

Syllabus – Category A

Asbestos Awareness



Introduction

This syllabus sets out the guidance issued by the UK Asbestos Training Association (UKATA) for the provision of asbestos 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. Trainers 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 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 it is foreseeable that their work will disturb the fabric of the building because ACMs may become exposed during their work. Exemption from this requirement would apply only where the employer can demonstrate that work will only be carried out in or on buildings free of ACMs.

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 does not meet the legal requirements laid down under CAR.

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 as per paragraph 124 (a) of the associated Approved Code of Practice and shall be defined as Category 'A' Asbestos Awareness Training.

This syllabus will assist employers in meeting this requirement by explaining the properties of asbestos and its effects on the health of individuals, the types, uses and likely occurrences of asbestos and ACMs in buildings and plant, the general procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency and how to avoid the risks from ACMs.

Course Objective

To provide an awareness and develop the knowledge amongst employees as regards the hazards and risks posed by asbestos containing materials (ACM's). The course further gives an overview of the legislative measures in place to permit employees to safeguard themselves and others affected by work activities.

Delegate pre-requisites or prior learning

None

Duration

3 - 4 hours (contact time)

Who should attend?

Supervisors and trades personnel, including trainees such as but not limited to: general maintenance staff, electricians, plumbers, gas fitters, painters and decorators, joiners, plasterers, demolition workers, construction workers, roofers, heating and ventilation engineers, telecommunication engineers, fire and burglar alarm installers, computer installers, architects, building surveyors and other such professionals and shopfitters.

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

Learning Objectives

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

- Have an increased awareness of the nature and properties of asbestos and its effects on health, including the increased risk of lung cancer for asbestos workers who smoke;
- Be familiar types, uses and likely occurrences of asbestos in buildings and where appropriate items of plant;
- Know how to avoid the risks from asbestos by understanding;
 - Where to obtain information on asbestos in premises 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;
 - Undertake work activities in a safe manner and without risk to themselves or others.
- Have an awareness of the general legislation in relation to health and safety and asbestos in particular.
- Procedures to be followed when coming into unintentional contact with ACM's and an understanding of the appropriate emergency arrangements.

Summary of Outcomes

To achieve a satisfactory outcome a candidate must be able to:

1.0 Outline the properties, risks and its effects on health of asbestos exposure:

- Describe the properties of asbestos.
- The risks to and effects of health caused by exposure to asbestos.
- Increased risks from smoking.
- General epidemiology and statistics.

2.0 Have a general knowledge of the types, uses and likely occurrence of asbestos and ACMs in buildings and plant and be in a position to:

- Outline the types of asbestos;
- Explain where asbestos and ACMs can be typically found within buildings;
- Describe the main reasons for the use of asbestos coatings, insulation, asbestos insulating board, asbestos cement and other asbestos containing materials.

3.0 How to avoid the risks from asbestos

- Describe the risks of fibre release from asbestos coatings, insulation, asbestos insulating board, asbestos cement and other asbestos containing materials;
- Demonstrate an awareness of how they would find information about the presence of asbestos before starting work;
- Explain the general emergency arrangements to be used in the event that asbestos or ACMs are discovered during the course of works.

4.0 Outline of legislation relating to asbestos

- Outline of the legislation governing asbestos and work with asbestos, particularly regulations 5 and 6 of CAR;
- Outline the legislative framework (Regulation 4) for managing ACM's

Content

The following provides an overview on the content required for the learning outcomes to be realised:

1.0 Outline the properties, risks and its effects on health of asbestos exposure:

- Describe the properties of asbestos:
 - The natural origin and physical qualities of the material and the reasons for the materials' use
 - A brief history of the use of asbestos containing materials and associated bans on types of asbestos and product usage.
 - White, brown, and blue asbestos; properties of these materials which made them valuable to the construction industry;
- The risks to and effects of health caused by exposure to asbestos.
 - Asbestos related diseases: 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.
- General epidemiology and statistics.
 - Provide general statistics on the epidemiology and current HSE statistics on asbestos related illness.

Approximately 1 hour

2.0 Have a general knowledge of the types, uses and likely occurrence of asbestos and ACMs in buildings and plant, by understanding:

- Outline the types of asbestos:
 - Chrysotile, Grunerite (aka Amosite) and Crocidolite
 - Provide a descriptive and pictorial overview of sprayed asbestos, asbestos insulation, asbestos insulating board, asbestos cement and other asbestos containing materials with sufficient information to enable the delegates to have a basic understanding of the risk levels associated with the main uses, and the problems associated with them.
- Explain where asbestos and ACMs can be typically found with buildings.
 - Illustrate the typical areas of a building where ACMs can be found and their uses within such areas.
 - Provide an overview of what an asbestos register is and the information it contains to assist in understanding the location of ACMs.
- Describe the main reasons for the use of asbestos coating, insulation, asbestos insulating board, asbestos cement and other asbestos containing materials.

Approximately 1.5 hours which can include the use of samples. Due to the REACH regulations, (see further UKATA guidance – [click here](#)):

UKATA recommend that any Training Provider wishing to use asbestos samples for training purposes shall ensure that an appropriate 'risk assessment' is undertaken to assess for damage and safe handling.

A minimum of 20 photographs of assorted products is also required. Examples may include (listed in order of ease of fibre release – HSG264):

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| 1. Loose fill | 17. Rope – seals |
| 2. Sprayed Coating (aka Limpet, Flock) on concrete | 18. Gaskets |
| 3. Sprayed Coating (aka Limpet, Flock) on Steel | 19. Brake pads / clutch plates |
| 4. Insulation – pipe | 20. AC roofing |
| 5. Insulation – boiler | 21. AC wall cladding |
| 6. Insulation – calorifier | 22. AC flue |
| 7. AIB – sheet | 23. AC sills, undercloaking, bath panels etc. |
| 8. AIB – tile | 24. Textured decorative coating |
| 9. AIB – acoustic tile | 25. Roof felt |
| 10. AIB – fire door | 26. Bitumen adhesive |
| 11. AIB – packers | 27. Drumming pad under sink |
| 12. Paper | 28. Flooring |
| 13. Cardboard | 29. Stair nosing |
| 14. Coated fibre board | 30. Bakelite |
| 15. Textiles – in fuse carriers | 31. WC Cistern |
| 16. Rope – insulation | |

3.0 How to avoid the risks from asbestos

- Describe the risks of fibre release from asbestos coating, insulation, asbestos insulating board, asbestos cement and other asbestos containing materials;
- Describe the emergency procedures to be taken if ACMs are found to be disturbed.

Approximately 15 minutes

4.0 Outline of legislation relating to asbestos

- Outline of the legislation governing asbestos and work.
 - A brief overview of Regulations 5 and 6;
- Outline legislative framework for managing ACM's.
 - A brief overview of Regulation 4 and information contained within asbestos registers

Approximately 15 minutes

Recommended Additional Section for Architects and Designers only

- Outline of the legislation governing asbestos and work.
- Overview of Regulation 4, HSG 264 and surveys;
- CDM 2007 Clients Duty regarding information notifiable / NNLW / non notifiable;
- CDM 2007 Designer Duty re reducing risk;
- A brief overview of Regulation 5.

Approximately 60 minutes

5.0 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 ^{(1),(2)}

A candidate will be required to achieve a score of at least 11 out of 15 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:

- (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 verbalise the questions to assist such delegates, however no assistance may be offered in respect of providing answers.

6.0 Competence of Tutors

All training should be provided by someone who is competent to do so, who has had adequate personal practical experience ⁽³⁾ and who has a theoretical knowledge of all relevant aspects of the work being carried out by the employer.

Notes:

- (3) The competence requirements for trainers is defined in the UKATA Rules of Membership.

Training providers delivering Asbestos Awareness should be registered, verified and audited by UKATA.

The recommended number of delegates on a UKATA Asbestos Awareness training course is a maximum of 15.

Absolute Maximum: No more than 25

Any enquiries regarding this syllabus should be made to UKATA.