

JOINT INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP

ASBESTOS IN SOIL, MADE GROUND AND CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE

Progress Report

September 2014

Dear All

Please find detailed below an update on the work of the Joint Industry Working Group (JIWG) since the last update of June 2014. The pace is picking up now and we look forward to seeing many of you at the next full meeting that is scheduled for November 5th 2014 (details will be provided separately).

Even though we have not met as a full group we have been moving forward with a number of different aspects, however there are still some areas that we have yet to resolve. So progress so far:

1. The small executive group (Steve Forster, Rob Blackburn, Simon Cole and Tim Elliott) has been meeting on a three weekly basis to move key aspects forward and to maintain momentum in the project.
2. We have agreed which sections of the JIWG Code of Practice can be fast-tracked and have made contact with some authors that had previously expressed an interest to see if they are still interested in helping. A number of people have confirmed their interest and now await further instruction.
3. Significant industry funding, matched by DEFRA, has now been secured to move forward with some very important research to undertake a soil survey to ascertain background levels of asbestos in urban and rural environments throughout England and Wales. It is anticipated that this work will start in late autumn and go through until the spring of 2015. This research will help SoBRA with the development of their risk assessment framework which will feed directly into the JIWG Code of Practice.
4. A special SoBRA work group continues to develop human health activity-based exposure algorithms as part of an extended risk assessment framework which will feed into the JIWG Code of Practice.
5. We continue to engage closely with the HSE & EA to get clarification of regulatory issues that we feel need to be addressed. The last meeting was held in July 2014.
6. A separate meeting was held in August with the new Head of HSE's Asbestos Licensing Unit, where a number of key issues were explored with respect to interpreting the regulations in relation to asbestos in soil. Specifically, HSE may be open to adopting a more pragmatic approach to licensing work with asbestos materials in the ground and how 'asbestos' in soil is defined.
7. We have received clarification from HSE that they hope to have HSG 248 issued for internal consultation in autumn 2014. There are a number of key aspects as part of this document that the JIWG will look to signpost to, so it is crucial for the project to understand what it will contain and when will it be finalised.
8. We have started to prepare a draft document that will support the JIWG Code of Practice. It will be used to clarify interpretation of CAR 2012 regulations and the guidance set out in HSE L143 – Managing and Working with Asbestos, as applied to asbestos in soil and C&D materials. It is envisaged that a draft version of this document will be available for review for the next full meeting in November 2014.
9. The development of the SCA "Blue Book" – Analytical Method is continuing with Steve Forster, Rob Blackburn and David Wood attending and contributing to the meetings. Simon Cole and Tim Elliott are also participating with reviews. The latest v7 draft version has been circulated to the full JIWG membership for their review and comment. It is hoped that the final method adopted will be signposted from the JIWG code of practice.
10. Steve Forster will be presenting an update of the JIWGs progress to the forthcoming CIRIA sessions in London and Edinburgh.

We will be back in touch shortly, with further positive news of the development of the JIWG Asbestos in Soil code of practice.

Kindest regards

Nicola Harries
Secretariat of JIWG