

Section 6

Syllabus

The course is structured into six sections, each with an indicative time allocation:

Section		Time Allocation
1	Health effects and the current regulations	15%
2	Method statement/plan of work requirements	20%
3	Four stage clearance procedure	25%
4	PPE/RPE requirements	10%
5	Air sampling methods for asbestos	20%
6	Counting requirements	10%

Educational objectives

Candidates understand the principles and requirements for air sampling and clearance testing techniques.

The numbers in brackets refer to the publications listed in 'References and further reading' in Section 7.

1 Health effects and the current regulations (15%)

- 1.0.1 Revise the full range of health effects of asbestos, ranging from benign (pleural plaques) to terminal (mesothelioma) in the light of results from epidemiological studies carried out on asbestos workers.
- 1.0.2 Revise all the relevant HSE regulations for asbestos removal and licensing with reference to the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, outlining the duties of the asbestos removal contractor, employer, owner and the laboratory.
- 1.0.3 Revise all up-to-date relevant HSE guidance. Review control limits, the clearance indicator and certificate of reoccupation for asbestos.

2 Method statement/plan of work requirements (20%)

- 2.0.1 Revise the importance of the role of the method statement/plan of work, and the use of control measures to reduce airborne asbestos emissions and limit the spread of debris.
- 2.0.2 Revise the design, construction, testing and maintenance of enclosures and negative air management systems.
- 2.0.3 Review the role and use of personal protective equipment, transit and hygiene facilities.

- 2.0.4 Review the importance of cleaning the area and the safe removal and disposal of debris.
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3 Four stage clearance procedure (25%)

3.1 Stage One

- 3.1.1 Revise the requirements for the first stage of reoccupation, its certification and the requirements of the method statement. This includes work areas, enclosures, hygiene facilities, transit routes and waste disposal.
- 3.1.2 Revise the needs and methods for enclosure inspection to detect any deficiencies, including smoke testing, leak testing, enclosure design etc. The evaluation of the enclosure must include the decontamination unit and any other equipment normally involved.

3.2 Stage Two

- 3.2.1 Revise clearance inspections of enclosures and decontamination units. Review where asbestos may be found after contractors have completed stripping operations.
- 3.2.2 Review clearance sampling and the meaning of 'thoroughly visually clean'. Discuss how this is assessed.

3.3 Stage Three

- 3.3.1 Review the clearance indicator threshold and the role of clearance sampling. Revise their significance and application to measurements.
- 3.3.2 Review the requirements imposed by ISO 17025 accreditation (8), HSE and UKAS in ensuring that certification is carried out with integrity.
- 3.3.3 Review the areas of potential conflict of interest and what to do if undue pressure or threats are made.

3.4 Stage Four

- 3.4.1 Discuss areas for inspection outside the enclosure and the overall removal of ACMs, in compliance with the method statement.
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4 PPE/RPE requirements (10%)

- 4.0.1 Revise the selection and use of PPE and RPE, its place in the control hierarchy and the likely protection it affords. Review the needs and requirements for face-fit testing.
- 4.0.2 Review transit and decontamination procedures that may need to be followed.
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5 Air sampling methods for asbestos (20%)

- 5.0.1 Revise the methods for personal and static sampling.
- 5.0.2 Revise the numbers and location of samplers.
- 5.0.3 Review the normal sampling strategies utilised for asbestos assessments.

6 Counting requirements (10%)

- 6.0.1 Revise the preparation of filters and counting of fibres in accordance with the recognised counting rules and the WHO method (as specified in HSG248).
- 6.0.2 Review the limitations of the methods, together with examination of accuracy, precision and systematic differences.