



Attendees:

John Abbiss	UKAS	(JA, Chair for this meeting)
Louise Wainwright	UKAS	(LW, Secretary)
Helen Ratcliffe,	Health & Safety Executive, Asbestos Policy Unit	(HR)
Arran Cobby	Hampshire County Council	(AC)
John Richards	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors	(JR - RICS)
Jonathan Grant	NORAC (New Association - representing some accredited IBs and Testing labs)	(JG)
Colette Willoughby	British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS)/Independent Technical Assessor	(CW)
Laurie Davies	Health & Safety Laboratory/ Independent technical assessor	(LSTD)
Rob Blackburn	Asbestos Removal Contractors Association	(RB - ARCA)
Martin Gibson	Health & Safety Executive, HM Principal Specialist Inspector	(MG)

Apologies

Gerald Hudd	Independent Technical Assessor	(GAH)
Sue Burbeck	Adams Environmental,	(SB, Chair)
Garry Burdett	Health & Safety Laboratory	
Steve Platkiw	ATaC	(SP)
Craig Bell	Health & Safety Executive	

Agenda item – Summary

1	Welcome and Apologies
Welcome and apologies given by Chair.	

2	Minutes of the last meeting
Further comments were provided by some members for inclusion in final copy which was circulated at time of this meeting - Minutes agreed.	

4	UKAS Update:
<p><u>Changes</u> A new CEO of UKAS, in post since September 2018. Previously MD for NQA Certification and was Chairman of the Association of British Certification Bodies. There have been some changes to roles on the Executive since the last meeting.</p> <p><u>Resource</u> Internal asbestos resources have seen little change and is adequate for current customer base. New suitable external resource is always being sought to support services.</p> <p><u>Applications, Resignations and Grants of accreditation</u> Asbestos customer base – 227 accredited organisations (total asbestos customers), 4 more than last year. 70 sole testing labs, 70 sole inspection bodies and the remainder a mix of both 4 new applicants, with the majority of new applicants still being Inspection bodies. 4 applicants were withdrawn due to lack of progression towards accreditation within the necessary timescales.</p>	



One imposed suspension and one voluntary suspension to end of December 2018.

Withdrawn or terminated 3 accreditations – was 5 last year.

8 resignations compared to 9 the previous year.

Improvements to UKAS website are ongoing and have been assisted with feedback via the TAC.

With regards to HSG248 – UKAS is liaising with HSE over approach to implementation and assessment of this once published. The period of lead-in for organisations to meet changes will need to be discussed with the construction sector.

UKAS is likely to undertake Extension to Scope exercises as desk-top reviews.

Noted that there are some smaller labs that will be affected by costs to them in implementing some of the changes, particularly in reporting.

5 HSE Update

There have not been any organisational changes since last time.

Discussion over Brexit Preparations, including work by HSE to prepare for different scenarios. There are a number of bodies working together to address matters including DWP, Defra & EA.

HSE/DWP Minister has signed the Health and Safety (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 – this ensures that they will continue to work in a ‘no deal’ scenario.

A number of Regulations are under review to ensure in the event of a no deal scenario, we continue to have a functioning statute book after Brexit. There is guidance provided on the HSE website.

There is some new IT required to implement these systems as currently this is linked to the EU systems.

Industry feedback

Paper written by HSE and others – on a long running lung (asbestos) burden study. (The Inhaled Particle Study). Lung tissue samples taken during NHS biopsies and looking at differences between asbestos exposed people and general public.

In people born since 1965 – finding about 1f/mg but have found increased amounts in lungs of people born prior to 1965 in 30s-40s. Looked at risks and overall there is consensus that things are improving

Marble from Africa – found to have trace Tremolite in the veins. Present in in ‘Rhino’ white marble. There was some work done and the specific material analysed wouldn’t determine the material as ACM. Guidance will be issued.

Medical Series of guidance notes for Appointed Doctors – some changes – updates on HSE website

Asbestos Leadership Committee – formally ALG - ongoing discussions with members



Building Safety review (Fire etc) work resulting from the Judith Hackett review is still going on.

Changing HSE CEO with recruitment going on. There is an Acting CEO at present.

The past HSE Analyst Project report has now been drafted and will eventually be published on the HSE website.

6 ATaC:

Representative could not attend - no update was available for meeting

7 NORAC:

Joint venture and now have the CSCS/FAAM/ACAD launched for analyst surveyors.

The organisation will be looking at producing supplemental guidance for analyst and survey companies/individuals.

There is NORAC representation on one of the ALC Sub groups looking at topics associated with analyst and surveyors including accountability within the industry.

There are some key aspects which NORAC are considering and to assist members by providing additional guidance on:

- Expected damage at time of the refurbishment etc
- Survey reports
- Reinspections

Some of these are traditionally areas where organisations receive complaints and customer feedback.

8 BOHS:

Last years FAAM conference received good feedback. This was a technical conference over 2 days which also included international speakers. The FAAM Conference will be an annual event and planned to run each November. There are 5 membership levels; Technician, Associate, Licentiate, Member and Fellow. The Fellow level is not currently open to anyone and will remain closed until the faculty has been open for 5 years

BOHS – qualifications remained buoyant

The new P408 is up and running with two providers
ID and quantification – its mandatory that candidates have p401 and that they must have some experience and knowledge of P403

The P400 is a foundation course which has been running for over a year. It provides the basic knowledge which all analysts and surveyors need before progressing onto chosen technical areas as provided within the other various P401-P405 qualifications.



The suite of asbestos refresher courses have also been updated and enhanced with a large emphasis on TNA thereby meaning no two refresher courses will be the same as they will be tailored to the candidates present.

9 General Industry Update

Matters under this section have been detailed under the AOB section or as part of other agenda items.

10 Update to ISO17025 and LAB30

Impartiality

This is an aspect already assessed during visits although the revised ISO/IEC17025:2017 now significantly enhances this area. LAB30 already contains details relating to Impartiality with specific reference to analytical companies and links with LARC. Accredited laboratories should assess impartiality on an ongoing basis and take steps to manage or eliminate risks that are posed.

The HSE are also looking to further strengthen guidance on this area.

Risks and Opportunities

Lab 30 being reviewed and amended with this new requirement in mind and is being assessed as part of the transition visits taking place.

Decision Rules

Initially no concerns over the impact from the changes relating to decision rules as Asbestos is well defined in terms of requirements of the approved methods and from contract review aspects. Labs will need to assess their own systems however to ensure clarity.

11 Matters Arising

Items now included in relevant topic areas

12 AOB

During the meeting the proposal of UKAS running specific 'Asbestos Customer Days' has been discussed to see if TAC members thought this would be of use. These could offer the opportunity for Question and Answer sessions to be run covering specific aspects common to Asbestos customers. Work to see if this would be of benefit to customers and the format that such sessions could take will be taken forward.

UKAS are planning to include some Asbestos example(s) on to the website to provide some further details of example costs involved with assessments.

It has been flagged to UKAS that an American organisation is looking to sell accreditation to testing companies in the UK. This is something that UKAS itself is aware of and is addressing.



[Note: Since the TAC meeting, Lord Henley (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for BEIS) has confirmed that government is not altering the legal recognition of UKAS as the sole national accreditation body or the legal rules and requirements concerning the national accreditation body, and that accreditation, as defined in Regulation (EC) 7651/2008 (which will be brought into UK law on exit) as amended by this legislation, may only be offered by a national accreditation body. Accreditation certificates attesting that conformity assessment bodies meet the approved body requirements will only be able to be issued by the UK national accreditation body, which remains UKAS.]

UKAS is looking to strengthen the relationship between itself and the HSE to strengthen the position of UKAS accreditation in the sector.

Relating to the above, it was discussed that if an organisation is based overseas and accredited by its local Accreditation Body, there would be recognition of conformity assessment activities under cross-frontier agreements but the accreditations would have to be demonstrably appropriate in all respects for the UK market, including taking equivalent account of UK Regulations, HSE guidance and implementing all aspects under any future Memorandum of Understanding between UKAS and the HSE.

UKAS is the UK's sole accreditation body but would seek collaboration with HSE over providing accreditation to meet regulatory needs.

[Note: Since the TAC meeting, and relating to the Note above, based on later clarifications from BEIS the HSE has confirmed that it follows government policy recognising only UKAS within the UK. This also facilitates the practicalities of the of the close liaison between HSE and UKAS as sole accreditation body.]

There was also discussion over the possibility in acknowledging new flow measurement and pump technology which is being developed within HSG248.

Robust assessment of suitability would need to be completed prior to acceptance of changes in the current approach to flow measurement and pumps technology. This is likely to require input to UKAS calibrations section in validation.

Some further details were to be requested to assist in further discussion.

13 | Close

Date of next meeting to be agreed