Welcome to the *Special Asbestos* Edition of BSG Training News

As a delegate at one of our courses in the past, or someone who organises the training for your company, our training newsletter keeps you up to date with our future training course schedule and special offers as well as the new courses we are now able to offer.

This month our focus is on Asbestos, the dangers and how to work with it and stay compliant with the current regulations two years on.......  

Find further information on page 2.

**About BSG**
The Building Safety Group (BSG) offer a wide range of high quality, low cost, accredited health and safety training courses covering a range of subject areas. We run regular courses at our training centre in Bristol, as well as various locations in the UK.

**In this issue:**

Page 2:  
- Working with Asbestos

Page 3:  
- Spotlight on.....Asbestos courses

Page 4:  
- Asbestos court cases

Page 5:  
- Late availability courses—last chance to book

**Download our 2014 training schedules for Bristol, Exeter and Stoke on Trent courses**  
[www.bsgltd.co.uk/training-courses.html](http://www.bsgltd.co.uk/training-courses.html)

**Spotlight on our Asbestos Courses—including non-licensed Asbestos Work**—find out more on page 3.

**Need a course in a location closer to you?**
If you have a group of 6 or more employees requiring training, we offer all of our courses on a private basis. Held at a venue of your choice on a date that suits you, we can tailor the course to meet your needs and requirements. Contact us and find out more.

**Follow us!**


[www.twitter.com/bsgltd](http://www.twitter.com/bsgltd)
All you need to know about Asbestos

What is Asbestos?
Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous material which was regularly used in buildings from the 1950s until the late 1990s.

It is still found today in many buildings, including homes, schools and hospitals.

If disturbed, it can be a killer.

Asbestos was widely used as an insulation and fire proofing solution. In particular, it found its way into products like ceiling tiles, pipe insulation, boilers, sprayed coatings and garage roof tiles.

Inhaling loose fibres is known to cause several serious and even fatal lung diseases, so it is no surprise when it was finally banned in 1999.

Asbestos comes in all shapes, sizes and colours. The three types are blue, brown and white asbestos, which were used in countless building products. But as it was often mixed with other materials it can be hard to know if you’ve found it or not.

You may often come across asbestos while you are working, but as long as the asbestos is well maintained and not disturbed or disintegrating it doesn’t present an immediate risk to your health.

Different types of asbestos need to be dealt with in different ways. The most important thing is that you avoid unnecessary risks and arm yourself before you start work.

Where can it be found?
If you’re working somewhere built or refurbished before 2000, then the chances are it could contain asbestos. Here is a list of the most common types and uses found in the home:

- Ceiling pipes
- Pipe insulation
- Boilers
- Sprayed and textured coatings
- Asbestos cement sheeting
- Board around windows, radiators and fireplaces
- Soffit boards
- Fire doors
- Gaskets and sealants on pipes
- Electrical boxes
- Wall cladding
- Cement flues
- Loose fill asbestos

Loose fill asbestos is probably the most dangerous asbestos-containing material. Loose fill is made up of pure asbestos and if disturbed can release large amounts of fibres in to the air, where they can be breathed in.

DO NOT attempt to work on this material under any circumstances unless you are a licensed contractor.

Asbestos is not a thing of the past, despite what people believe. It is still present in millions of homes and commercial properties across the UK and, when disturbed, it’s a killer, and its more than just your life on the line, you could also be unknowingly putting your family, colleagues and friends at risk.

Conditions caused by Asbestos are Mesothelioma, Asbestos related lung cancer, Asbestosis, Pleural thickening and Pleural plaques.

When working with Asbestos you need to ask yourself the following questions:
- Do you think there may be asbestos on site?
- Is it asbestos?
- What type of asbestos is it and what’s the level of risk?
- Have you had appropriate training to carry out this job safely?

If you are unsure how to answer any of the questions above, you may benefit from attending one of the Building Safety Group’s courses. We are an accredited provider of the IATP course. We offer good quality training that will enable you to be compliant under the Asbestos Regulations 2012 and carry out your job safely and confidently.
As a registered member of IATP (Independent Asbestos Training Providers) we offer the following Asbestos courses:

- Asbestos Awareness
- Non licensed Asbestos Work

The Asbestos Awareness Course is aimed at operatives whose work could foreseeably expose them to asbestos, such as those who work in the maintenance and demolition industries, refurbishment and allied trades where their work might foreseeably disturb the fabric of the building, thus exposing Asbestos Containing Materials (S+ACMs). The Asbestos Awareness course enables employers to meet their legal requirements under Regulation 10, of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

The course will cover:

- The properties and types of asbestos and their effects on health and safety, including the increased risk of lung cancer for those that smoke
- The uses and likely occurrence of asbestos and ACM’s in building and plant
- How to avoid risks from asbestos

It does NOT train you to work with asbestos containing materials.

The Non-licensed Asbestos Work course is a one day course for operatives who work in construction activities where their work will knowingly disturb ACM’s (such as maintenance workers, and their supervisors).

The course covers a brief historical overview of the product, health concerns and statistics, recognition, safe working methods, legal requirements and disposal.

The course covers the following:

- The history of asbestos and asbestos regulations
- The properties and types of asbestos and where they may occur
- Health concerns and the increased risks to smokers
- General procedures to deal with an emergency release of fibres
- How to avoid risks from asbestos
- Operations likely to disturb asbestos
- The risk assessment process
- Safe Working practices, control measures and the use of protective equipment
- Reporting procedures
- Selection of Correct RPE and PPE including fitting
- Hygiene and decontamination

“The trainer made the examples specific to our job roles. A very helpful and well priced course”
BSG delegate Spring 2014
Latest Asbestos Court Cases

Company in court over asbestos exposure dangers

A Portsmouth demolition firm faced criminal charges after stripping more than 50 metres of potentially-deadly asbestos board without a license and potentially putting workers at risk.

HSE discovered that the firm had illegally removed 54 metres of asbestos insulation board from a bungalow that was due to be refurbished despite it not holding a license to remove asbestos containing materials (ACMs).

The HSE investigation found James Site Services had correctly commissioned a survey to identify the presence of ACMs, which advised it to seek a licensed contractor. HSE said the firm chose to ignore findings and carried out the work themselves - possibly exposing their workers to dangerous fibres.

They were fined a total of £500 with £1,000 in costs after pleading guilty to a breach of the control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.

Developer in court for breaking asbestos safety code

A Bristol property developer has been fined after it exposed employees to asbestos while working on a former Marks and Spencer shop building.

At least three employees of Da Vinci Developments Limited are known to have been exposed to potentially deadly asbestos fibres while working on a former M &S building on Queen Street, Bridgwater in 2012.

Taunton Magistrates’ Court heard that Da Vinci Developments Limited failed to plan for the potential presence of asbestos insulation board AIB) before developing the property.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) was alerted when they were notified by a non-licensed asbestos removal company, which had been asked to quote for the removal works. The firm was aware any such work had to be carried out by a licensed asbestos removal contractor. An investigation found that Da Vinci Developments Limited did not carry out a statutory survey to check for the presence of asbestos materials prior to starting the work. Instead, for several weeks, workers were demolishing walls and ceilings in the building, breaking up the asbestos insulation board.

Employees were exposed to large amounts of airborne asbestos fibres, which spread through the inside and outside of the building during the work. The AIB removal should have been undertaken by a licensed contractor taking suitable control measures to prevent exposure and spread of the asbestos fibres.

Da Vinci Developments pleaded guilty to two breaches of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 and were fined £9,800 and ordered to pay £796 in costs.
TG20:13 Highlights

TG20:13 is the latest update in guidance on tube fitting scaffolding from the National Access and Scaffolding Confederation.

Highlights include:

- All standard scaffolds in TG20:13 are fully proven by design and calculation and as such no additional design work will be required.
- TG20:13 will adopt a more user-friendly approach than its predecessor and will be more pictorial than previous versions—a common complaint about the last revision was that it was difficult to follow.
- TG20:13 will be available electronically and to download as an App for mobile devices, and will include more scaffold types as standard designs. This guide will also demonstrate through a computer software system is a scaffolding system needs additional designing or not.
- Following feedback from TG 20:08 saying benefitted designers, the revised TG20:13 guidance will put the power back in scaffolders hands, not, the engineers and will remove some of the burden for design currently experienced.

Designs included will be: Basic Birdcages, Towers, Basic Fans, Loading Bays, Unit Transons, 3 metre lift heights, Hop-Up Braces, Basic Bridges and Basic Splays.

While the scaffolding industry gets to grips with the new guidance the HSE have announced they will not enforce TG20:13 during the so-called “bedding in” period. The Building Safety Group run a Scaffold Inspection and Appreciation course which will ensure you are compliant, call us on 01454 414877 for more information.

Courses starting soon in Bristol, Stoke on Trent and Exeter

Need some training and fast? We have a few places remaining on a number of courses starting in May. Book now to secure your place.

- Site Management Safety Training Scheme—19th May (Bristol)
- Confined Space—19th May (Bristol)
- Site Supervisor Safety Training Scheme Refresher—20th May (Bristol)
- Site Supervisor Safety Training Scheme—29th May (Bristol)
- Site Manager Safety Training Scheme—2nd June (Bristol)

Book your place
Phone: 01454 414877  Email: training@bsgltd.co.uk