



Level 2 Certificate in Asbestos Removal for Operatives

May 2010

This qualification has a Credit Value of FIFTEEN

Guided Learning Hours: 42

QCA Qualification Number 500/8723/X

Description

The *Level 2 Certificate in Asbestos Removal for Operatives* is a qualification that covers the theory and practice of asbestos removal for workers in the asbestos industry.

Holders of this qualification will have the knowledge and skills to remove asbestos in a safe and competent manner on site. They will be able to set up enclosures, remove asbestos, package and dispose of the asbestos and perform cleaning and decontamination requirements.

The qualification consists of three units:

Unit AR1 Health and Safety for Asbestos Removal

Unit AR2 Principles of Asbestos Removal for Operatives

Unit AR3 Practical Asbestos Removal for Operatives

Unit AR1 Health and Safety for Asbestos Removal

This unit has a Credit value of TWO

12 Guided Learning Hours

Summary of Outcomes:

To achieve this unit a candidate must:

1. **Understand the H&S issues and legislative requirements for the removal of asbestos, by being able to:**
 - 1.1 State the health and safety issues and requirements relating to the safe removal of asbestos
 - 1.2 Outline site safety procedures
 - 1.3 Describe emergency procedures
 - 1.4 Outline the legislative requirements relating to asbestos removal.

2. **Understand the control measures required for the removal of asbestos, by being able to:**
 - 2.1 Describe the purpose of respiratory protective equipment (RPE) and personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - 2.2 State the importance of correctly wearing and using RPE and PPE
 - 2.3 Justify the use of equipment for the safe and effective removal of asbestos
 - 2.4 Identify the individual's role and responsibilities on site in relation to work colleagues and supervisors.

3. **Prepare to carry out asbestos removal procedures, by being able to:**
 - 3.1 Carry out daily checks on RPE
 - 3.2 Correctly identify, wear and use RPE and PPE in line with workplace and H&S requirements

4. **Understand decontamination requirements, by being able to:**
 - 4.1 Demonstrate procedures for the use of decontamination units
 - 4.2 Explain the importance of decontamination procedures.

Content:

1. **H&S issues and legislative requirements for the removal of asbestos**

1.1: Health and safety issues and requirements relating to the safe removal of asbestos: Types of asbestos related diseases and likely outcome of these diseases; synergistic effect of asbestos with other risk factors such as smoking; relationship of disease to asbestos exposure levels; need to control fibre levels by suppression of dust and fibres and by ensuring incorrect use of equipment (such as power tools) or use of incorrect techniques (such as dry stripping) does not raise fibre and dust levels.

1.2: Site safety procedures: Site safety procedures with regard to asbestos; general safety procedures for construction sites; permit-to-work systems; site hazards such as slips, trips and falls, noise, falling objects; hazards and associated safety procedures when working at height, working with electricity, hot working, manual handling and working in confined spaces.

1.3: Emergency procedures: Emergency procedures in the event of failure of respiratory protective equipment (RPE), evacuation from asbestos stripping enclosure, damage to enclosure or accident to personnel within an enclosure; emergency decontamination procedures in the event of an evacuation or accident.

1.4: Legislative requirements relating to asbestos removal: Main points of Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 and Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 (Special Waste Regulations 1996 in Scotland) as they affect asbestos removal and asbestos waste; reasons for Approved Codes of Practice relevant to asbestos removal.

2. **Control measures required for the removal of asbestos**

2.1: Purpose of respiratory protective equipment (RPE) and personal protective equipment (PPE): Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) and, personal protective equipment (PPE) is intended to protect the wearer from harm and protect the wearer and environment from contamination; protection afforded by different items of RPE and PPE such as respirators, overalls, headgear, footwear and gloves; design features of protective equipment.

2.2: Importance of correctly wearing and using RPE and PPE: Hazards and risks associated with asbestos removal; how RPE and PPE can reduce the risk to the wearer of these hazards and increase operator safety; how the absence of RPE / PPE or use of inappropriate RPE / PPE can increase the risk to the operator; reasons why PPE should be

changed if it becomes unacceptably soiled / contaminated or when moving from 'dirty' to 'clean' areas of the workplace; reasons why filters for use in RPE should be inspected and changed regularly.

2.3: Use of equipment for the safe and effective removal of asbestos: Equipment and facilities must enable safe and effective removal of asbestos and reduce the risk of contamination; specific purpose of equipment used; importance of appropriate lighting; requirement for decontamination and washing facilities.

2.4: Individual's role and responsibilities on site in relation to work colleagues and supervisors: Obligation to work safely and responsibly; need to alert work colleagues and supervisors to potential hazards in the workplace; need to respond safely and effectively to hazard warnings from work colleagues and supervisors; need to work as directed by supervisors.

3. Prepare to carry out asbestos removal procedures

3.1: Daily checks of Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE): Appropriate checks are carried out on RPE each day before use.

3.2: Identify, wear and use Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in line with workplace and H&S requirements: RPE and PPE is worn that is appropriate for the task; PPE selected is of an appropriate size and fit and is inspected prior to use for signs of damage or wear; any equipment found to be damaged or worn is not used and is reported; RPE is worn only after a quantitative face-fit test; importance of a good face seal and being clean shaven; RPE and PPE is put on in the correct sequence; RPE and PPE is used in a manner which maximises operator safety; RPE and PPE is changed after becoming unacceptably soiled / contaminated or when moving from 'dirty' to 'clean' areas of the workplace; RPE and PPE is cleaned, decontaminated, stored or disposed of in accordance with workplace procedures after use.

4. Decontamination requirements

4.1: Procedures for the use of decontamination units: Procedures for the use of decontamination units are followed correctly; use of decontamination units for the changing and disposal of personal protective equipment and decontamination, cleaning, charging and storing of respiratory protective equipment; changing and disposal of filters for respiratory protective equipment.

4.2: Importance of decontamination procedures: Need to prevent release of asbestos fibres into the environment and prevent other workers and members of the public being exposed to asbestos;

importance of decontamination of equipment; common problems with decontamination.

Unit AR2 Principles of Asbestos Removal for Operatives

This unit has a Credit Value of THREE

10 Guided Learning Hours

Summary of Outcomes:

To achieve this unit a candidate must:

1. **Understand procedures for the safe removal of asbestos, by being able to:**
 - 1.1 State the requirements relating to the preparation and use of enclosures for the safe removal of asbestos
 - 1.2 Describe methods and procedures for the safe removal of asbestos
 - 1.3 Describe the requirements of cleaning following asbestos removal
 - 1.4 Outline the need for the four-stage clearance process.

2. **Understand the requirements for inspection and record keeping, by being able to:**
 - 2.1 State the reasons for inspection and record keeping relating to asbestos removal.

3. **Understand how asbestos waste is packaged and disposed of, by being able to:**
 - 3.1 List types of asbestos waste
 - 3.2 Outline how asbestos waste is packaged and transported for disposal.

Content:

1. Procedures for the safe removal of asbestos

1.1: Requirements relating to the preparation and use of enclosures for the safe removal of asbestos: Purpose of asbestos enclosures; when to pre-clean site before erection of enclosure; materials used in the construction of enclosures; position and purpose of viewing panels, CCTV, baglocks, airlocks and decontamination units; need for and type of warning signs; positioning of warning signs; reasons why enclosures should be connected to decontamination units; requirement and reason for smoke testing of enclosures before use; procedures for entering and exiting enclosures; reporting arrangements in the event of problems with enclosures, baglocks, airlocks and other possible faults.

1.2: Methods and procedures for the safe removal of asbestos: Equipment required for the safe and effective removal of asbestos; operation and purpose of Negative Pressure Units (NPU's); control of fibre release during asbestos removal; wet injection and spraying techniques; wrap and cut procedures; localised exhaust ventilation (shadow vacuuming); air management during asbestos removal; maintenance requirements of equipment.

1.3: Requirements of cleaning following asbestos removal: Need for cleaning; when and where to clean; cleaning of enclosures, equipment, protective clothing and protective equipment; cleaning of airlocks, baglocks and decontamination units; air-testing of enclosure after cleaning; bagging and sealing of equipment prior to dismantling of enclosure; clean-up of area following dismantling of enclosure; cleaning in the event of an emergency.

1.4: Need for the four-stage clearance process: Outline and purpose of the 4-stage clearance process.

2. Requirements for inspection and record keeping

2.1: Reasons for inspection and record keeping relating to asbestos removal: Need for inspection of enclosures before use; purpose of site inspections; site audits; requirement for record keeping.

3. How asbestos waste is packaged and disposed of

3.1: Types of asbestos waste: Asbestos waste resulting from removal operations, such as lagging, asbestos insulating board, asbestos textiles, cement sheets and tiles; asbestos waste resulting from removal procedures such as disposable protective clothing, polythene from enclosures and used filters.

3.2: How asbestos waste is packaged and transported for disposal:
Methods for packaging and sealing asbestos waste; labelling requirements; removal of waste from enclosures, requirements for loading asbestos waste into skip or van for transport

Unit AR3 Practical Asbestos Removal for Operatives

This unit has a Credit Value of TEN

20 Guided Learning Hours

Summary of Outcomes:

To achieve this unit a candidate must:

1. **Set up enclosures for the safe removal of asbestos, by being able to:**
 - 1.1 Construct enclosures on a timber framework
 - 1.2 Construct airlocks and baglocks
 - 1.3 Position and seal negative pressure unit to enclosure
 - 1.4 Dismantle enclosures, airlocks and baglocks.
 - 1.5 Comply with plans of work, Approved Codes of Practice and regulatory requirements during the setting up and dismantling of enclosures.

2. **Carry out procedures for the safe removal of asbestos, by being able to:**
 - 2.1 Operate designated vacuum cleaners to remove asbestos safely and effectively
 - 2.2 Carry out controlled techniques for the safe abatement of asbestos containing materials.
 - 2.3 Comply with plans of work, Approved Codes of Practice and regulatory requirements when removing asbestos

3. **Carry out cleaning and decontamination procedures, by being able to:**
 - 3.1 Perform cleaning procedures for asbestos removal equipment and non-disposable personal protective equipment
 - 3.2 Clean areas following asbestos removal and in the event of an emergency
 - 3.3 Perform personal decontamination procedures
 - 3.4 Comply with plans of work, Approved Codes of Practice and regulatory requirements when carrying out cleaning and decontamination procedures.

4. **Carry out procedures for the packaging and disposal of asbestos waste, *by being able to:***

- 4.1 Handle and package asbestos waste in accordance with regulatory requirements

Content:

1. Set up enclosures for the safe removal of asbestos

1.1: Construct enclosures on a timber framework: locate enclosure in accordance with plan of work; construct enclosure using appropriate materials and fixings; position viewing panels and hazard warning signs correctly; connect enclosures to decontamination units.

1.2: Construct airlocks and baglocks: Construct 3-stage airlocks and proprietary airlocks using appropriate materials and fixings; construct baglocks using appropriate materials and fixings; connect airlocks and baglocks to enclosures

1.3: Position and seal negative pressure unit (NPU) to enclosure: Negative pressure unit (NPU) is correctly positioned with respect to the enclosure and sealed according to the plan of work; appropriate measures are taken to ensure the NPU is functioning.

1.4: Dismantle enclosures, airlocks and baglocks: Clean enclosure, airlock and baglock prior to dismantling; dismantle enclosures, airlocks and baglocks safely and effectively

1.5: Comply with plans of work, Approved Codes of Practice and regulatory requirements: Plans of work, Approved Codes of Practice and regulatory requirements are followed and complied with during the construction and dismantling of enclosures.

2. Carry out procedures for the safe removal of asbestos

2.1: Operate designated vacuum cleaners to remove asbestos safely and effectively: Vacuum cleaners are operated safely and effectively; correct procedures are followed when waste is emptied and bags are changed.

2.2: Carry out controlled techniques for the safe abatement of asbestos containing materials: Techniques used for the abatement of spray coatings, lagging, asbestos insulating board, textured coatings, thermoplastic tiles, asbestos cement and other asbestos containing materials, to include needle injection, wrap and cut and shadow vacuuming; encapsulation methods.

2.3: Comply with plans of work, Approved Codes of Practice and regulatory requirements: Plans of work, Approved Codes of Practice and regulatory requirements are followed and complied with during the removal of asbestos.

3. Carry out cleaning and decontamination procedures

3.1: Perform cleaning procedures for asbestos removal equipment and non-disposable personal protective equipment: Sort equipment into items that are to be cleaned and items that are to be disposed of as asbestos waste; clean equipment and non-disposable items according to safe working practices and method statements; bag and seal cleaned equipment.

3.2: Clean areas following asbestos removal and in the event of an emergency: Clean site after dismantling of enclosure; dispose of material appropriately after cleaning; carry out cleaning in the event of an emergency such as spillage of asbestos waste during transit.

3.3: Perform personal decontamination procedures: Procedures for the use of decontamination units are followed correctly; use of decontamination units for the changing and disposal of personal protective equipment and decontamination, cleaning, charging and storing of respiratory protective equipment; changing and disposal of filters for respiratory protective equipment; follow emergency decontamination procedures.

3.4: Comply with plans of work, Approved Codes of Practice and regulatory requirements: Plans of work, Approved Codes of Practice and regulatory requirements are followed and complied with when carrying out cleaning and decontamination procedures.

4. Carry out procedures for the packaging and disposal of asbestos waste

4.1 Handle and package asbestos waste in accordance with regulatory requirements: Package, seal and label asbestos waste according to regulatory requirements; remove bagged and sealed waste from enclosures by correctly transporting through baglocks and/or airlocks; store asbestos waste appropriately prior to disposal; load asbestos waste into skips or vans for removal from site.

Assessment:

Attainment of the Learning Outcomes and assessment criteria for this qualification will be assessed by centres. Centres must obtain approval for their assessment methods from RSPH. Assessment will be subject to external verification by RSPH.

Guidance:

Recommended Reading:

Asbestos Essentials - Task Manual Task guidance sheets for the building, maintenance and allied trades.	HSE 2001
Introduction to Asbestos Essentials comprehensive guidance on working with asbestos in the building maintenance and allied trades.	HSE 2001
Approved Code of Practice Work with Materials containing Asbestos , L143	HSE 2006

Recommended Additional Reading:

Asbestos - Effects on Health of Exposure To Asbestos	HSE 1985
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The following web-sites also have useful information:

Asbestos Removal Contractors Association www.arca.org.uk
Health and Safety Executive www.hse.gov.uk

Key Skills:

It is expected that the delivery of this qualification should provide opportunities for the development of the following *key skills*:

Communication Level 2
Information Technology Level 1
Numeracy Level 2

Guidelines for key skills are shown in Appendix 1.

Other Issues:

The delivery of this qualification could provide opportunities for contributing to an understanding of Spiritual, Moral, Ethical, Social and Cultural issues and an awareness of Environmental issues, Health and Safety considerations and European developments. Possible areas for discussion are shown below.

Spiritual Asbestos removal may have to be conducted at sites that are of religious significance, such as churches, mosques, synagogues etc, or at locations within buildings that have been reserved for spiritual and religious purposes. Candidates could discuss the need to treat such sites sensitively and the need for any specific items of clothing (where this does not contravene Health and Safety considerations).

Moral and Ethical Moral and ethical issues can be developed in a discussion of the duties placed on employers regarding the health and safety of their employees and visitors to their premises.

Social and Cultural The importance of effective communication with minority groups and speakers of other languages and awareness of cultural sensibilities should be discussed in relation to the conduct of asbestos removal.

Environment Awareness of environmental issues can be raised through consideration of the safe disposal of asbestos containing materials.

Health and Safety All of this specification is concerned with Health and Safety.

European European legislation and directives regarding asbestos removal and health and safety could be discussed.

National Occupational Standards

The qualification has been mapped to the following National Occupational Standards of Construction Skills:

Unit VR 360 Establish Work Area Protection and Safety

Unit VR 462 Install and remove licensed asbestos enclosure or containment areas

Unit VR 463 Licensed asbestos removal

Unit VR 465 Remove hazardous waste

Unit VR 467 Repair or encapsulate asbestos materials

Further details of these National Occupational Standards can be obtained from RSPH Qualifications.

Restrictions on Candidate Entry:

There are no restrictions on candidate entry.

Special Needs:

Centres that have candidates with special needs should consult The Society's *Regulations and Guidance for Candidates with Special Assessment Needs*, this is available from The Society and The Society's web site (www.rsph.org.uk).

Recommended Qualifications and Experience of Tutors:

The Society would expect that tutors have teaching experience and a qualification in a relevant subject area, but recognises that experienced teachers can often compensate for a lack of initial subject knowledge, or experienced practitioners for a lack of teaching experience.

The Society recommends that centres utilise a team of tutors in the delivery of this qualification, and that tutors have suitable practical experience in the removal of asbestos.

Centres should be registered with The Society

Any enquiries about this qualification should be made to:

The Qualifications Department,
Royal Society for Public Health,
3rd Floor Market Towers,
1, Nine Elms Lane,
London SW8 5NQ

Tel. 020 3177 1600

Fax. 020 3177 1601

E.mail: info@rsph.org.uk

Web-site www.rsph.org.uk

Appendix One: Key Skills Guidelines

This qualification provides a number of opportunities for candidates to develop competence in key skills and to produce evidence towards attainment of key skills. Successful completion of the qualification does not in itself imply attainment of the listed key skills; this is dependent on the candidate producing a portfolio of evidence and the teaching and learning methods adopted by the tutor(s) and candidate in the delivery of the qualification.

The specification content, which provides the most appropriate opportunity for key skill development, is signposted below.

Application of Number

Skill	Specification Content
N2.1 Interpret information from a suitable source.	Information regarding the incidence of accidents at work could be obtained from graphical information. Information could also be obtained from schedules of work regarding the dimensions of enclosures.
N2.2 Use your information to carry out calculations to do with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a amounts or sizes b scales or proportion c handling statistics d using formulae. 	Statistics regarding the incidence of accidents at work and their economic cost could be used to help develop this key skill. Candidates could use information on the dimensions of enclosures to calculate the amount of material required.

Communication

Skill	Specification Content
C2.1a Take part in a group discussion.	Any part of the content could be used as the basis for a discussion

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| C2.2 | Read and summarise information from at least two documents about the same subject. Each document must be a minimum of 500 words long. | Information about any part of the content could be obtained from leaflets, books and articles. |
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Information and Communication Technology

Skill	Specification Content	
ICT1.1	Find and select relevant information.	Information about any part of the content could be obtained from and presented by the use of Information Technology
ICT2.1	Search for and select information to meet your needs. Use different information sources for each task and multiple search criteria in at least one case.	Information about any part of the content could be obtained from leaflets, books and articles.