

Proficiency Module Syllabus

P402 - Surveying and Sampling Strategies for Asbestos in Buildings

Aim

To provide background and practical knowledge in the surveying of buildings for asbestos and to provide general guidance on management procedures necessary to minimise exposure to any identified asbestos.

Prior Knowledge

Candidates for this course are expected to be aware of the contents of HSG264 Asbestos: The survey guide) and have a minimum of six months prior experience of carrying out asbestos surveys.

Content

The syllabus is structured into five sections.

	Time Allocation
1 Introduction and Legislative Requirements	5%
2 Asbestos in Buildings	25%
3 Risk Assessments and Management of Asbestos	15%
4 Bulk Sampling and Personal Decontamination	20%
5 Practical Work	35%

Note: Reference is made in this syllabus to HSE guidance or other documentation. This may not be the most up-to-date relevant publications from HSE/other sources and is intended as guidance for candidates only.

1 Introduction and Legislative Requirements (5%)

- 1.0.1 Introduce the requirements for management of asbestos in buildings under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 and the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007.
- 1.0.2 Communication and reporting: explain the requirements to communicate clearly with colleagues and clients and report findings in a formal manner.

Educational Objectives Candidates must have a clear understanding of the requirements relating to safe management of asbestos in buildings and be able to communicate appropriately with colleagues and clients.

2 Asbestos in Buildings (25%)

- 2.1 *Types and Uses of Asbestos in Buildings*
 - 2.1.1 Use of reference documents (1) (2) (9) as a primary source of information on products and their locations in buildings.
 - 2.1.2 Explain the physical and chemical properties of asbestos which have determined the use to which it has been put by industry.
 - 2.1.3 Discuss the three types of asbestos which have found significant commercial use (Amosite, Chrysotile and Crocidolite) in relation to sprayed and thermal insulation, insulating boards, coatings, cement products and other reinforced products (eg vinyl tiles, roofing felts) commonly used in building construction.

- 2.1.4 Describe the full range of health effects ranging from the benign (pleural plaques) to the terminal (mesothelioma) in the light of results from epidemiological studies carried out on asbestos workers. Review influential publications. Cover dose-response relationships, the effects of smoking whilst working with asbestos and the risks to health from low-level exposure.
- 2.1.5 Discuss the uses and composition of other asbestos products likely to be used or found inside buildings on plant, machinery or domestic appliances (eg textiles, friction materials, seals, gaskets etc).
- 2.1.6 Describe the use and occurrence of the other types of asbestos particularly as possible contaminants in other minerals.

2.2 *Surveys of Asbestos Containing Materials in Buildings*

- 2.2.1 Discuss the types of survey which can be carried out.
- 2.2.2 Discuss how to plan, organise and conduct surveys. The importance of the survey plan, what information should be collected and included within the plan and the requirement to involve the client in this process.
- 2.2.3 Discuss what parameters need to be assessed and recorded during the survey. i.e. location, product type, accessibility, condition, surface treatment, materials which could be confused as containing as asbestos.
- 2.2.4 Discuss typical errors and how to present results and record location of asbestos containing materials, including the use of caveats and the requirement for these to be site specific and not generic.
- 2.2.5 Discuss the level of access required for each type of survey and the potential for a phased approach for demolition/refurbishment surveys.
- 2.2.6 Discuss the quality control measures which the client will be expected to implement following receipt of survey reports.
- 2.2.7 Discuss the various safety precautions required during survey work including an initial risk assessment and PPE requirements.
- 2.2.8 Discuss the detailed reporting requirements for asbestos surveys

Educational Objectives Candidates must be able to describe the uses of asbestos in buildings and the public health risk these might pose. Candidates must understand the principles of and requirements for asbestos surveys.

3 **Risk Assessments and Management of Asbestos (15%)**

3.1 *Risk Assessment of Asbestos Containing Materials in Buildings*

- 3.1.1 Examine the purpose and strategies for risk assessment of asbestos containing materials in buildings and the compilation of asbestos registers. Outline the types and sources of information required and discuss the uses to which this information is put.
- 3.1.2 Describe the different assessments that are required and how these help determine control actions. Outline possible control actions. Describe common errors in the survey and risk assessment process.

3.2 *Management of Asbestos Containing Materials in Buildings*

- 3.2.1 Discuss the steps necessary to manage identified asbestos in buildings i.e. location survey, asbestos register, risk assessment, written plan of control actions.
- 3.2.2 Outline the on-going management actions necessary to minimise exposure to identified asbestos in buildings, ie maintain register, monitor condition, label, restrict access, inform, train, define and use safe systems of work, operate a permit to work system.

Educational Objectives Candidates must understand the risk assessment and risk management strategies and their role in reducing health risks.

4 Bulk Sampling and Personal Decontamination (20%)

- 4.0.1 Outline the numerous reasons for bulk sampling ranging from the collection of one small sample for identification purposes through to a complete survey of a building in order to compile an asbestos register.
- 4.0.2 Discuss the quality and quantity of information required to enable valid conclusions to be reached and relevant recommendations to be made.
- 4.0.3 Discuss sampling strategies for all types of asbestos containing materials i.e. spray coatings, pipe insulation, insulating board, ceiling tiles, cement materials.
- 4.0.4 Describe fully the techniques used and precautions required when collecting bulk samples.
- 4.0.5 Discuss face fit testing, the selection and use of PPE and RPE, its place in the control hierarchy and likely protection it affords.
- 4.0.6 Discuss transit and decontamination procedures that may need to be followed and medical records that may need to be kept together with other risk assessments that may be necessary.

Educational Objectives Candidates must have a detailed knowledge of the approved methods for sampling of bulk asbestos along with the situations where segregation may be required. In addition candidates must have a good understanding of suitable PPE/RPE to be used and the methods for personal decontamination.

5 Practical Work (35%)

- 5.0.1 Practical work must be carried out to provide candidates with all practical knowledge in carrying out building surveys to identify the presence of asbestos and any bulk sampling that may be required. The practical must also consider the level of intrusion required for each type of survey and situations where segregation would be necessary plus appropriate methods to achieve this. A practical sampling exercise must be included.

It is advised that the practical in this case could be covered using a slide, video or live based practical which shows all the different survey situations, eg office, boiler house, school, hospital etc. and all the different examples of asbestos locations, eg pipework insulation, insulation board, asbestos/cement sheeting, ceiling tiles, floor tiles etc.

References

- (1) HSG264 (2012) Asbestos: The survey guide
- (2) Asbestos and man-made mineral fibres in buildings: Practical Guidance, Thomas Telford DETR (1999).
- (3) HSG53 (2013) Respiratory protective equipment at work: A practical guide
- (4) HSG247 (2006) Asbestos: The licensed contractors' guide
- (5) HSG227 (2002) A comprehensive guide to managing asbestos in premises
- (6) Managing asbestos in buildings: A brief guide (2012) INDG223(rev5)
- (7) HS248 (2005) Asbestos: The analysts guide for sampling, analysis and clearance procedures
- (8) L143 (2013) Managing and working with asbestos. Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, Approved Code of Practice and guidance
- (9) Bill Sanderson (2007), Asbestos for Surveyors 2nd edition, EG Books

Course Length

The course will normally be conducted over 3 days which includes the written examination and the practical assessment.

This course will require approximately 16 hours' study time, of which at least 12 hours will be taught (teaching and practical). The additional study time will be required in the candidates' own time.

Examination and Assessment

Candidates are required to pass the following examination and assessment to be awarded the module:

A Written examination

This is a closed-book examination comprising 40 short-answer questions to be answered in two hours. The examination covers sections 1 to 4 of the syllabus in proportion to the time allocation given on the front page the syllabus.

B Practical assessment

The practical assessment is carried out by a registered practical assessor. The assessment will include:

- Slide/video/photographic assessment procedure for identifying the presence of asbestos in different locations which must include a variety of asbestos products, confirm basic understanding of buildings and structures and use of material and priority assessments,
- Level of intrusion required for different types of survey and situations where segregation would be necessary, plus the appropriate methods to achieve this.
- Full procedure for taking samples.
- Use of PPE and RPE plus personal decontamination.

Further details about the practical assessment are given in 'Practical Assessment Requirements' published on the BOHS website: <http://www.bohs.org/education/examinations/proficiency-modules/>

Certification

Candidates who pass the examination and assessment within 12 months will be awarded a ***Proficiency Certificate in Surveying and Sampling Strategies for Asbestos in Buildings***.

P402RPT: Report Writing for Asbestos Surveys

Candidates who hold P402: Surveying and Sampling Strategies for Asbestos in Buildings may wish to gain formal recognition of their asbestos survey report writing skills by completing P402RPT: Report Writing for Asbestos Surveys.

Candidates are required to submit two field reports to BOHS for assessment. The reports must demonstrate that candidates have carried out, possibly under supervision, two field surveys for asbestos, which must include sampling, analysis and a material assessment.

Both reports must meet the minimum standard, as set out in the BOHS mark scheme.

Further details about reporting are published in the following documents which are published on the BOHS website: <http://www.bohs.org/education/examinations/proficiency-modules/>

- Submission of Reports – Requirements for Candidates
- Additional Guidance for Asbestos Survey Report Contents

Candidates who submit two satisfactory field reports will be awarded a ***Proficiency Certificate in Report Writing for Asbestos Surveys***.