

Notes from: Manawatu Health and Safety Forum presentation on Asbestos Awareness

Date:	10/08/16	Venue:	UCOL
Chair:	Tony Greeve	Time:	4.00pm – 6.00pm
		Host:	UCOL

Attendees:

	Name:		Company:	Name:		Company
1	Luke	Wilson	RST Environmental	Lofty	Forsyth	NZDF
2	Yves	Beneteau	Fonterra	Michael	Vander Wall	NZDF
3	Travis	Dench	Excel Builders	Stuart	Alexander	NZDF
4	Stu	Malins	Maycroft Construction	Matt	Smith	NZDF
5	Vaughn	Tongs	Tweak It	Charles	Manumua	NZDF
6	Anna	Clisby	Protech Roofing	Ash	Williamson	The Downs Group
7	David	Clisby	Protech Roofing	Leighton	Jones	The Downs Group
8	Lew	Thompson	Lews Creative Flooring	Sue	Kelly	Horizons Regional Council
9	Dave	Rapson	Lews Creative Flooring	Evan	Lloyd	Horizons Regional Council
10	Ryan	Thompson	Lews Creative Flooring	Brent	Dais	Scanpower
11	Bronson	Brickley	Lews Creative Flooring	Matt	Pakai	Central Demolition- MDC
12	Matt	Moate	Lews Creative Flooring	Shane	Holloway	Central Demolition- MDC
13	Bernadine	Bourke	TeManawa	Taari	Ferris	Central Demolition- MDC
14	Wallace	Brady	Spotless	Cuba	TeKanawa	Central Demolition- MDC
15	Dale	Martin	Spotless	Cody	Potter	Central Demolition- MDC
16	Craig	Nowell	Spotless	Ian	Butcher	Central Demolition- MDC
17	Martine	Lyon	Alexanders Construction	Geoff	Lord	Central Demolition- MDC
18	Penny	Hendry	ACC	Reshmi	Kumar	Central Demolition- MDC
19	Stuart	Parkes	Stuart Parkes Electrical	Matt	Hillas	TDDA
20	Paal	Iversen	Smith & Sons	David	Freebairn	UCOL
21	Anthony	Jahnke	Worksafe NZ	Andrew	Joe	UCOL
22	Sarah	Clark	Worksafe NZ	Tony	Greeve	Site Safe NZ

Apologies:

	Name:	Company:	Name:	Company:
1	Phil Round	Avenue Construction	Michael Morris	ACC
2	Allyson Harwood	Midway Occupational Health Services	Georgie Martin	TSP Construction
	Anthony Stephenson	NZ Specialised Coatings Ltd		

The forum was attended by more than 40 representatives of industry from the wider Manawatu Region.

Welcome:

Tony opened the forum with a welcome and Emergency brief and asked Anthony Jahnke to introduce the guest speaker, Bruce Wakefield from Safety Management Systems Aotearoa, SMSA.

A copy of Bruce's presentation is attached in a PDF format.

Following on from Bruce's presentation, Luke Wilson from RST Environmental Solutions spoke about the work they do and the products that are available when working with Asbestos, both in regard to ground contamination but also from removal of ACM.

Following the presentation there was some general discussion in regard to what might be required for smaller enterprises who might wish to remove up to 10Sq/m of ACM, without requiring a Licence.

Anthony explained that while a licence is not required for those smaller amounts, anyone who works with Asbestos, or removes it will need to be able to demonstrate a level of competence in that work. The guidelines that are relevant in this situation are as follows:

<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/all-guidance-items/interim-guidance-for-work-involving-asbestos/asbestos-interim-guide.pdf>

<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/all-guidance-items/new-zealand-guidelines-for-the-management-and-removal-of-asbestos-3rd-edition>

<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/guidance-by-hazard-type/asbestos/licensing/documents-and-forms/technical-bulletin-management-removal-asbestos.pdf>

There was a question about the **Asbestos register**, querying if it was in any way public or seen by other agencies. The response from Worksafe is as follows:

The register is not kept on the website – only the registration forms are. It is a secure register with limited access to only about two people within WorkSafe – this is to maintain the privacy of registrants who disclose very personal information relating not just to their employment and exposure but also their health.

There is no way we would release any information given to us to prospective employers/insurers without the explicit consent of the registrant, therefore by registering their exposure on the register, there is no impact on them for future employment/insurance unless the registrant releases this information themselves (with health/life insurance it is always a good idea to disclose their exposure anyway so as not to void their policies if they make a claim down the track for something asbestos related).

The register is a voluntary system which is kept so that we can identify trends which may have a future impact, keep tracks of our targets of reducing harm and if a registrant becomes ill in the future with an asbestos related illness, we can tie in their disease with their exposure. Any statistics which are given out from the register have all identifying features removed – that includes name, date of birth, address, employers and so on.

ACC have also provided some feedback about their position in regard to claims that may be made from Asbestos related illnesses:

ACC can consider cover a diagnosed asbestos-related condition, where there is has been an exposure to asbestos containing material in the workplace.

Some asbestos related-conditions fall under Schedule 2, of the Accident Compensation Act 2001 - these are Asbestosis and Mesothelioma. (see link below)

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2001/0049/latest/DLM105458.html>

Schedule 2 conditions do not require the usual causation assessments that ACC needs for other gradual process type injuries, for example:

- the causative agent in the workplace
- non-work activities
- significance of risk.

Pleural Plaque is not a Schedule 2 condition, and is assessed under Section 30 of the Act as a work related gradual process injury.

Whether or not a person is on the Asbestos Register is not taken into consideration when ACC determines cover for asbestos related claims.

Disposal of small quantities of ACM. There was some discussion about the process for disposal of smaller amounts of ACM, either for licence holders or for people who might remove up to 10 sqm. Ian Butcher from Central Demolition/MDC has indicated that he would be prepared to facilitate the disposal through his yard in Fielding. The cost for this service would be based on the comparative costs for disposal at the registered landfill with a small cost for handling. The specifics would need to be discussed with Ian, his contact details are shown below. **It would be expected that any ACM brought to the Fielding yard would be correctly packaged in accordance with the regulations.**

If you have any questions or would like someone to follow-up with you, please feel free to contact one of the following people:

Bruce Wakefield, SMSA	bruce.wakefield@smsa.nz	0277655123
Anthony Jahnke, Worksafe NZ, Sarah Clarke, Worksafe NZ	Anthony.Jahnke@worksafe.govt.nz sarah.clark@worksafe.govt.nz	0800030040 0800030040
Penny Hendry, ACC	Penny.Hendry@acc.co.nz	
Ian Butcher, Central Demolition/MDC Corner of Haybittle and East Street Feilding	mdc.limited@xtra.co.nz	0800344421 021434641
Tony Greeve, Site Safe NZ Inc.	tgreeve@sitesafe.org.nz	021 557 402

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.

The next planned forum will coincide with another Building Skills Maintenance (BSM) Roadshow being undertaken in conjunction with Worksafe NZ and will run in November. The following is an extract from the general invitation to the roadshow:

The seminar covers the new Health & Safety at Work legislation focusing on airborne contaminants including welding fumes, wood dust, lockout & tag-out procedures, as well as the continued focus on occupational health and workplace transport. Worksafe will discuss how to manage the key health and safety risks at each stage of the construction process. You will have the opportunity to:

- Meet with local WorkSafe inspectors
- Hear examples of what WorkSafe is seeing on sites
- Get expert advice from sponsor reps

Following that presentation the Manawatu Forum will meet to gather feedback from Industry on what aspects of the new legislation, and the plans for the Worksafe interaction need further clarification.

This will be an important session that will establish in part the subject matter for further sessions through 2017.

Manawatu Health and Safety Forum presentation on Asbestos Awareness. 10 August 2016

Meetings dates and locations will be advised as they come to hand. In the interim, if you have subjects that you feel will be of interest for the forum, please email through the details so they can be taken into consideration.

Next Meeting:	3 Nov 2016	Venue:	Palmerston North Golf Club, 100 Brightwaters Terrace, Palmerston North
Subject:	The Health and Safety at Work Legislation, key Health and safety Risks in the Construction Process	Time:	5.30 – 7.30pm
Chair:	Dion Tapper	Host:	BSM and Worksafe NZ

Here is the link to RSVP for the next session: <http://www.bsm.org.nz/rsvp.html>