



**Gavin Stilton -
Surveyor/Bulk Analyst**

Gavin has been with Noble for 2 years and is an essential part of the asbestos team. As well as conducting asbestos surveys, Gavin supports our laboratory with bulk analysis, and will be soon training to become an air analyst so really is a jack of trades! Gavin recently enjoyed a week in Scotland surveying Quarries. Gavin never shy's away from a Challenge!

WELLDONE !!

**Katie Gray
Project Manager**



Katie has been studying for a NEBOSH Diploma. After successfully passing all her exams she is now on her way to becoming a fully qualified Health & Safety practitioner.



Asbestos Consultancy



Who should you commission to carry out your asbestos surveys?

Consultancy and surveying services are fairly easy to find and can be quite inexpensive. However before you commission a company to undertake the surveying work it is imperative that you consider the risks:

- Does the organisation have the technical competence to undertake the work?
- Does the organisation have the resources to do the work?
- Do the surveyors work to suitable codes of conduct to ensure inspections are carried out impartially and with integrity?
- Does the organisation have an adequate quality system in place?
- Are you satisfied that safe guards are in place e.g. suitable liability insurance, in case difficulties arise?

Regulation 4 Duty to Manage of The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 (CAR 2006) sets a legal requirement for owners and occupiers of non-domestic buildings to carry out suitable assessment to determine whether asbestos is present or liable to be present.

The HSE is responsible for enforcing compliance with the regulations and penalties being awarded to persons who fail to ensure the safety of their staff and other's present on site.

Selecting an organisation accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) will ensure that you are appointing a competent surveying organisation that will understand and meet your requirements.



Inside June's News Letter:

- **Asbestos Surveyors - Who to commission**
- **Asbestos License Renewals Due?**
- **FREE MDHS 100 Update sessions**
- **HSE Site Inspection Results**
- **Rise in CITB Training SMSTS**
- **Safe Systems of work**
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The HSE 'Strongly recommends that an accredited surveyor is used to carry out complex type 1,2 3 surveys'. (Soon to be revised see MDHS 100 below)

The risks of using a non-accredited inspection body:

- Inexperienced staff
- Lack of competence and qualifications
- Insufficient resources
- Incomplete surveys
- Unclear reports
- A lack of impartiality
- Lack of due diligence/exposure to future claims
- Possible insurance

For more information visit www.ukas.co.uk for a full list of UKAS accredited surveyors or www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos.

You can also contact us for an informal chat about what we can do and what UKAS accreditation means and involves on **0844 561 6735**.

FREE MDHS100 Update Sessions



In light of the new MDHS100 being launched this summer we are going to be delivering **FREE** 2 hour update sessions on the new legislation.

We will be holding sessions in **Bristol, Truro** and **Plymouth** throughout September 2009. (Subject to availability)

The sessions are aimed at surveyors/organisations who want to find out more about the new HSE guidance on asbestos surveying, what it is likely to mean for surveyors, and how individual surveyors and organisations who commission surveying, can demonstrate their competence.

The HSE is currently reviewing its 'MDHS 100' guidance on asbestos surveying and will be issuing the 'Asbestos: The Survey Guide', which will describe **management surveys and refurbishment / demolition surveys**.

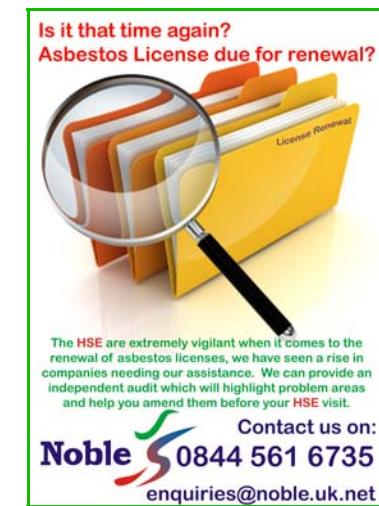
HSE estimates that there are between half a million

and a million non-domestic properties which still contain asbestos. The 'Asbestos: The Survey Guide' will therefore place far greater emphasis on competency and who you should commission when carrying out asbestos surveying.

Keep an eye out we will be contacting you with further information!

Asbestos Licence Renewals

Recently we have experienced a rise in asbestos companies asking us for help, before they have their asbestos licence renewal carried out by the HSE.



We have been helping companies by providing an auditing service and making sure that what they say they have in place on paper, is exactly what they carry out when doing their work on site. Anything that seems amiss or not quite right we will highlight and help them amend the issue.

You have probably heard the rumours that the HSE are being very stringent when it comes to asbestos in light of recent prosecutions. The HSE will specifically look at arrangements in place for:

- Training
- Medical Certification
- Respiratory Protective Equipment
- Maintenance Records

Currently we spend a day with each business going through the paperwork in place and visiting a site to make sure everything is running smoothly. We then leave the company with an action plan and a date for a follow up review, this is to confirm that remedial action has taken place and no further issues have arisen.

If you wish to find out more information on all of the services we offer please do not hesitate to contact us on **0844 561 6735** or visit our web site at www.noble.uk.net.

Intensive Inspection on Construction

The HSE Results....

The HSE carried out intensive inspection on construction sites through out march 2009:



- 1759 sites inspected
- 2145 contractors inspected
- 265 Prohibition Notices (PN) on Working at Height
- 17 Improvement Notices on Working at Height
- 11 Prohibition Notices (PN) on good order
- 12 Improvement Notices on good order
- 20 Prohibition Notices (PN) on Asbestos Removal
- 16 Improvement Notices on Asbestos Removal
- 11 Case of site being so poor they are being prosecuted.

The HSE found that 1 in 5 sites and contractors inspected were found to be working below the acceptable standard.

They were encouraging signs or improvement found but the HSE again identified that there are significant amounts of poor practice across Britain.

1 in 6 sites were failing to address working at height risks on site.

Working at Height remains the biggest cause of serious and fatal injuries on site, but 1 in 6 sites failed the inspection and were served immediate Prohibition Notices.



Slips and Trips alongside Working at Height can cause serious and fatal injuries on site, over 20 enforcement notices we issued by the inspectors.

Good Order on site makes good common sense and good business practice.

Asbestos is the greatest single cause of work related deaths in the UK. Construction workers carrying out work on buildings built or refurbished before 2000 could potentially be exposed to asbestos without even knowing it. Records should legally be available to help prevent exposure.

Are you Safe? Do you have Safe Systems of work in place?

Employers have been urged to stop carrying out work close to high voltage overhead power lines after a Polish man was electrocuted while working in a field.

The worker was one of 12 migrant workers who were erecting the steel frame of a polytunnel which three overhead power lines, carrying 11,000 volts of electricity, ran across.

Short metal pieces were to be attached to each end of the metal hoops which the tunnel was being constructed from and he was bringing pieces up the field. He slotted 13 of the 0.5 metre long metal pieces together and carried them vertically. The top piece touched the overhead line.

The business pleaded guilty to breaches of health and safety law. They were fined a total of £10,800.

The Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) inspector said: "A suitable and sufficient risk assessment would have identified the danger and the necessary control measures, and a safe system of work would have ensured the safety of the employees."

Increase in CITB 5 Day Site Manager Safety Training Scheme

We have seen a Sharp rise in businesses putting people on the CITB Site Managers Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS) course and we feel this is as a direct result from the inspections carried out all over the UK by the HSE.



The SMSTS is the minimum that the HSE require for a Site Manager to have in Health & Safety. This course is intended for project managers, site managers and supervisors as well as proprietors of



Training Courses June '09

Non-Construction

Emergency Aid 26 June

Construction Courses

Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS) 10/11 June

Site Managers Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS) 23/24 June

Asbestos Courses

BOHS P406 Supervisory Licence holders 15/16/17/18 June

Asbestos Awareness Refresher 19 June

HSG210 Working with Asbestos Products Refresher 19 June

Asbestos Awareness 25 June

Working with Asbestos Products 25 June

NB: All courses will be held in Plymouth unless otherwise stated

To book a place on any of the above courses or for further information on our in house or bespoke courses please contact Rebecca Huddy on 0844 561 6735 or e-mail rebecca.h@noble.uk.net

small to medium sized companies. Client-based personnel would also benefit from attending the course. Possession of this qualification is listed in the Approved Code of Practice for the Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations as a demonstration of competence in the role of site manager.

The course is a 5 day course and aims to give an understanding of delegates' responsibilities and accountability for site safety, health and welfare, familiarisation with current health and safety legislation. This industry recognised course is ideal for companies who need to meet the ever-increasing demand for evidence of sound health and safety management on site.

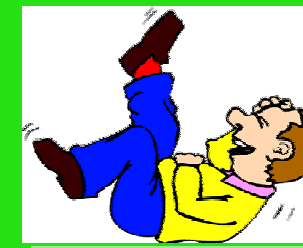
To get the best out of your Site Manager enrol them now! We are a CITB approved training provider and run SMSTS courses every 2 months at our training facility in Plymouth £585+VAT per person (inc. GE700 & XA6). We can also run in house courses for more than 8 people and from as little as £375+VAT per person.

For more information on the course please contact us and speak to our training administrator on **0844 561 6735**.

Funnies...

A Contractor in Heaven

A contractor dies on a fishing accident on his 40th birthday and finds himself greeted at the Pearly Gates by a brass band.



Saint Peter runs over, shakes his hand and says "Congratulations!"

"Congratulations for what?" asks the contractor "Congratulations for what?" says Saint Peter. "We are celebrating the fact that you lived to be 160 years old."

"But that's not true," says the contractor. "I only lived to be forty."

"That's impossible," says Saint Peter, "we added up your time sheets!"