arca atac news

the journal for asbestos management professionals

AUTUMN 2024 · ISSUE 125



New Guidance Pieces from the Asbestos Network

New e-Learning Refresher for Asbestos Removal Supervisors

ARCA's Achievements in 2023/2024

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Welcome to the Journal for Asbestos Management Professionals

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Enhancing our services and resources



Steve Sadley, Chief Executive

As we enter the final quarter of 2024, I'm pleased to report on the significant progress we've made in enhancing our services and resources for our members. Our focus remains on providing value through education, guidance, and continuous improvement.

E-Learning Developments

We're excited to announce the launch of two new e-learning products: a Supervisor Refresher Course and an Asbestos Awareness Package. These online training modules, scheduled for release around the time of our AGM, represent a significant step forward in making essential training more accessible and flexible for our members.

The Supervisor Refresher Course has been designed to update and reinforce the knowledge and skills of experienced supervisors. It covers the latest industry standards, regulatory updates, and best practices in asbestos removal supervision. The course ensures that our supervisors remain at the forefront of safe and effective asbestos management.

Our new Asbestos Awareness Package caters to a broader audience, including those who may encounter asbestos in their work but are not directly involved in its removal. We're pleased to offer this package in two versions. The first is a free version that provides comprehensive training without a completion certificate. The second version, available for a minimal fee, includes a completion certificate upon successful finishing of the course. I'm particularly proud to announce that all proceeds from this paid version will be donated to Mesothelioma UK, supporting their vital work in assisting those affected by this asbestos-related disease.

Both versions of the Asbestos Awareness Package cover essential topics such as asbestos identification, health risks, legal requirements, and emergency procedures.

New Technical Guidance

The Asbestos Network Technical Working Group has recently produced two important guidance notes, to which ARCA has made significant contributions. The first, "Asbestos Skips, Van Waste Compartments, Waste Storage and Movement on Site," provides comprehensive updates on best practices for handling asbestos waste. This document addresses key areas such as skip design, waste compartments in vehicles, and proper storage and movement of asbestos waste on site.

The second guidance note, "Handover of Enclosures to Analysts for 4SC (Site Supervisor Visual Inspection and Handover Form)," offers important clarifications on the clearance process. It outlines the responsibilities of licensed contractors and analysts, and provides a standardised approach to the handover process, enhancing safety and efficiency.

These documents represent a collaborative effort to enhance safety and efficiency in our industry. I encourage all members to review the guidelines thoroughly, and you'll find an in-depth analysis of both documents in a featured article within this magazine.

Continuous Improvement Initiatives

Our commitment to continuous improvement has led to the implementation of expanded feedback opportunities. We've introduced new channels for members to provide input, including site audit feedback from both office contacts and on-site supervisors, as well as from training delegates.

The site audit feedback system now captures insights from multiple perspectives, allowing us to gain a more comprehensive understanding of our members' experiences and needs. This dual approach ensures that we consider both the administrative and practical aspects of our audits.

For our training programs, we've implemented a robust feedback mechanism that allows delegates to share their thoughts on course content, delivery, and relevance. This input is of great value in helping us refine and improve our training offerings to better serve the needs of our members.

We're also exploring additional methods to gather insights on all our products and services, aiming to strike a balance between comprehensive feedback and minimal burden on our members. This expanded system is part of our broader strategy to ensure that ARCA's services evolve in line with member needs and industry best practices.

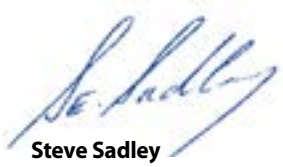
In the coming months, we plan to introduce feedback options for our social events and regional meetings. We believe that these gatherings play a vital role in fostering community and knowledge sharing within our industry, and your input will help us enhance these experiences.

Your feedback is instrumental in shaping the future of our association and the services we provide. We encourage all members to participate in these opportunities, as your insights drive our continuous improvement efforts.

Annual General Meeting 2024

As this magazine reaches you, we are on the cusp of our Annual General Meeting, scheduled for Friday, 4th October at the Institution of Engineering and Technology, Savoy Place, London. We've taken on board feedback from last year's event to secure a venue that promises an enhanced experience for all attendees. Adrian Hodkinson, the recently appointed head of the HSE Asbestos Unit, will deliver the keynote speech. We look forward to seeing you there for a day of insights, networking, and association business.

As we continue to evolve and improve our services, your engagement and feedback remain central to our success. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to advancing the standards of our industry. I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM and hearing your thoughts on how we can further strengthen our association.



Steve Sadley
Chief Executive





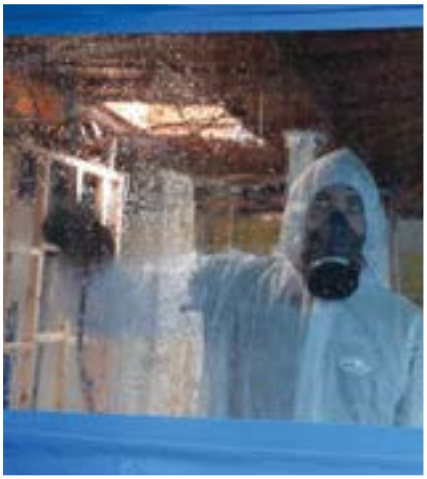


NEWLY LAUNCHED

Asbestos Removal Supervisor Refresher e-Learning Course

Designed for experienced asbestos supervisors, this e-Learning course provides an update on all the latest industry standards, regulations, and best practices.

This comprehensive course is broken down into nine crafted modules, each addressing various aspects of asbestos removal and supervision of asbestos removal. We cover health and safety regulations and proper handling and disposal procedures for asbestos-containing materials.



Why Choose Our e-Learning Course?

- **Flexible Online Access:** Learn at your own pace, anytime, from any location.
- **Interactive Modules:** Use videos, tests, and real-world scenarios that reinforce your expertise.
- **Comprehensive Material Coverage:** From safety regulations to plans of work, we've got you covered.
- **Immediate Certification:** Earn your certificate instantly upon course completion, valid for the next 12 months.

Course Highlights

- **Comprehensive & up-to-date:** Nine modules covering the latest industry safety practices.
- **Focused Learning:** Each module is built from the latest industry insights, including ARCA Site Audit results.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Stay compliant with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR 2012) and Health & Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines.

Learning Made Simple

- **User-Friendly Platform:** Access training whenever and wherever you need it.
- **Multiple-choice test:** Ensure your knowledge and skills are sharp with an 80% pass requirement.

Get Started Today

Enhance your skills, ensure your safety, and maintain your certification with our ARCA-approved e-Learning supervisor refresher course.

Sign up using the QR code below: www.asbestoselearning.uk/

NEWS IN BRIEF

ARCA Site Audit Best Practice Course

The ARCA Site Audit best practice course offers an excellent opportunity for site teams, including supervisors and operatives, to enhance their understanding of the ARCA audit process and improve their performance in health and safety management.

*For more details, visit **www.arca.org.uk/training/arca-site-audit-best-practice-course/***

Validating Training Certificates

ARCA Training Certificate Checker is an online tool that allows for quick and easy verification of asbestos training certificates issued by ARCA. This user-friendly feature helps employers and clients ensure that asbestos removal professionals are properly trained and certified.

*For more details, visit **www.arca.org.uk/support/arca-training-certificate-checker/***

IN MEMORIAM: MARTIN DRURY

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Martin Drury, Managing Director of Burton Environmental Services Ltd, on July 30, 2024. Martin was a valued member of our association since 1997 and a pillar of the Burton upon Trent community.

Martin's contributions to our industry and association were immeasurable. He played a pivotal role in ARCA's relocation to Burton upon Trent in 2000, alerting then-CEO Terry Jago to suitable premises on Branston Road. This move from Chelmsford, Essex, to the Midlands has shaped our organisation's trajectory ever since.

As one of our most local members, Martin was always ready to lend a helping hand. Whether we needed transportation for exhibition equipment, supplies for training, or staff for promotional photographs, Martin could be counted on without hesitation. His generosity and willingness to assist were hallmarks of his character.

Martin's impact extended far beyond his professional life. The standing-room-only attendance at his funeral on August 21 was a testament to the many lives he touched. Colleagues, friends, and family gathered to pay their respects, including many past and present employees of Burton Environmental Services Ltd.



We extend our deepest condolences to Martin's family and to Ronnie, his longstanding business partner at Burton Environmental Services Ltd. Martin's legacy of kindness, dedication, and community spirit will continue to inspire us all.

Martin Drury will be deeply missed, but his contributions to our industry and his impact on those who knew him will be remembered for years to come.

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Accreditation Member Discount

Did you know? ARCA and ATaC members can obtain a 20% discount when applying for a new CHAS accreditation and a 10% discount on renewal.

This applies for all three CHAS accreditation packages:

- ***CHAS Standard** [formerly CHAS (H&S)]*
- ***CHAS Advanced** [formerly CHAS Premium Plus]*
- ***CHAS Elite** [formerly CHAS Premium]*

*Information on ARCA/ATaC members' discount and the application process is available in the support sections at **www.arca.org.uk** and **www.atac.org.uk***



Revolutionising Asbestos Training:

Inside ARCA's New e-Learning Hub

In an industry where staying up-to-date with safety protocols is vitally important, the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA) has taken a bold step into the digital age. We sat down with Anthony Wade, Managing Director of RE:GEN Solutions, to get the inside scoop on ARCA's innovative e-Learning Hub.

Discovering a Game-Changer

ARCA: Anthony, how did you first stumble upon our e-Learning courses?

Anthony: It was actually discussed at one of ARCA's regional meetings and I was immediately intrigued. In our line of work, continuous training is important, so I'm always on the lookout for effective learning solutions.

The Decision to Go Digital

ARCA: What made you choose our platform over traditional training methods?

Anthony: The ease of access is a game-changer. Our operatives can log in from anywhere, anytime. Then there's the cost-effectiveness, which is always a plus in this industry. But what really sealed the deal was the flexibility and the quality of the course content.

A Fresh Approach to Learning

ARCA: How does our e-Learning stack up against other training methods you've used?

Anthony: Here's the thing - for our seasoned pros, this platform is a breath of fresh air. Instead of sitting through hours of information they already know, the modules zero in on exactly what they need to know. It's like a precision tool for keeping skills sharp.

Integrating e-Learning into the Workday

ARCA: Have you incorporated the courses into your work schedule yet?

Anthony: Not yet, but it's high on our priority list. We're in the planning stages now, figuring out how to seamlessly blend it into our operatives' routines without disrupting workflow.

Overcoming Digital Hurdles

ARCA: Any challenges you've faced with the platform?

Anthony: We did have one interesting case. One of our veterans - fantastic at his job, mind you - wasn't the most tech-savvy. He struggled a bit with the digital format and the follow-up questions. He'd always done face-to-face training, so it was quite a shift. But it highlighted an important point for us about supporting different learning styles.

Measuring Success in the Field

ARCA: How do you gauge the effectiveness of these courses?

Anthony: We've made it a point to create open dialogues with our team. During our engagement sessions, we get real, honest feedback. It's not just about completion rates; we want to know how it's impacting their day-to-day work.

The e-Learning Advantage

ARCA: What keeps you coming back to our platform?

Anthony: The accessibility is unbeatable - our team can access it whenever they need a refresher. It's user-friendly, which is vital when you're dealing with a diverse workforce. And the content? It's industry-leading. We're not just ticking boxes; we're genuinely enhancing our team's expertise.

A Ringing Endorsement

ARCA: Would you recommend our e-Learning platform to others in the industry?

Anthony: Absolutely. It's an ideal refresher tool. In an industry where staying current can be the difference between safety and disaster, having this resource at our fingertips is invaluable. I'd tell any manager looking to improve training to give it a serious look.

We extend our gratitude to Anthony Wade for sharing his candid insights. As ARCA continues to pioneer in asbestos removal education, we invite all our members to experience the new e-Learning hub and share their thoughts.

Ready to revolutionise your team's training? Dive into our new e-Learning hub at www.asbestoselearning.uk and take the first step towards a safer, more knowledgeable workforce.

Setting the Gold Standard in Asbestos Removal:

ARCA's Uncompromising Audit System

The Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA) continues to lead the UK's asbestos management industry with its unwavering commitment to the highest safety and quality standards.

As the premier trade association for licensed asbestos removal companies, ARCA's rigorous site audit accreditation scheme sets it apart from competitors and has gained recognition from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), informed clients, and most importantly, our members.

Key features of ARCA's auditing system include:

1 Unmatched Frequency and Transparency:
ARCA conducts four entirely unannounced audits of each member annually, far surpassing industry norms. This frequency with the truly unannounced nature of the audits is unique in the industry.

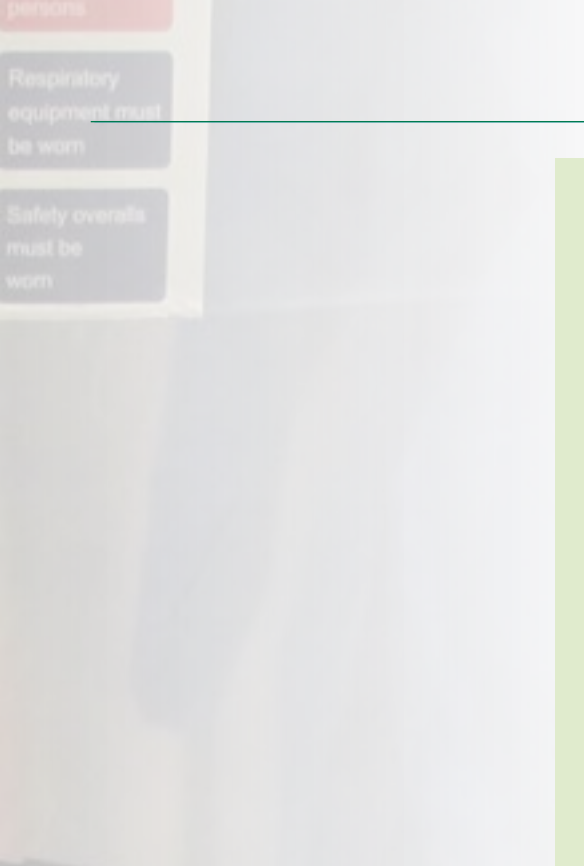
2 ISO 9001 Accredited Process:
ARCA's entire audit process is ISO 9001 accredited, ensuring consistency, efficiency, and continuous improvement in our audit procedures.

3 Dedicated, Experienced Auditing Team:
ARCA is the only organisation in the industry with a full-time, directly employed auditing team. This team conducts over 800 audits per year, resulting in unparalleled experience and expertise in asbestos removal practices.

4 Pioneering Approach:
ARCA was the first trade association to negotiate an agreement with the HSE for access to notification data in 2016, demonstrating our commitment to raising industry standards.

5 Uncompromising Standards:
ARCA's audit criteria are exceptionally stringent, underlining our commitment to maintaining high standards even at the cost of membership. This year alone, two companies who couldn't comply with the site audit requirements have been removed from membership, demonstrating our unwavering dedication to upholding the highest industry standards.

6 Clear Rules and Expectations:
ARCA maintains transparent Rules of Membership, detailing the expectations and boundaries of membership.



7 Credible Audit Process: ARCA's unannounced audits provide a true representation of day-to-day performance, offering a far higher level of assurance to clients.

8 Consistent Implementation: ARCA has consistently implemented and refined its audit process over the years, unlike some competitors who may conduct fewer audits or miss annual audits for some members.

9 Client Recognition: Informed clients recognise ARCA's superior standards, allowing only ARCA members to tender for their asbestos removal projects.

10 Continuous Improvement: ARCA continues to innovate, developing new tools and continually reviewing its practices, further elevating industry standards.

FEEDBACK FROM OUR MEMBERS:

The effectiveness of ARCA's audit system is reflected in the overwhelmingly positive feedback from our members. Site supervisors consistently rate our auditors as highly professional, with audits described as accurate and fair. Many strongly agree that they would recommend ARCA audits to others in the industry.

Site audit contacts, who serve as the primary liaison with ARCA for the audit process, have provided glowing reviews of our service:

- Auditors are commended for their professionalism, approachability, and deep industry knowledge.
- The audit reports are praised for their high quality and effectiveness in addressing companies' health and safety needs.
- Many respondents strongly agree that they would recommend ARCA's audit service to others in the industry.
- Auditors are appreciated for providing helpful feedback, answering questions, and empowering good practices rather than being punitive.
- The unannounced nature of the audits is valued for its role in identifying potential areas for improvement and enhancing overall management and supervision.

One manager noted, *"ARCA audits are carried out to the highest order with auditors always giving advice and recommendations when carrying out audits. Their attitude to the job is second to none and always professional."*

Another commented, *"The unannounced auditing makes me understand potential things that have been missed but picked up by the auditor, making me a better manager/ supervisor on jobs to come."*

This feedback underscores the value that ARCA's audit system brings to our members and the industry as a whole. By maintaining such high standards, ARCA members stand out for their adherence to exemplary practices, providing clients with the highest level of confidence in their asbestos removal projects.

As asbestos-related hazards remain a significant concern, the importance of rigorous standards and thorough auditing cannot be overstated. ARCA's site audit accreditation scheme sets the gold standard in the industry, ensuring that licensed asbestos removal work is carried out with the utmost professionalism and safety.

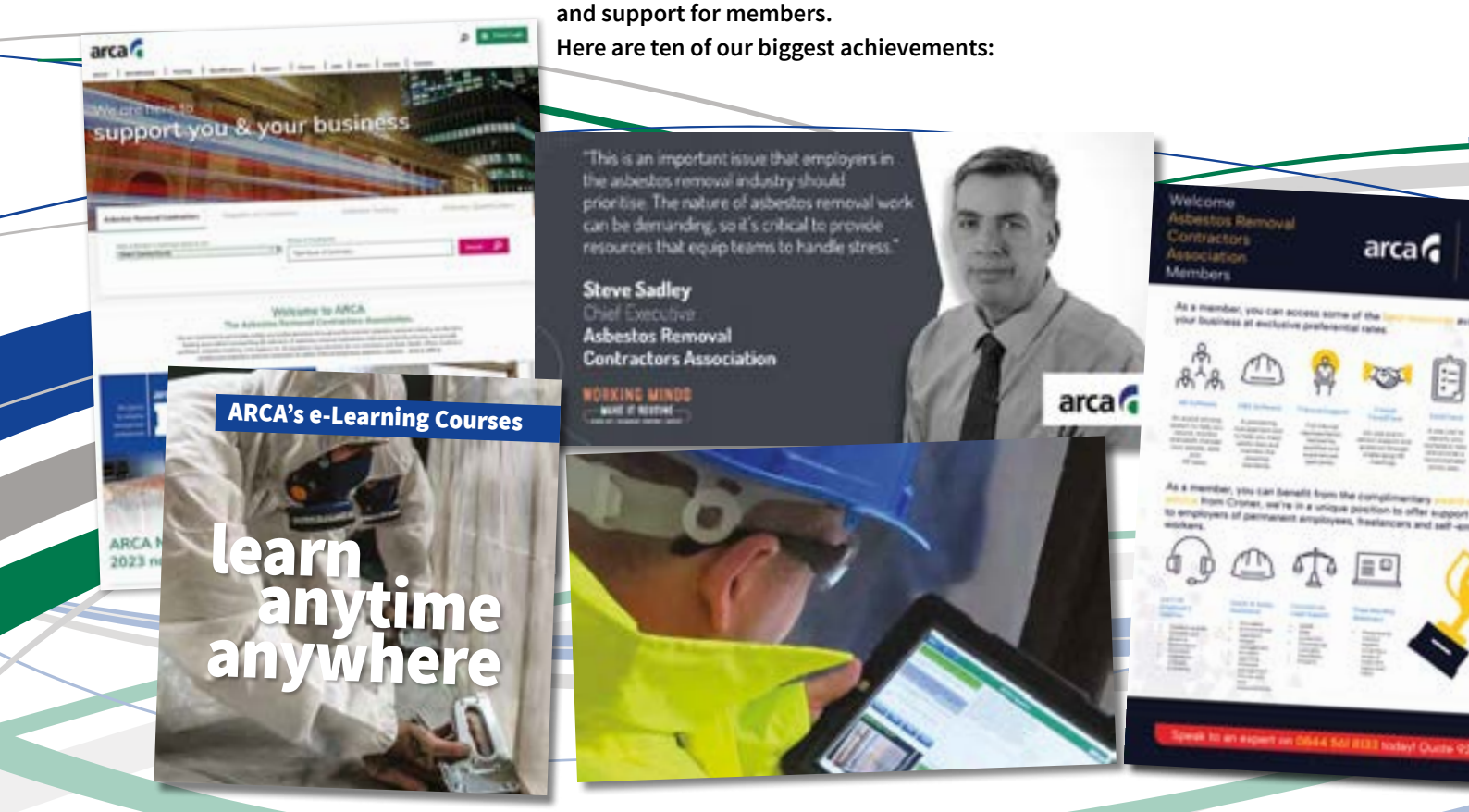
For clients seeking asbestos removal services, choosing an ARCA-accredited contractor means selecting a company that has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the highest standards of safety and quality in this critical field. The association's proven track record of enforcing compliance, coupled with the recognition from entities like County Councils, NHS Trusts and the HSE, further reinforces ARCA's position as the leader in asbestos removal quality assurance.

The fact that ARCA's audits are viewed by the HSE as valuable, independent evidence for license renewal assessments underscores the credibility and importance of our accreditation scheme. This pioneering approach, combined with our rigorous implementation of unannounced audits and our ISO 9001 accredited processes, enables ARCA to provide an unparalleled level of quality assurance in the asbestos removal industry.

ARCA's Biggest Achievements in 2023/2024

Enhancing Training and Support in Asbestos Management

From July 2023 to June 2024, the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA) accomplished several significant milestones to enhance its services and support for members.
Here are ten of our biggest achievements:



1 Revamped Website Launch

ARCA introduced a redesigned website with enhanced booking functionality, making it easier for users to manage training, certifications, and CSCS cards online. The platform allows users to request additional site audits and access other ARCA services. The member portal now includes a comprehensive video library with step-by-step tutorials to help members navigate the new system efficiently.

2 New e-Learning Platform

ARCA launched a new e-Learning platform offering accessible and flexible training options for experienced asbestos removal professionals, including a comprehensive refresher course. The platform now has over 100 candidates who have completed the course.

3 Participation in HSE's Working Minds Campaign

ARCA joined the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Working Minds campaign, which aims to promote mental health awareness and support within the workplace.

4 Site Audit Accreditation Scheme

ARCA conducted 823 audits, which included 728 unannounced audits across various asbestos removal sites, demonstrating our ongoing dedication to high standards across the asbestos management industry.

5 Partnership with Croner HR

ARCA partnered with Croner HR to provide discounted HR services to their members, enhancing the range of support services available to them.

6 Contribution to Asbestos Removal Report

ARCA contributed to the Mesothelioma “Clearing the Air: The costs and benefits of removing asbestos from UK schools and hospitals” report, offering insights and expertise.



7 Regional Meetings and ARCA AGM

ARCA organised 21 regional meetings to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among members across different regions. Over the last 12 months, we have engaged with over 600 attendees.

8 600th NVQ Milestone in Training

ARCA celebrated reaching the milestone of awarding the 600th NVQ in asbestos industry training, underscoring commitment to education and professional development.

9 Exhibition at Contamination & Remediation Expo 2023

ARCA participated in the Contamination & Land Remediation Expo 2023, where we highlighted how our members can assist in managing and removing asbestos safely and the legal responsibilities of property owners and managers.

10 Special Awards for Gold Site Award Winners

ARCA introduced two new awards to honour eight companies that have consistently maintained the Gold Site Audit Award for five and ten consecutive years, celebrating their achievements and commitment to excellence.

Ready to gain an asbestos surveyor or analyst qualification . . .

What's the best option for you?

OPTION 1

CENTRE-BASED TRAINING & EXAM DAY

If you have the prior knowledge of all areas in the syllabus, you could choose to spend three consecutive days at an ATaC centre.

OPTION 2

REMOTE TRAINING & CENTRE-BASED EXAM DAY

This option provides all the theoretical knowledge required via one day of remote training over three consecutive weeks, followed by a centre-based exam day.

OPTION 3

EXAM ONLY DAY CENTRE-BASED

If you have extensive knowledge of surveying buildings and experience of carrying out all types of asbestos surveys you could choose an exam only day.

Information on all these options is available at **www.atac.org.uk**

ARCA Gold Site Audit Award Winners

The Gold Site Audit Award is a prestigious recognition given to members that demonstrate exceptional compliance and risk management levels.

"Huge congratulations to all our members who have achieved the award. It is in recognition of the continuing high standards that each of these members has achieved," commented Matthew Boulton, Site Audit Coordinator for ARCA.

2023/24 arca GOLD SITE AUDIT AWARD

To gain this award asbestos removal companies need to achieve Grades A to C*, with an average of at least a B Grade, across all unannounced programmed site audits over 2 consecutive membership years.

A-B if no live works observed.

Congratulations to the May to July 2023/2024 winners

- *Clifford Devlin Ltd*
- *Decontaminate (UK) Ltd*
- *Enviraz (Scotland) Ltd*
- *ID Asbestos Ltd*
- *Insulation Contracting Services Ltd*
- *J England Environmental Services Ltd*
- *Pier Contractors Limited*

diary dates

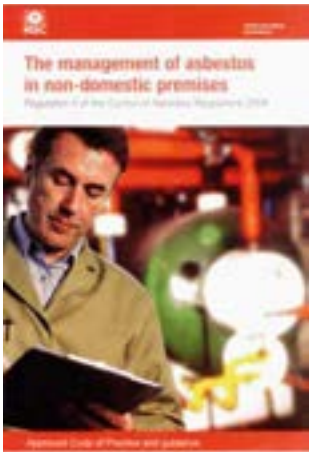
ARCA Regional Meetings

South-West & Wales	Tuesday 5 November 2024 at 1.30pm	Almondsbury Interchange Hotel, Bristol
Midlands	Wednesday 6 November 2024 at 1.30pm	ARCA Head Office, Stretton, Burton-on-Trent
North-West	Thursday 7 November 2024 at 1.30pm	The Pennine Manor, Huddersfield
Scotland	Tuesday 12 November at 9.00am	Holiday Inn Express, Hamilton
North-East	Wednesday 13 November 2024 at 9.00am	Holiday Inn, Washington
South-East	Thursday 21 November 2024 at 9.00am	The Thurrock Hotel, Essex
ARCA Remote	Thursday 28 November 2024 at 10.30am	Via Zoom

Attendance Certificate *When attending a remote member regional meeting, attendees are logged and issued with an attendance certificate. The certificate is intended to complement training records, by recording that the individual named received the information, instruction and training listed on the certificate.*

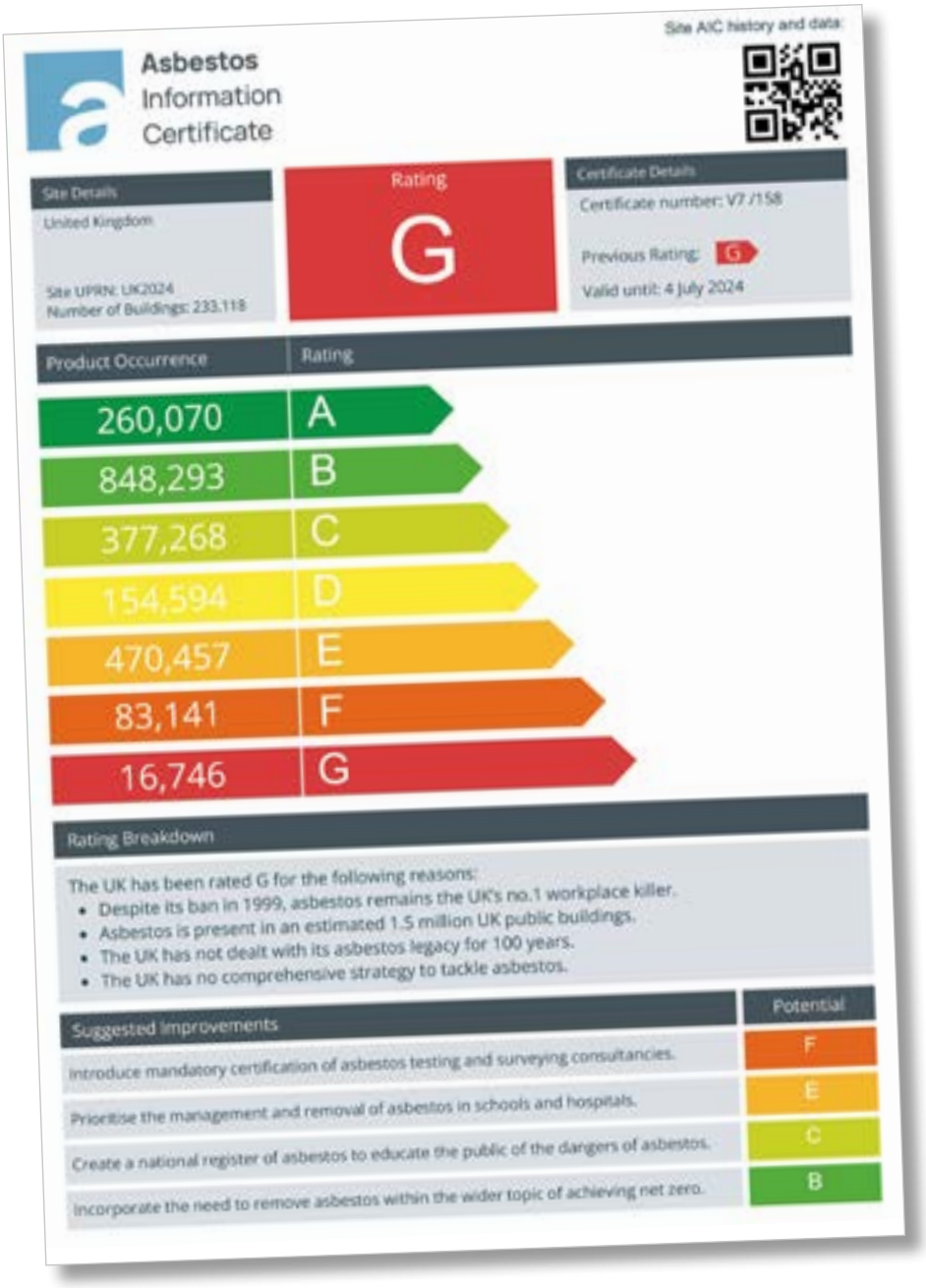
ARCA CITB Briefings

Remote CITB Funding for NVQs	Tuesday 8 October 2024 at 10.30am	Via Zoom
Remote CITB Funding for NVQs	Tuesday 12 November 2024 at 10.30am	Via Zoom
Remote CITB Funding for NVQs	Tuesday 3 December 2024 at 10.30am	Via Zoom



management of asbestos in buildings

TWENTY YEARS EVALUATION



Certificate based on data from 4 UKAS IB's only

Introduction and Historical Context

The duty to manage asbestos in buildings was introduced in the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002, becoming law in May 2004 after an 18-month transition period. As we pass its 20th anniversary, it's worth evaluating the effectiveness of this duty.

The significance of asbestos management cannot be overstated. March 2024 marked the 100th anniversary of Nellie Kershaw's death, the first recorded fatality from pulmonary asbestosis. This grim milestone underscores the long-standing nature of asbestos-related health issues.

Current State of Asbestos Management

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) maintains that asbestos in the UK's built environment is well-managed. However, this claim warrants scrutiny considering that the HSE still reports approximately 5,000 asbestos-related deaths annually. It is also difficult to validate this statement when no evidence is available to support the effective management of asbestos in social housing.

The effectiveness of current management practices has been called into question by recent investigations. The 2022 Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Select Committee inquiry into the HSE's asbestos management and the subsequent ATaC/NORAC Data Analysis Report on Asbestos in UK Buildings have shed light on potential shortcomings in the current system.

Recent Developments and Initiatives

In response to these challenges, several key initiatives have emerged. The DWP Select Committee recommended developing 'a central digital register of asbestos in non-domestic buildings, describing its location and type' to enhance asbestos management. Although initially rejected by the government, this recommendation has gained significant industry support over the past two years.

In early 2024, several UKAS-accredited organisations within the asbestos analytical and surveying sector, in partnership with ATaC and NORAC, formed Asbestos Information CIC, an independent Community Interest Company. This collaboration aims to address issues associated with complex asbestos survey reports and management actions.

A key outcome of this initiative is the Asbestos Information Certificate (AIC), a concise 1–2-page report following an easy-to-understand format similar to energy performance certificates for buildings. Sir Stephen Timms MP, the recently appointed Minister of State in the Department for Work and Pensions responsible for the HSE, has expressed interest in further discussions about these developments.

Improving Asbestos Management Practices

Current Material Risk Assessment (MRA) and Priority Risk Assessment (PRA) processes are often criticised for being complex and user-unfriendly. The AIC aims to simplify this process, making asbestos management information more accessible and actionable.

By analysing millions of data points provided by ATaC and NORAC members, we have translated the HSE's numerical risk assessment into an A-G format, more precisely highlighting asbestos management effectiveness.

The AIC's development has also revealed inconsistencies in current survey data recording and reporting methods. Data analysis has led to the creation of 'common surveying terminology', which could standardise information provided to dutyholders (those responsible for managing asbestos in buildings) across all accredited organisations.

The inconsistencies revealed in survey data highlight the importance of standardised practices in asbestos surveying. To address this, there's a growing call for mandatory accreditation of asbestos surveyors through the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Such accreditation would ensure all surveyors meet a consistent, high standard of practice.

Furthermore, the current system often makes it difficult for dutyholders to change surveying companies, as different organisations may use incompatible data formats or systems. To solve this, we recommend that database providers standardise their systems. This would allow for easier transfer of asbestos survey data between different surveying organisations, reducing complications for dutyholders when they need to change service providers.

Future Directions and Potential Impact

Working with ATaC and NORAC members, and other non-affiliated UKAS Inspection Bodies, we have refined the translation process of current survey information into the AIC with 98% accuracy. This is a significant achievement, but it's just the beginning. To fully realise the potential of this initiative, we need to expand our dataset and enhance our analytical capabilities. By doing so, we aim to gain a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of how effectively the duty to manage asbestos is being complied with across the UK.

A larger, more diverse dataset will allow us to identify trends, challenges, and best practices in asbestos management across different sectors and regions. Improved analysis techniques will help us uncover insights that might not be apparent from individual surveys. Together, these advancements will provide a clearer picture of compliance levels, highlight areas where improvements are needed, and inform more effective strategies for asbestos management.

Importantly, this process has succesfully created a framework for a digital asbestos register, directly addressing one of the key recommendations from the DWP Select Committee. This development represents a significant step forward in centralising and standardising asbestos information across the UK.

The data collected through this initiative has far-reaching potential. It could assist campaigns such as those run by the Asbestos Victims Support Forum and provide powerful insights for policymaking, allowing for the monitoring of asbestos throughout the UK down to individual parliamentary constituencies.

Conclusion

One of the most effective ways to prevent exposure and protect the public is through the identification of asbestos-containing materials in buildings, increased awareness, and improved management. The initiatives described here represent significant steps towards these goals.

By pooling our data and expertise, we can revolutionise asbestos management, ensuring safer buildings for generations to come. Our combined knowledge and shared data offer an unprecedented opportunity to enhance asbestos management practices, protect public health, and shape future policy.

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'If I was exposed to asbestos, children were too,'

says ex-teaching assistant with lung cancer

Former teaching assistant Wendy Gregory, 68, was diagnosed with mesothelioma, an incurable cancer linked to asbestos exposure.

A former teaching assistant who developed a deadly cancer after suspected asbestos exposure has urged the government to make sure the toxic material is removed from schools.

In 2020, Wendy Gregory, 68, was diagnosed with mesothelioma, an incurable cancer usually linked to asbestos exposure, and given a year to live.

She had been a volunteer and teaching assistant in Faversham, Kent in the 1980s and 90s, where her lawyers alleged the cancer was caused by asbestos exposure in a primary school.

Although the council didn't accept liability, asbestos-based panels behind a heater in a mobile classroom where she'd worked were found and a legal case was settled out of court.

Ms Gregory described it as "absolutely devastating" that asbestos, which has been blamed for the deaths of hundreds of school workers, continued to be present in schools and called on the next government to act.

"I was exposed at some point by something in that school and surrounded by children, which means that they must be exposed as well," she told i.

"Morally, I don't understand how things can be left as they are.

"There ought to be a planned approach to removing the asbestos. For there to even be one chance of someone breathing in the dust is bad enough."

Asbestos is the biggest cause of work-related deaths in the UK, according to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), with around 5,000 UK workers a year dying from asbestos-related diseases including mesothelioma.

It was banned in construction in 1999 but had been used extensively in England from the 1950s to the mid-80s.

In February 2017, the Department for Education published a report that found 83 per cent of English state schools reported asbestos was present in their buildings.

Data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows 371 teaching and education professionals died from mesothelioma from 2010 to 2020.

But others put the death toll higher and point to the potential risk to schoolchildren too, with symptoms of mesothelioma sometimes taking 15 to 45 years to appear.

The Joint Union Asbestos Committee (JUAC), representing teaching unions, estimates that from 1980 to 2017 between 5,000 and 10,000 school pupils and staff died from mesothelioma due to asbestos exposure in their former schools in the 1960s-80s.

Charities, unions and campaigners have warned that up to 150 school workers and pupils are at risk of death or fatal exposure from asbestos each year unless the government removes the toxic material.

The Department for Education says it follows Health and Safety Executive (HSE) advice that states that if asbestos-containing materials are in good condition, and unlikely to be disturbed, it is generally safest to manage them in place.

Ms Gregory developed chest pains and breathlessness around 2019, describing her mesothelioma diagnosis the following year as "unbelievably traumatic".

She underwent lung surgery and six rounds of chemotherapy and now requires regular checkups.

"It hasn't spread in any way yet. But it will do. It's not something that will go away. They've considered it to be terminal lung cancer," she said.

"It's certainly very tough. It's always there, in the back of my mind, particularly because the way this disease progresses, it's a pretty awful ending, what it does to your body."

In 2022, a legal case with Kent County Council was settled out of court two weeks before a trial, with the local authority paying compensation and her full legal and medical fees.

But Ms Gregory said her illness has blackened her memories of her spell as a teacher and says she feels betrayed.

"I am breathless when I do things. I can't keep up with grandchildren as much as I'd like to and I can't carry them around as much as I'd like to," she said.

"I enjoyed my job tremendously. I always enjoyed working with children. Although it's absolutely nothing to do with that school, it's kind of tainted my feelings from my life there."

In a report on reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in schools, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) found the DfE has incomplete knowledge of the prevalence of asbestos in schools.

MPs cited one school which thought it knew where it had asbestos, but discovered more when contractors demolished a block affected by RAAC.

The HSE said an inspection campaign of more than 400 schools in 2022/23 showed the majority were managing asbestos safely.

Although the DfE believes removing all asbestos is too risky, Ms Gregory believes the current policy of leaving it untouched in circumstances where the asbestos is unlikely to be disturbed is "storing up problems" for future generations.

"There seems very little commitment to dealing with the problems that people face," she said.

"I was fortunate that was able to go to the doctors with the symptoms when I did. For some people, it's far too late. They're not diagnosed until they're a lot older, and they are not fit enough then to have any surgery whatsoever."

Her lawyer, Jeremy Horton, from Brachers, said: "I believe Wendy's case illustrates the risks to children and school staff from the asbestos still present in most of our school buildings as well as the significant challenges in proving compensation claims in school cases."

A Kent County Council (KCC) spokesperson said: "While we are not able to comment on any historical individual case, we do take our responsibility of ensuring the safety of our buildings very seriously.

"We have robust systems, including regular surveys, in place to ensure our buildings are compliant with the latest health and safety laws and guidance. Academy trusts are responsible for ensuring the health and safety of their buildings."

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Widow appeals to trace miners over asbestos claim



Above: Mrs Needham said her husband was also known as Schulz and Red Setter - because of his red hair. Inset: Keith Needham, seen here with his widow Lynne, worked at Rossington and Maltby collieries.

The widow of a former miner who died from asbestos-related cancer is appealing to track down anyone who worked with him to help her with a legal claim.

Keith Needham, from Doncaster, died in 2022 aged 83, five months after being diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Lynne Needham, 68, believes he was exposed to asbestos dust and fibres during his time at Rossington and Maltby collieries.

Mrs Needham said: "If his old colleagues have any knowledge of asbestos in the mines or if they have any relatives that have suffered with the same illness it would really strengthen the case."

Mr Needham joined Rossington Colliery in 1954 at the age of 15 and worked there for 20 years, before going on to work at Maltby Colliery until 1983.

At Maltby, he was as a diesel locomotive driver before becoming a coal washer.

He then moved underground initially as a haulage hand, and then as a coal face worker.

Asbestos fibres

About 5,000 people die each year from an asbestos-related illness, and half of those from mesothelioma.

According to the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), mesothelioma is a form of cancer that takes many years to develop following the inhalation of asbestos fibres, but is usually rapidly fatal.

Many deaths attributed to past occupational exposure are because of the widespread industrial use of asbestos between 1950 and 1980.

There were 2,268 mesothelioma deaths in the UK in 2021. The majority of those who died were men over 75 years old.

Mrs Needham said she was pursuing a claim against the National Coal Board - now known as the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) - through solicitor Louisa Saville at Leigh Day.

The DBT said it was unable to comment, but has previously assessed claims on a case-by-case basis.

Mr Needham was also known by several different nicknames, including Schulz, Red Setter and Red.

Ms Saville said: "We're appealing for anyone who knew Keith at Rossington, but particularly at Maltby, who may be able to provide more information about the conditions and how Keith was exposed to asbestos."

https://press.hse.gov.uk/2024/06/20/companies-fined-after-16-year-old-worker-exposed-to-asbestos/

Companies fined after 16-year-old worker exposed to asbestos

Two companies have been fined after a teenage worker was exposed to asbestos.

The 16-year-old had been working for P Turnbull Joinery and Building Services Ltd on an outbuilding of a domestic property after the firm had been hired by Alt Berg Holding Limited to refurbish the property in Richmond, North Yorkshire.

He had been breaking up cement sheets taken from the roof of the property and putting them into a skip on 7 June 2021. Asbestos was later found to be in the cement sheets, exposing the worker to asbestos fibres.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found that Alt Berg Holdings Limited had failed to carry out an asbestos refurbishment and demolition survey of the property, which would have identified the asbestos. P Turnbull Joinery and Building Services Ltd had not properly assessed the work and failed to prevent the worker being exposed to asbestos.

P Turnbull Joinery and Building Services Ltd, of Attwood Terrace, Wolsingham, Durham, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £500 in costs at Peterlee Magistrates' Court on 20 June 2024.

Alt Berg Holdings Limited, of Moor Road, Melsonby, Richmond, North Yorkshire, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(4) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The company was fined £6,000 and ordered to pay £1,950 in costs at Peterlee Magistrates' Court on 20 June 2024.

HSE Principal Inspector Chris Tilley commented: "A suitable and sufficient asbestos refurbishment and demolition survey of the building undertaken by the client and provided to the contractor before work started would have identified the presence of asbestos in the roofing materials. The contractor could have ensured that suitable controls were put in place and the asbestos removed safely before further work was undertaken.

"This incident could so easily have been avoided by the provision of suitable and sufficient pre-construction information, effective communication between the parties and the use of correct control measures and safe working practices."

This prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Chloe Ward and supported by HSE paralegal officer Rebecca Withell.



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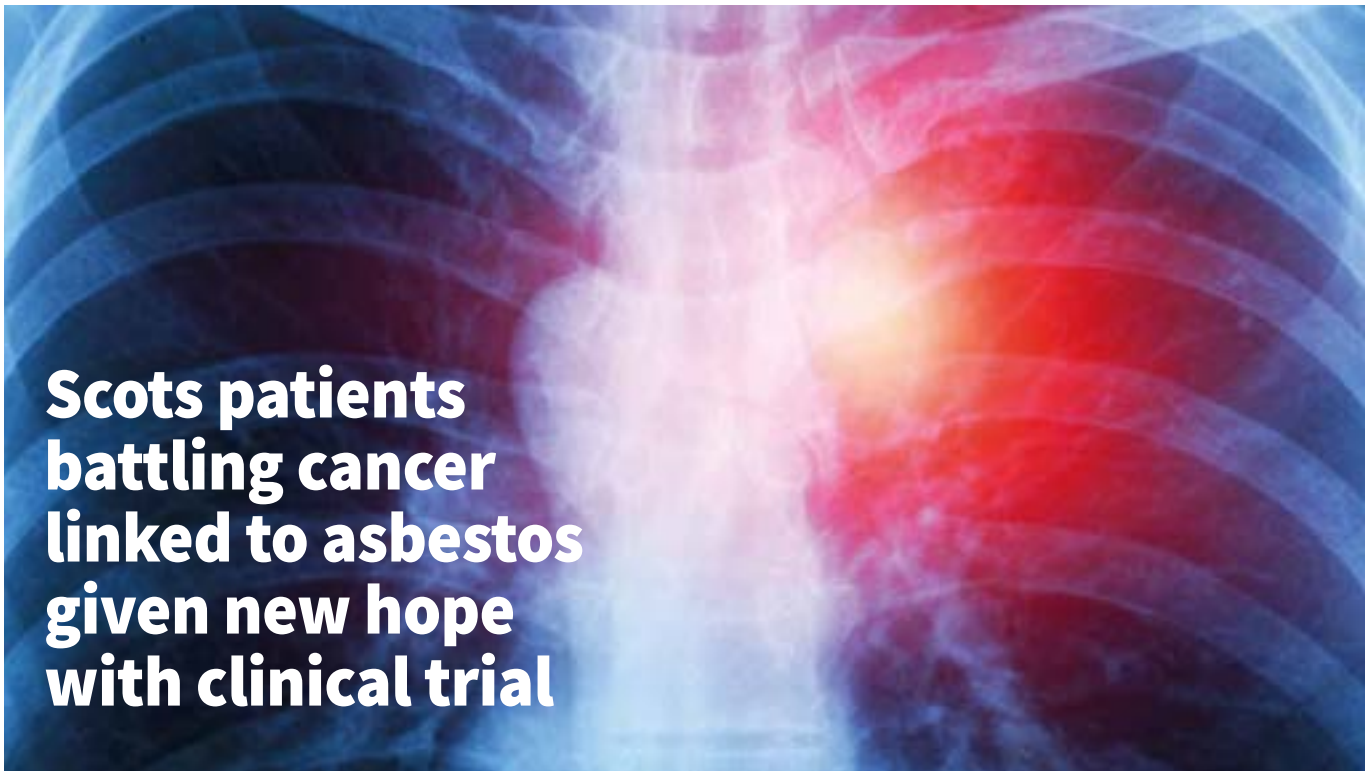
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https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-patients-battling-cancer-linked-32941700



Scots patients battling cancer linked to asbestos given new hope with clinical trial

The trial could lead to a new treatment for mesothelioma, a cancer which usually follows the inhalation of asbestos fibres and can take more than 40 years to develop.

New hope for cancer patients in Scotland with the launch of a clinical trial for a form of the disease linked to asbestos exposure, a charity has announced.

The MITOPE trial, sponsored by the company RS Oncology, could lead to a new treatment for mesothelioma, a cancer which usually follows the inhalation of asbestos fibres and can take more than 40 years to develop, according to Cancer Research UK.

The cancer, which commonly starts in tissue covering the lungs, is particularly common among men on the west coast of Scotland, where asbestos was manufactured and used in heavy industries like ship-building between 1950 and 1980.

Each year, the area accounts for about half of all cases of the disease in Scotland, according to Public Health Scotland figures.

Professor Kevin Blyth, of the University of Glasgow, who leads the Predict-Meso network which aims to develop treatments for mesothelioma, said: "The dark legacy of asbestos has had a long and painful impact on the people of Glasgow and the west coast of Scotland where incidence rates of mesothelioma are significantly higher than the Scottish average.

"Mesothelioma is a particularly difficult cancer to treat so we are hopeful that this trial, if successful, could offer a new effective treatment option for patients here in Scotland and across the UK.

"We are also hoping to develop similar trials involving direct treatment into the pleural space through our Cancer Research UK-funded network."

Patients accepted onto this phase two trial will have access to RSO-021, a new cancer treatment, after a phase one trial previously established an effective and safe dose of the drug for patients.

RSO-021 is a targeted drug which, preclinical studies have shown, can selectively kill malignant cells while sparing healthy cells.

RS Oncology CEO Jarrett Duncan said: "RSO-021 is an exciting, novel, anti-cancer treatment that can potentially help a global population of cancer patients who are left with little to no options.

"Commencing the phase two portion of our trial presents a major milestone for patients and their caregivers."

Only about four in 10 people (44.3%) who are diagnosed with mesothelioma in Scotland survive their disease for one year or more, according Public Health Scotland figures.

The MITOPE trial aims to deliver treatment directly into the pleural space, the cavity between the lungs and underneath the chest wall, where mesothelioma most commonly develops.

The two-year trial is being offered to eligible patients across Scotland.

Predict-Meso is a £5 million, six-year, international network of researchers, co-funded by Cancer Research UK, which is focused on better understanding mesothelioma, and finding new and better treatments for the disease.

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We're excited to announce a new way for Asbestos Management Institute (AMI) members to earn Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points through reading ARCA News magazine.
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We believe this new process will make it easier for our members to maintain their AMI professional development while staying informed about industry best practices. If you have any questions about this new system or how it relates to your AMI membership, please don't hesitate to contact the ARCA office.

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Enhancing Best Practices:

New Guidance on Handover of Enclosures for 4-Stage Clearance

On 3rd September 2024, the Asbestos Network Technical Working Group released a comprehensive guidance document titled ***"Handover of Enclosures to Analysts for 4SC (Site Supervisor Visual Inspection and Handover Form)".***

This new guidance aims to further enhance the already robust practices in the asbestos removal industry, providing clear, actionable steps for Licensed Asbestos Removal Contractors (LARCs) and analysts.

At the heart of the guidance is a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for LARC supervisors conducting visual inspections. This SOP outlines a systematic approach to inspecting enclosures, covering aspects such as preparation, inspection techniques, proper use of lighting, identification of common areas of concern, and documentation of findings. By following this standardised approach, supervisors can ensure consistency and thoroughness in their inspections.

The guidance emphasises the importance of the handover form in the clearance process. This form serves as a clear record of the supervisor's inspection and findings, including confirmation that all asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) have been removed as per the plan of work, verification of thorough cleaning and inspection of all surfaces, details of issues identified and remedial actions taken, and a signed declaration by the supervisor confirming the enclosure's readiness for 4-stage clearance (4SC). The document provides a template handover form (Table A6.4 of HSG248), which captures the required information and provides a clear record of the handover process.

Collaboration between LARCs and analysts in planning the 4SC process is highlighted as a key factor for success. The guidance recommends involving analysts in the initial stages of work planning to ensure appropriate time and resources are allocated for the clearance process. This collaborative approach allows for better preparation and can help identify and address potential challenges before they arise.

To aid in effective planning, the guidance provides factors to consider when estimating the time required for thorough visual inspections. These include enclosure size, layout complexity, and the presence of voids or high-level surfaces. Table A5.4 from HSG248 is reproduced in the document, offering estimated times for various asbestos removal scenarios. This resource can be particularly useful for both LARCs and analysts in planning and scheduling clearance activities.

The guidance recognises the importance


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of competence in conducting visual inspections, emphasising that it is a critical skill for LARC supervisors. It stresses that training alone is not sufficient to ensure competence, and that practical experience and ongoing professional development are essential. Employers are encouraged to identify specific training needs for their employees and tailor refresher training accordingly, using the contents of the technical appendix and standard operating procedure to inform both initial and refresher training.

The document also addresses common problems that can arise during visual inspections. It provides guidance on dealing with issues such as wet enclosures, sprayed sealant, enclosures with loose rubble or soil flooring, clearance with fixed scaffolding or access equipment in place, and the presence of asbestos intended to remain. By addressing these potential challenges, the guidance helps LARCs and analysts to be better prepared and to handle various situations that may arise during the clearance process.

The guidance outlines the procedure for completing the Site Clearance Certificate for Reoccupation (CfR) following a stage fail. It emphasises the importance of documenting the reasons for failure, obtaining acknowledgement from the licensed contractor's site supervisor, and including photographic evidence where applicable. This ensures a clear record of the clearance process and facilitates effective communication between all parties involved.

Additionally, the document provides guidance on the clearance of decontamination units (DCUs) after asbestos removal work. It outlines when DCU inspection certificates are required and the process for carrying out clearance certification of the DCU, including visual inspection and air testing procedures.

The introduction of this guidance is expected to bring several benefits to the asbestos removal industry. It should further enhance the already high safety standards by providing a standardised approach to visual inspections, improve operational efficiency, and facilitate even better communication between LARCs and analysts. Following this guidance can help LARCs demonstrate their commitment to best practices and their compliance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

This comprehensive guidance document represents a significant step forward in standardising and improving practices within the asbestos removal industry. By providing clear, detailed instructions for visual inspections, addressing common challenges, and promoting collaboration between LARCs and analysts, it aims to enhance the already robust procedures in place. The guidance serves as a valuable resource for ongoing improvement in the asbestos removal sector, contributing to safer and more efficient practices across the industry. Professionals in the field are encouraged to familiarise themselves with this important document, which can now be downloaded from the ARCA (Asbestos Removal Contractors Association) website.

https://www.arca.org.uk/support/knowledge-base/asbestos-network-technical-working-group-appendices/



EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

No matter what your workplace is, you must ensure that you have an emergency response plan in place. This will let all your staff members know what it is they need to do if and when an emergency occurs.

If you need immediate support, get in touch with one of our dedicated partners on 0844 561 8133.



What is an emergency response plan?

An emergency plan is your business's researched and planned procedure that tells your employees, and any relevant visitors and contractors, what it is they should do in the case of an incident. This is designed to help reduce injuries and ensure that business operations aren't impacted significantly.

How to put together an emergency response plan

You can't plan for every individual emergency, but there are a few steps that you can take to ensure that your team are ready in case something does happen. We've put a few of them together to help you.

Assess and identify your safety risks

Before you start to look at your emergency response plans, you need to identify what risks are present in your workplace. You can identify these through a hazard or risk assessment, which should also include your existing and potential risks.

Communication

In the event of an emergency you should ensure that your employees, and other relevant persons on site, are communicated with effectively, which will help you react and send help quickly. Within your plan you should establish who should be directing whom, and how the communication will happen (whether that be over the phone, a comms system, group message, etc)
Your communication plan will allow everyone within your business to be notified and given instructions promptly after an incident takes place.

Highlight any potential emergencies

While you are putting your emergency response plan together you should ensure that you highlight any potential emergencies that could appear in your workplace. You can start by looking into the company's historical incidents and records.

Training and Exercises

Once you've put together your emergency response plan, you should ensure that your team has read and understood what the procedure is and their part within it.

You can do this by regularly carrying out training sessions and drills. This will help you to identify where the gaps in your team's understanding are and allow you to provide better training in these areas.

Fire Emergency Response Planning

As part of your emergency response planning, you should include a fire evacuation procedure for your staff and any relevant persons to follow in the event of a fire. Here are some key points which may suit your premises:

1. Raise the alarm.

Employees must become familiar with the process they must follow when they discover a fire. This will help your business to limit the delays in responses and minimise damage. Employees must raise the alarm as soon as they become aware of a fire.

2. Calling the fire service.

When the alarm is raised, the fire services must be called immediately, this must be allocated to a designated person(s).

3. Stop any machinery and isolate power supplies if safe to do so.

This must be carried out by the designated people.

4. Evacuate the premises.

Everyone on the premises MUST be able to escape from danger. Team members who don't have any specific duties must start to leave the building as soon as the alarm is sounded - unless they have been given other instructions.

5. Assembly points.

Your assembly points are vital safe places and are preferably under cover away from the building. These must be predetermined, and the team be made aware of their locations.

6. Roll Call.

One person from each department must be given the duty of maintaining the roll, so that a quick check can be made. This could be the department head or team leader.

7. Responsibilities in the event of a fire.

Selected employees must be nominated to carry out specific tests in the event of a fire, including:

- *Acting as floor marshals.*
- *Ensuring the security of the building is maintained.*
- *Ensuring that disabled people receive the assistance they require.*

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Advancing Asbestos Waste Management:

Industry Unveils Comprehensive Guidelines

The asbestos removal industry has taken a significant step forward with the release of comprehensive guidelines on waste management. Published in September 2024 by the Asbestos Network Technical Working Group, which includes representatives from the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA), the document "Asbestos Skips, Van Waste Compartments, Waste Storage and Movement on Site" offers practical solutions to common challenges faced by Licensed Asbestos Removal Contractors (LARCs).

At the forefront of these guidelines is a focus on skip design. The document outlines key features that make skips fit for purpose, including easy accessibility for waste handling, careful placement, and thorough inspection. Sealed construction to prevent material loss, closely fastening doors or lids, and water resistance are highlighted as essential elements. The guidelines also stress the importance of clear, appropriate signage on all waste containers.

Van waste compartments receive equal attention in the new guidelines. Recognising that many contractors use vans for waste transport, the document sets out design requirements that mirror those for skips. It addresses practical issues such as the need for secondary doors in internal waste compartments and the importance of smooth, cleanable surfaces. The guidelines also tackle the problem of debris and dust trapping points, offering solutions to prevent contamination.

A novel aspect of the guidelines is the attention given to waste movement on site. The document recommends the use of wheelie bins for longer waste routes, a practice that significantly reduces spillage risk. These bins should feature drop fronts, facilitating the loading of heavy waste bags and enabling thorough inspection and cleaning. Regular checks of these bins, including wheels and potential trapping points, are emphasised as vital for maintaining safety standards.





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The guidelines also offer innovative solutions for sites lacking space for dedicated skips. Alternative waste storage options are outlined, including requirements for sheeting out areas, using sealed access points, and implementing rigorous security measures. These alternatives are subject to the same stringent daily checks and inspections as traditional storage methods.

Addressing a common industry challenge, the document provides clear guidance on temporary waste storage in vans. While emphasising the importance of prompt waste transfer, it acknowledges that same-day transfer isn't always feasible. The guidelines outline specific conditions under which overnight or short-term storage in secure vans is permissible, based on advice from environmental agencies in England and Scotland.

To ensure compliance with broader regulations, the document details requirements for vehicles carrying packaged asbestos above certain load limits. This includes specific instructions on the use of orange plates and UN Class 9 hazard placards, aligning industry practice with the Carriage of Dangerous Goods Regulations.

Perhaps most useful for practitioners are the visual aids included in the document's annexes. These provide clear examples of both acceptable and unacceptable design options for asbestos waste carriage in vans, along with practical solutions for rectifying common issues. This visual approach makes the guidelines accessible and easy to implement across various working environments.

The release of these guidelines marks a collaborative effort to enhance efficiency and safety in asbestos waste management. By addressing real-world challenges faced by LARCs, the document provides a framework for standardising best practices across the industry. It represents a proactive approach to waste management, anticipating and solving potential issues before they arise on site.

Implementation of these guidelines is expected to bring about significant improvements in waste handling procedures. For LARCs, this means smoother operations, reduced risk of contamination, and enhanced compliance with regulatory requirements. For the broader community, it translates to increased confidence in the safety and professionalism of asbestos removal operations.

The Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA), as a key contributor to the Asbestos Network Technical Working Group, has made these essential guidelines available for download from their website. This easy access ensures that all industry professionals can readily align their practices with the latest standards and recommendations.

https://www.arca.org.uk/support/knowledge-base/asbestos-network-technical-working-group-appendices/

Asbestos waste carriage in vans – examples of acceptable design options



An 'off the shelf' waste box



Entire van compartment sealed and segregated from top to bottom, rounded wheel arch edges to minimise risk of bag puncture
[Not shown but there should be a secondary door to protect the door furniture, rear electrical lights and prevent waste falling out on opening]





Purpose-built compartment/box inside van with door open (left) and door closed (right).

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Assure360

Gel cutting

The gel-cut asbestos pipe removal technique is a brand-new approach aimed at an age-old problem: how to make the removal of asbestos pipe insulation safer than existing methods. In this article, Assure360 founder, Nick Garland explains how, in his capacity as a FAAM Committee member, he had the pleasure of attending a site on Guernsey to conduct a further FAAM and BOHS investigation into the method.

By way of a short recap, when faced with having to remove an asbestos-insulated pipe, licensed asbestos removal contractors (LARCs) conventionally have two options. The first is full removal, the second is wrap and cut. Both involve injecting the asbestos-containing material (ACM) with surfactant and carefully removing the now wet insulation. Full removal, as the name suggests, involves taking away and cleaning all of the insulation, leaving a bare pipe to be reused. It's a laborious process that clearly involves risk of exposure.

If the pipe itself is redundant, you can use wrap and cut. Here you inject and clean short sections of insulation to reveal bare metal that can be cut. Intact sections of still-insulated pipe can be wrapped and disposed of. This process is much safer than full removal as it disturbs only a fraction of the asbestos material. But it's still laborious, as you have to inject and carefully remove the insulation from the point to be cut. As with full removal, you must always stay vigilant for a dry spot that could lead to significant exposure.

Safely packed

This is where the new technique comes in. With gel cutting, workers fix gel pouches to pipes that have already been wrapped, then simply cut through the gel, the asbestos, and the pipe. The innovation is that the gel reforms over the blade, so that the operative is always separated from the asbestos. The gel captures the dust and the team simply seals the cut end of each section with a waste sack and moves to the next cut point.

Our earlier investigation in Somerset with Horizon Environmental gave very encouraging results. Both wrap and cut and the new gel-cut technique gave similar air test results of 0.03 fibres per millilitre (f/ml). But importantly, the new technique was twice as quick, so the operatives' total exposure was halved.

The second investigation was carried out in a redundant greenhouse plant room with 10 linear metres of asbestos-insulated pipes. As with the first trial, we were dealing with hard-set insulation including all three of the commercial types of asbestos: amosite, chrysotile and crocidolite.To make it more challenging, the material was in poor condition.

All of the pipes were wrapped in polythene and seven cuts were planned. The whole exercise – from selecting the cut points, affixing the gel packs, making the cuts and sealing the redundant pipe sections after removal – was completed in around 45 minutes.

This seems very fast – and it is in comparison to the traditional approach, which might have taken most of the day – but the whole process was in reality unhurried, and completed with increasing confidence.

As with the Horizon Somerset test, the air test measurements were very encouraging. The new technique returned results of 0.015f/ml and 0.018f/ml – in line, or even better that what we'd expect from well-controlled wrap and cut removal. But again, with the work completed so much more quickly, worker exposure was significantly reduced.

This test showed that the technique is easily picked up by new teams, in different situations, who can work more quickly and in greater safety than they might expect from wrap and cut. I'm indebted to the site team, who committed to the investigation so enthusiastically.

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CITB Skills and Training Fund: Empowering Small Businesses

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) offers a Skills and Training Fund to support small businesses in the construction industry. This fund provides financial assistance of up to £10,000 for companies to invest in training and equip their workforce for future challenges.

Eligibility is open to CITB-registered employers with up to 99 directly employed staff, up-to-date Levy Returns, and no ongoing projects funded by this program. Funding amounts vary based on company size, ranging from £2,500 for CIS-only employers to £10,000 for those with 75-99 employees.

The fund supports CITB grant-eligible training and allows for tailored programs in construction or leadership. It aims to enhance efficiency, growth opportunities, and team motivation.

Employers can apply twice in 12 months, with only one active project at a time.

To apply, review the terms of funding, terms of bidding, and guidance notes. Consult with a local CITB Adviser, then complete and submit the Skills and Training Fund application form. The fund focuses on future training activities and cannot support retrospective projects.

For more information and assistance, ARCA hold monthly seminars covering the key elements of the application and assisting companies to make successful applications. This initiative represents a significant opportunity for small construction businesses to invest in their workforce and prepare for future industry demands.

Book a place on our monthly webinars by visiting www.arca.org.uk/events/

feedback FROM TRAINING CANDIDATES

Thank you to all the candidates who have given feedback on their training experience with ARCA, as it supports our continual review of our delivery of practical, classroom and remote asbestos training. Here is just some of the feedback received.

> *The instructor was very knowledgeable, course was very interactive.*
>
> ***Course: Operatives Refresher***

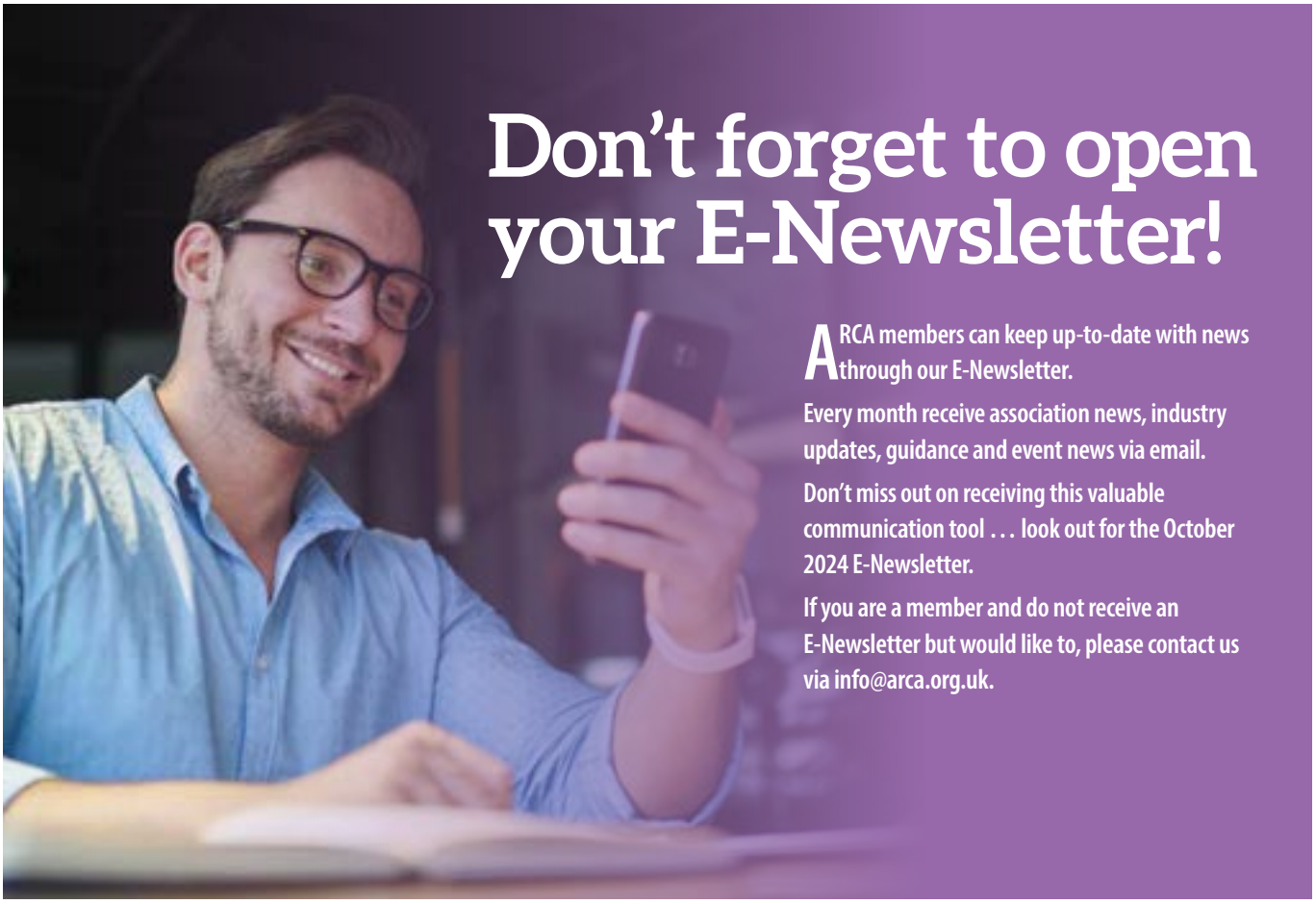
> *The trainer delivered the course really well, it met all the needs for each of us that were at different stages within our career. The interaction was beneficial & the questions asked, then explained thoroughly was extremely helpful.*
>
> ***Course: Remote Licensed Contractor Manager Update***

> *The experience within the group made it easy for the lesson to flow, not much you could improve on really. I would like to know more about ARCA's site findings but you cover that in other courses.*
>
> ***Course: Licensed Contractor Manager Update***

> *Brilliant course very informative and interactive which always makes learning for myself easier to retain the information. Course trainer Shaun was fantastic his knowledge and experience really showed through.*
>
> ***Course: New Operatives***

> *The whole training course was presented very well, I found it enjoyable and informative.*
>
> ***Course: Licensed Contractor Manager Update***

> *Participant discussions were very good and excellent delivery from Stefan whose approach to involve every attendee with all course content contributed to an overall enjoyable training experience. I felt the content was very relevant with the issues facing LARCS within the industry today.*
>
> ***Course: Remote Licensed Contractor Manager Update***



Don't forget to open your E-Newsletter!

ARCA members can keep up-to-date with news through our E-Newsletter.

Every month receive association news, industry updates, guidance and event news via email.

Don't miss out on receiving this valuable communication tool . . . look out for the October 2024 E-Newsletter.

If you are a member and do not receive an E-Newsletter but would like to, please contact us via info@arca.org.uk.

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NVQ QUALIFICATION SUCCESS

To all the dedicated candidates who have diligently worked and earned their NVQ qualifications between May and August 2024:

Your exceptional skills and unwavering commitment are being recognised in this edition of ARCA News and we congratulate you all on this achievement.

RSPH Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Removal of Hazardous Waste (Construction) – Licensed Asbestos;

Brandon Smith	Woods Building Services
Brendan Wallace	Rhodar Ltd
Chad Cruse	Woods Building Services
David Rathbone	DSM Demolition Ltd
Dylan Sharpe	Asbestech Ltd
Emmanuel Ofoesuwa	Woods Building Services
Gavin James	Woods Building Services
George Loch	Rhodar Ltd
Jack Parker	RH Insulation Services Ltd
James Goodman	Rhodar Ltd
Jamie Finlay	Rhodar Ltd
Jordan Robinson	Rhodar Ltd
Kevin Christie	Woods Building Services
Lee Scott	Tradecall Recruitment
Luke Crosby	Rhodar Ltd
Nathan Dean	Woods Building Services
Robert Snape	ECT Environmental Ltd
Satish Patel	Inner City Environmental Ltd
Steve Smith	Woods Building Services
Trevor Johnson	Armac Environmental Ltd

RSPH Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Supervising Licensed Asbestos Removal (Construction);

Adrian Mutton	Midlands Asbestos Services Ltd
Anthony Price	Armac Environmental Ltd
Colin Bixby	Asbestech Ltd
Daren Allen	Economic Insulation
Ernest Sharpe	Asbestech Ltd
Kieran McCabe	Rhodar Ltd
Mauricio Vergara	Inner City Environmental Ltd
Paul Colenutt	Alltask Ltd
Scott Hopkins	Specialist Building & Asbestos Services

Thank you to all the individuals above for giving ARCA permission to include your names.



ARCA Training Terms & Conditions and Policies are available at ***www.arca.org.uk/page/arca-training-terms-conditions-and-policies***

Remote *Training Courses*

Industry Refresher for Asbestos Removal Operatives (Remote) — 1 DAY COURSE

OCT	NOV	DEC
1, 16, 19, 22	6, 13, 16	4, 14, 16

Members fee £130.00 (excl vat) | Non Members fee £145.00 (excl vat)

Industry Refresher for Asbestos Removal Supervisors (Remote) — 1 DAY COURSE

OCT	NOV	DEC
3, 7, 19, 25, 29	7, 15, 16, 20, 29	2, 6, 11, 14, 18

Members fee £130.00 (excl vat) | Non Members fee £145.00 (excl vat)

New Licensed Contract Manager (Remote) — 2 DAY COURSE

OCT	NOV	DEC
	4	16

Members fee £230.00 (excl vat) | Non Members fee £260.00 (excl vat)

Licensed Contract Manager Update (Remote) — 1 DAY COURSE

OCT	NOV	DEC
10, 23	8, 22	5, 13

Members fee £130.00 (excl vat) | Non Members fee £145.00 (excl vat)

Risk Assessments & Plans of Work (Remote) — 1 DAY COURSE

OCT	NOV	DEC
	1	

Members fee £130.00 (excl vat) | Non Members fee £145.00 (excl vat)

Asbestos H&S Management of Senior Managers & Directors (Remote) — 1 DAY COURSE

OCT	NOV	DEC
	22	

Members fee £130.00 (excl vat) | Non Members fee £145.00 (excl vat)

Asbestos Awareness (Remote) — HALF DAY COURSE

OCT	NOV	DEC
7	11	13

Members fee £50.00 (excl vat) | Non Members fee £65.00 (excl vat)

Asbestos Removal for Administrators (Remote) — 1 DAY COURSE

OCT	NOV	DEC
	5	

Members fee £130.00 (excl vat) | Non Members fee £145.00 (excl vat)

Dates shown in Red denote a Saturday

Centre-based *Training Courses*

New Asbestos Removal Operative

3 DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA		4	9
Rayleigh - ARCA		18	
Glasgow - Specialist Assess' & Training Centre		11	3
Manchester - AEC Ltd			9
Stockton on Tees - Northern Safety			2
Leeds - Rhodar	7		
Southampton - ABP	14	13	4

Members fee £425.00 (excl vat) | **Non Members fee £475.00 (excl vat)**

Industry Refresher Training for Asbestos Removal Operatives

1 DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA	2, 5, 30	27, 30	19
Rayleigh - ARCA	1, 15	2, 22	6
Glasgow - Specialist Assess' & Training Centre		6	
Manchester - AEC Ltd			
Stockton on Tees - Northern Safety		19	
Leeds - Rhodar		14	
Southampton - ABP	1, 28	18	3

Members fee £155.00 (excl vat) | **Non Members fee £175.00 (excl vat)**

New Asbestos Removal Supervisor

3 DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA		11, 25	
Rayleigh - ARCA	21		
Glasgow - Specialist Assess' & Training Centre			
Manchester - AEC Ltd	8		
Southampton - ABP	23	20	18
Leeds - Rhodar			2
Stockton on Tees - Northern Safety			

Members fee £425.00 (excl vat) | **Non Members fee £475.00 (excl vat)**

Industry Refresher Training for Asbestos Removal Supervisors

1 DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA	11, 28	2, 26	
Rayleigh - ARCA	2, 5, 16	13, 30	12, 17
Glasgow - Specialist Assess' & Training Centre	2, 21	25	10
Manchester - AEC Ltd	17		12
Stockton on Tees - Northern Safety	1		
Leeds - Rhodar		15	
Southampton - ABP	18	4, 29	17

Members fee £195.00 (excl vat) | **Non Members fee £230.00 (excl vat)**

New Licensed Contract Manager

2 DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA	8		
Rayleigh - ARCA			4

Members fee £295.00 (excl vat) | **Non Members fee £365.00 (excl vat)**

Licensed Contract Manager Update

1 DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA	11		3
Rayleigh - ARCA	29	14	3
Glasgow - Specialist Assess' & Training Centre		7	
Manchester - AEC Ltd		7	

Members fee £155.00 (excl vat) | **Non Members fee £175.00 (excl vat)**

Air Management Workshop

HALF DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA		21	5
Rayleigh - ARCA		1	6
Southampton - ABP		6	

Members fee £95.00 (excl vat) | **Non Members fee £125.00 (excl vat)**

Personal Air Monitoring Workshop

HALF DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA		21	5
Rayleigh - ARCA	4		
Southampton - ABP		7	

Members fee £95.00 (excl vat) | **Non Members fee £125.00 (excl vat)**

HSE Licensed Scaffolders

1 DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA		22	
Rayleigh - ARCA			

Members fee £155.00 (excl vat) | **Non Members fee £175.00 (excl vat)**

Use, Inspection & Routine Maintenance of RPE

1 DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA	7	11	13
Rayleigh - ARCA	14		2

Members fee £155.00 (excl vat) | **Non Members fee £175.00 (excl vat)**

Dates shown in Red denote a Saturday

Asbestos Removal *Qualifications*

ARCA Qualification Terms & Conditions and Policies are available at ***www.arca.org.uk/page/arca-qualification-terms-conditions-and-policies***

Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Removal of Hazardous Waste (Construction) - Lic. Asbestos

On-Site Assessment and Training (OSAT)

This qualification is achieved by assessment.
Assessments are held weekly/monthly so please call for latest availability.

Notes on Fees: Assessment fees are ex VAT. There is no VAT on the registration fee.
Assessment fees are based on assessing two candidates on-site on the same day. Assessing one candidate on-site will incur additional costs.
Employers that are registered with the CITB for Levy purposes can claim grants from the CITB and might be eligible for up to £600.00 per candidate.

Fees (excl VAT)	
Member	**Non Member**
Assessment £1,100.00 Registration £86.00	Assessment £1,175.00 Registration £86.00

Experienced Candidate Assessment Route (ECAR)

This qualification is achieved by assessment.
Assessments are held weekly/monthly so please call for latest availability.

Notes on Fees: Assessment fees are ex VAT. There is no VAT on the registration fee.
Assessment fees are based on assessing two candidates at an ARCA Centre on the same day. Assessing one candidate on-site will incur additional costs.
Employers that are registered with the CITB for Levy purposes can claim grants from the CITB and might be eligible for up to £600.00 per candidate.

Fees (excl VAT)	
Member	**Non Member**
Assessment £1,200.00 Registration £86.00	Assessment £1,275.00 Registration £86.00

Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Supervising Licensed Asbestos Removal (Construction)

This qualification is achieved by assessment.
Assessments are held weekly/monthly so please call for latest availability.

Notes on Fees: Assessment fees are ex VAT. There is no VAT on the registration fee.
Assessment fee is based on three assessment days (on-site) for one candidate.
Employers that are registered with the CITB for Levy purposes can claim grants from the CITB and might be eligible for up to £600.00 per candidate.

Fees (excl VAT)	
Member	**Non Member**
Assessment £1,950.00 Registration £86.00	Assessment £2,225.00 Registration £86.00

RSPH Level 4 Diploma in Asbestos Removal for Contract Managers

2 DAY COURSE Non-Consecutive

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA			9 + 16
Rayleigh - ARCA			9 + 16
Glasgow - Specialist Assess' & Training Centre			9 + 16

Members fee £590.00 (excl vat)	Non Members fee £790.00 (excl vat)	Registration fee £86.00



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Asbestos Testing & Laboratory *Qualifications*

ATaC Qualification Terms & Conditions and Policies are available at ***www.atac.org.uk/page/atac-qualification-terms-conditions-and-policies***

RSPH Level 3 Award in Asbestos Surveying

3 DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA		18	
Rayleigh - ARCA	28		

Members fee £520.00 (excl vat)	Non Members fee £570.00 (excl vat)	Registration fee £86.00

REMOTE TRAINING & EXAM DAY

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Remote Training	31	7, 14	
Exam Day (Burton)		21	

Members fee £519.00 (excl vat)	Non Members fee £569.00 (excl vat)	Registration fee £86.00

EXAM ONLY DAY

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA		20	
Rayleigh - ARCA	30		

Members fee £180.00 (excl vat)	Non Members fee £195.00 (excl vat)	Registration fee £86.00

RSPH Level 3 Award for Asbestos Air Monitoring & Clearance Procedures

4 DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA	14		16
Rayleigh - ARCA		25	

Members fee £745.00 (excl vat)	Non Members fee £795.00 (excl vat)	Registration fee £154.00

REMOTE TRAINING & EXAM DAY

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Remote Training	CALL FOR AVAILABILITY		
Exam Day (Burton)	CALL FOR AVAILABILITY		

Members fee £744.00 (excl vat)	Non Members fee £794.00 (excl vat)	Registration fee £154.00

EXAM ONLY DAY

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA	17		19
Rayleigh - ARCA		28	

Members fee £745.00 (excl vat)	Non Members fee £795.00 (excl vat)	Registration fee £154.00

RSPH Level 3 Award in Asbestos Bulk Analysis

EXAM ONLY DAY

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA	CALL FOR AVAILABILITY		
Rayleigh - ARCA	CALL FOR AVAILABILITY		

Contact for fee	Exam fee £330.00 (excl vat)	Registration fee £86.00

RSPH Level 4 Certificate in Asbestos Laboratory & Project Management

3 DAY COURSE Non-Consecutive

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Unit 1	CALL FOR AVAILABILITY		
Unit 2	CALL FOR AVAILABILITY		

Members fee £1200.00 (excl vat)	Non Members fee £1350.00 (excl vat)	Registration fee £86.00

RSPH Level 3 Award in Asbestos Management for Dutyholders

4 DAY COURSE

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton upon Trent - ARCA	CALL FOR AVAILABILITY		
Rayleigh - ARCA	CALL FOR AVAILABILITY		

Members fee £720.00 (excl vat	Exam fee £770.00 (excl vat)	Registration fee £86.00

REMOTE TRAINING & EXAM DAY

	OCT	NOV	DEC
Remote Training	CALL FOR AVAILABILITY		
Exam Day (Burton)	CALL FOR AVAILABILITY		

Members fee £519.00 (excl vat)	Non Members fee £569.00 (excl vat)	Registration fee £86.00

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

New ARCA Member:

Heston's Environmental Ltd
28 Trinity Street, Shalesmoor, Sheffield,
South Yorkshire S3 7AJ
T: 0114 3495015
W: www.hestonsltd.co.uk

New ATaC Member:

Spera Consulting Limited
Devirgo House, Valepits Road, Birmingham,
West Midlands B33 0TD
T: 0333 2423360
W: www.spera-consulting.co.uk/

New Associate Member:

Hill Demolition LLP
1-3 Edinburgh Place, Harlow, Essex CM20 2DJ
T: 01279 451987
W: www.hilldemolition.com

The following companies have changed their name:

Mark One Consultants
now becomes TEAMS Software

Intergeo
now becomes Intergeo Environmental Technology Ltd

Tetra Tech Environmental Planning Transport Ltd
now becomes Tetra Tech Ltd

The following companies are no longer members of the Association:

Bauer Analysis Ltd - ***ATaC Member***

Capstan Group Services Ltd - ***Full Member***

Decontamination Respiratory Services Ltd - ***Associate (Licence Holder)***

Enviro-Safe - ***Full Member***

M & G Services Ltd - ***Full Member***

Reactive Integrated Services Ltd - ***Full Member***
(ceased trading)

Salvum Limited - ***ATaC Member***

arca Members

South-East Members

AA Woods Asbestos Abatement
Woods House, River Way, Harlow, Essex CM20 2DP
T: 01279 444630
W: www.aawoods.com

Abastra Environmental Ltd
Unit 42 Hornsby Square, Southfields Business Park, Basildon,
Essex SS15 6SD
T: 01268 411355
W: www.abastra.co.uk

Active Environmental Management
Unit 3, Thames Industrial Estate, High Street South, Dunstable,
Bedfordshire LU6 3HL
T: 01582 667000
W: www.activeenviro.com

Allan Dyson Asbestos Services Limited
Cagex House, Leyden Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 2BP
T: 01438 360656
W: www.allandyson-asbestos.co.uk

Alltask Ltd
Alltask House, Commissioners Road, Rochester ME2 4EJ
T: 01634 298000
W: www.alltask.co.uk

Allweather Roofing & Construction Ltd
The Estates Office, Little Champions Farm
Maplehurst Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 6RN
T: 01273 388088
W: www.theallweathergroup.co.uk

Amiante STR Limited
Eversley Haulage Park, Brickhouse Hill, Eversley, Hook,
Hampshire RG27 0PZ
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