 photographs of various asbestos products in situ or ground from the products listed below. All photographs must be arranged in a clear sequence based on the ease of fibre release and include the typical percentage of asbestos composition: **Loose insulation** - Loose fill insulation **Sprayed coatings** - Sprayed coating (aka Limpet, Flock) on concrete & steel **Thermal insulation** - Thermal insulation of pipes, boilers & calorifiers etc. **Asbestos boards** - AIB sheet, tile, acoustic tile, fire door & packers - Millboard **Paper, felt and cardboard** - Acoustic lining - Corrugated cardboard **Textiles** - Rope insulation & seals - Cloth - Gaskets **Friction products** - Brake pads / clutch plates/drive & conveyor belts **Cement products** - AC roofing, wall cladding, flue & sills - Undercloaking - Fire surrounds - Bath panels - Pre-formed moulded products **Textured coatings** - Textured decorative coatings **Bitumen products** - Roofing felts - Bitumen adhesive - Gutter linings & flashings **Flooring** - Thermoplastic floor tiles - PVC vinyl floor tiles **Reinforced plastic and resin composites.** - Toilet cisterns / seats - Bakelite

MODULE 3	DURATION: APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES
	How to avoid the risks from asbestos:
	3.1 Explain how friability impacts on the risk of fibre release from asbestos coating, insulation, asbestos insulating board, asbestos cement and other asbestos containing materials.
	3.2 Provide an overview of what an asbestos register is; the types of survey that it may have been created from and the information it contains to assist in understanding the location of ACMs.
	3.3 Describe the emergency procedures to be taken if ACMs are discovered or accidentally disturbed: • What to do should hidden asbestos products be inadvertently identified during excavation. • Short-term remediation in making the area safe, including isolation of the contaminated area. • Emergency procedures if suspected contamination is identified. • Examples of the potential spread of asbestos fibres across the site and surrounding area.

MODULE 4	DURATION: APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES
	Outline of legislation relating to asbestos:
	4.1 Outline of the origins of asbestos legislation and how it fits into the wider context of health and safety legislation including Sections 2, 3 and 7 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.
	4.2 Outline the regulations governing work with asbestos with particular reference to Regulation 5 and 6 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.
	4.3 Outline legislative framework for managing ACMs.
	4.4 Provide a brief overview of the key elements of Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. Explain that work with asbestos may be Licensed work (LW), Notifiable Non-Licensed work (NNLW) or Non-Licensed work (NLW) and that Asbestos Awareness training does not prepare anyone for any type of work with asbestos.
	4.5 Provide a brief overview of JIWG CAR-SOIL 2016.