

**The British Occupational Hygiene Society
Faculty of Occupational Hygiene**

Requirements for Practical Assessments on Proficiency Module

P402 – Buildings Surveys and Bulk Sampling for Asbestos

General:

1. The course provider is responsible for providing suitable facilities for the practical assessment including all safety provisions.
2. The practical assessment is an examination and comprises of several elements. All the elements must take place at the date, time and location declared. Unapproved changes may result in the examination being declared void. In addition there must be clear evidence of the testing of all the elements (scripts, marking schedules etc.) which must be available on request.
3. Candidates may have access to relevant reference material during the examinations but must not be allowed to communicate with each other.
4. Where candidates are attending for practical assessment only they must be evaluated on all elements of the examination not just the sampling procedures.
5. The rooms and other locations in which the examination is conducted must be suitable for the purpose.
6. The examinations must all be supervised by an approved assessor(s) who must check that the facilities and equipment provided are fully adequate for the practical assessment.
7. Assessors must ensure that the candidates complete and sign the Candidate Practical Assessment Result Form before the examination begins. When the examination is finished, this form must also be signed by the assessor and then returned to the BOHS office within five working days of the date of the examination.
8. The practical assessment for each candidate must contain all of the essential elements as detailed in the syllabus:
 - Slide/video/photographic assessment procedure for identifying the presence of asbestos in different locations which must include a variety of asbestos products, confirm basic understanding of buildings and structures and use of material and priority assessments
 - Full procedure for taking samples
 - Use of PPE and RPE

and these must include both the evaluation of the candidate's knowledge and practical ability.

9. These requirements are intended to provide assessors with more details to ensure that all assessors are operating to similar standards. Assessors must be confident, as far as is reasonably practicable, that all candidates passing this assessment are competent to carry out an asbestos survey.

10. Because there is a risk of not identifying individual weak candidates who may remain hidden within the group, it is not acceptable to carry out the practical assessment verbally on a group basis.
11. Assessing the candidates' use of sampling equipment is an essential part of the practical assessment and must be examined for each candidate individually. It is not possible for an assessor to successfully monitor more than five candidates doing this at the same time in the same room.
12. All assessors must keep adequate records of all candidates and their performance at this assessment.
13. Where the group of candidates is large [more than six or seven] then, in order to assess the practical capabilities of all candidates properly, there may be a need for more than one assessor to cover the practical assessment in a reasonable time.

Safety Responsibility:

14. The assessor is responsible for the safety arrangements during the practical examination and must satisfy him/herself that all arrangements are adequate and that they are observed by all those present.

Assessment:

15. The assessment must test the candidates ability in the following areas:

Surveying Knowledge

A. Where to Look for Asbestos Materials:

For most examinations a suitable building location is usually not available or has been used as part of the discussions during the course. This is, therefore, best covered by the use of photographs/slides/video etc. of several buildings or areas, with some more detailed photographs of specific circumstances. The candidates are then asked to comment on what is shown in these photographs. These comments must be marked against a marking schedule by the assessor as part of the practical assessment.

The photographs used must be sufficient in number and contain appropriate diversity. These must at least cover:

- Wall, floor coverings, ceiling tiles, ceiling voids, insulation materials (building structure and lagging), risers, lift shafts etc
- External locations on buildings and parts of internal construction
- Asbestos as a reinforcing material in plastics and concealed asbestos
- Awareness of spread of contamination dust and overspray etc and bad removal issues etc.

B. Types of Survey: *[Can be included in A.]*

- a. Management surveys
- b. Refurbishment and demolition surveys

C. Ability to Recognise Types of Asbestos Products: *[Can be included in A.]*

- Asbestos cement, insulation board, insulation, lagging, coatings, rainwater goods (external), soffits, textiles (fire blankets), thermoplastics, vinyl floor tiles, toilet cisterns, electrical equipment etc
- Identify the types of asbestos most likely in various applications and structures.

D. Recording of Locations and Visual Information: *[Can be included in A.]*

- Building location, and locations within building, accessibility, condition, damage if any, other information relevant to material and priority risk
- Test the ability of candidates to identify structures where asbestos is likely to be found and allow them to demonstrate their knowledge of building terminology and the way buildings have been constructed. As the building where the course is held will have usually been used during the course discussions this part of the assessment can be done by using a compound drawing of a building, similar to that in HSG 264, [part domestic (various ages and styles), part commercial (various ages and styles), car park, garage, lift shaft, electrical switch room, boiler house etc]. The candidates must then be asked to name selected components of the building along with any asbestos that might be found there. This must be marked as part of the practical assessment.

E. Gathering Information and application of Material and Priority Assessments: *[Can be included in 1.]*

- Material assessment algorithms. The candidate's knowledge of the material assessment algorithm can be tested as part of the photograph sequence used to test knowledge of where to look for asbestos
- Priority assessment algorithms. The candidate's knowledge of the priority assessment algorithm can be tested as part of the photograph sequence used to test knowledge of where to look for asbestos
- Demonstrate ability to give guidance on requirements for overall risk assessments and the need for an asbestos register.

Sampling Protocol and Strategy:

F. Personal protection and safety:

- Awareness of full body protection overalls and RPE. Resistance of overalls to fibre penetration. Take off respirator last. Clean with wet wipes, dispose of all potentially contaminated materials as asbestos waste
- Requirements for working at heights such as with ladders, scaffolding, mobile platforms
- COSHH Regulations. Electrical hazards. Noise. Risk assessments to include all applicable site hazards not just those relating to the samples.

G. Sampling procedures:

- All candidates need to demonstrate their full capability to actually take samples from 2 types of material
- The practical use of all tools used to sample may be included during the course for all candidates. However, candidate must demonstrate their capability to take

samples as part of the formal assessment. [Must *not* be asbestos-containing, therefore, RPE not usually required.]

- The assessor must ensure that all candidates have proper practical ability, which must include some or all of the following:
 - Safe removal of sample, use of polythene sheets, use of wet wipes, disposal of all potentially contaminated material as asbestos waste
 - Insulation on pipes etc – wet wipe wrapped around corer, wet wipe inserted in top or corer both wet wipes into sampling bag or dispose of as asbestos waste. Seal up hole. Clean up debris. Pipe work run frequency, bends, junctions and T-pieces. Appearance guidance
 - Insulating board and tiles – small edge, seal up, clean up debris.
 - Asbestos cement – dustless method. Clean up debris afterwards and seal surface
 - Textured coating – screwdriver scraping, protect floor, polythene sheets etc.