



The Social Housing Safety Network Scotland



E-BULLETIN: ASBESTOS TRAINING

Fact or fiction – you must use trainers, with industry body recognition, such as UKATA or IATP?

Our asbestos specialist Matt Dawes sets the record straight...

Regulation 10 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 sets out the TYPE of training that you need (e.g., awareness, non-licensed work or licensed work) but it does NOT stipulate that this has to be through any particular body (such as UKATA or IATP) – in fact it is more important that the trainer is competent to deliver the training.

One of the ways that you can confirm competence is through one of the industry bodies; there are several, including UKATA, IATP, BOHS... however, this does not guarantee that they have knowledge relating to the sector in which you operate!

As we've recently been asked, we can also confirm that there is certainly NO legal requirement for social landlords to solely use UKATA, although when you have used a provider to support you in writing your policy and procedure, we can see why, if that provider also offer UKATA training!

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has a great section on their website which provides useful information with regards to information, instruction and training – with sections entitled 'Selecting a competent trainer' and 'How do I find a training provider?' – so, don't just take our word for it, read the guidance from the HSE themselves:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/training.htm#selecting>

Housing H&S Compliance UK Ltd is recognised by IATP and has been audited by an independent external auditor to confirm our compliance with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.



In addition to this we have designed and developed a number of courses relating to asbestos which we believe enhance clients' asbestos understanding. As these courses are not 'off the shelf' and do not meet a standard syllabus, we submitted our materials to BOHS for approval and had them accepted as 'BOHS endorsed' which is indicative that these courses are deemed to offer value to delegates attending them.

With regards to competence, our trainer Matt, holds the Certificate of Competence in Asbestos (CoC Asbestos) which indicates the relative complexity and depth of knowledge and skills he has relating to asbestos gained over many years as a professional (and required to attain the qualification). Matt has gained practical experience as a analyst, surveyor, technical manager and training manager over his 20+ years' industry experience. He was elected on to the board of directors for UKATA and served as a board member between 2018 and 2022.

Matt has trained, and continues to train, to UKATA, IATP and BOHS standards.

Our opinion is that whilst recognised certificate bodies can offer reassurances to clients that training follows the respected syllabus, the competence of the trainer who is delivering the training is much more important.