



arca news

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The Plan of Work has to be auditable, there must be measures so it is measurable and HSE hope that this can be reflected in the new guidance. These are the kinds of overarching principles that HSE can give and that will give HSE and licensed contractors something to work with when assessing or preparing a Plan of Work.

Big moves forward in technology means that the analysts guide will now mention photography of the enclosure, and photographic records. This provides a very different kind of presentation and a lot fewer words.

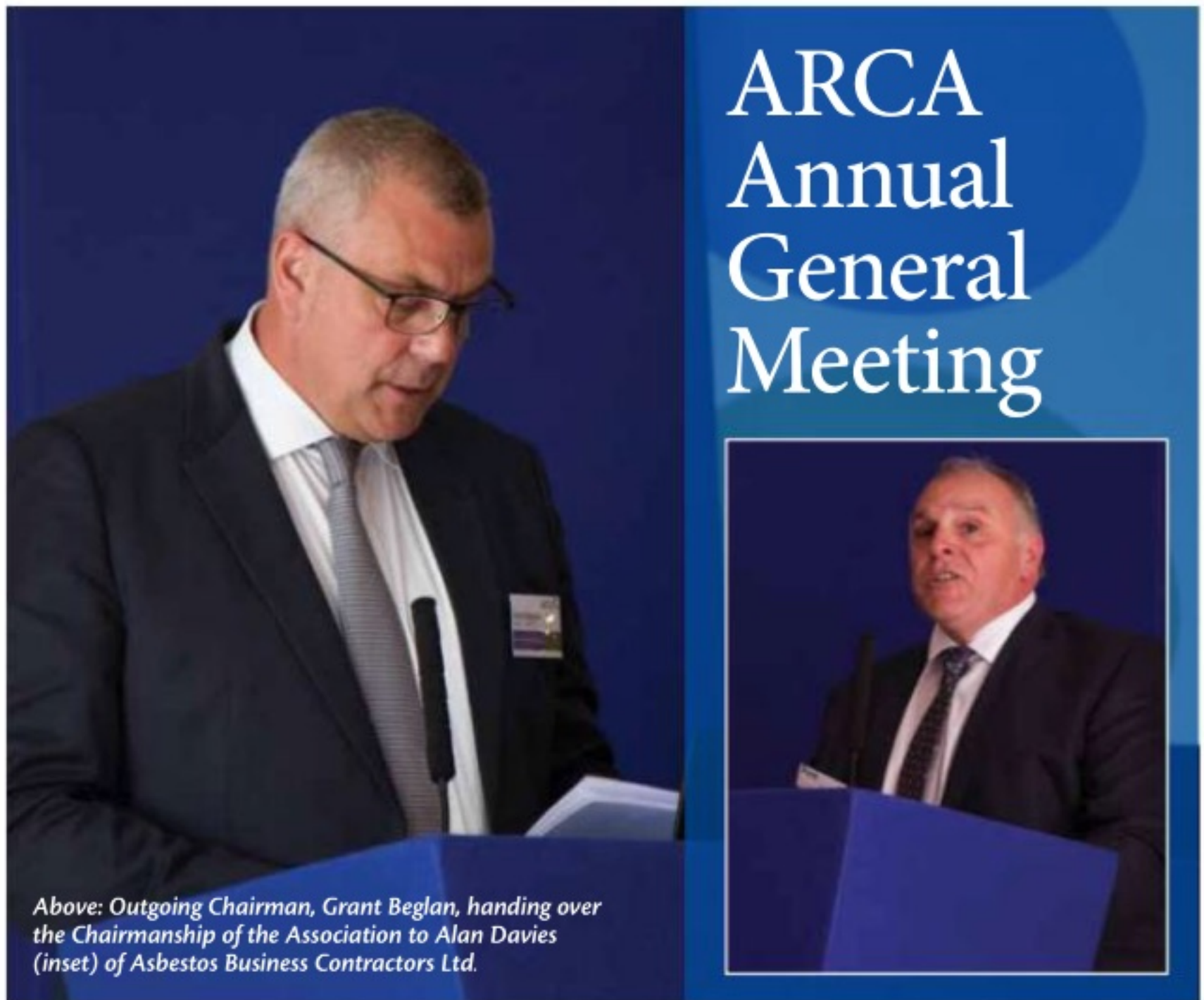
Short-Term Employment

When HSE moved from having licensed labour agencies the expectation, and the clear line that HSE were taking, was that the responsibility for having asbestos workers on site belongs to the notifying licensed contractor. This is because they are employed by the licensed contractor and this is inherent in the regulations. However, this employment can be short-term employment.

HSE now refer to short term employees rather than agency labour. When HSE hear licensed contractors talking about having problems with agency labour, HSE will be saying "I know but we gave you the licence, you have the power and you have the responsibility". If the worker a licensed contractors is employing is not under their control, or he is self-employed, or some other model, he needs his own licence.

HSE is looking for concurrent control of short term employed asbestos workers by those who have got the licence and are notifying the work. HSE will be looking for evidence of worker competence and that licence holders can demonstrate they know their 'short-term employees' are competent.

There are debates about RPE and PPE, the law requires that the employer supplies them. Asbestos removal operatives will come with their favourite bit of RPE and say "I am using this", HSE understand that. If the licensed contractor's representative has examined it and it is good quality then fine, but HSE wouldn't expect to see a licensed contractor advertising for labour and stating that the labour must come with their own RPE. If they do it is a benefit, if they don't the legal responsibility is with the licensed contractor. HSE would always expect to see the records, medicals, face fits and checks for a short-term employee in the same way they would expect for a permanent member of staff. HSE expect licence holders to have evidence that workers who are working for them, and who are employed by them, are being treated the same way as any other employee.



Above: Outgoing Chairman, Grant Beglan, handing over the Chairmanship of the Association to Alan Davies (inset) of Asbestos Business Contractors Ltd.

32nd ARCA Annual General Meeting was held for the first time at Lords Cricket Ground, London on the 6th October.

The Chairman, Grant Beglan, welcomed everyone to the AGM, and thanked Archie Mitchell, Head of the HSE Asbestos Licensing Unit (ALU), for kindly speaking at the meeting.

Archie provided the meeting with an informative presentation on 'what was new, progress being made and current issues'. An overview of Archie's presentation is provided in a separate article within this edition of ARCA News on page 5.

Following Archie's presentation, the Chairman introduced the Associations' Chief Executive, ARCA Staff Members and Committee Chairmen to report on the activities of the Association over the past 12 months and outline the plans for the future.

Members present heard that in August ARCA began to issue CSCS cards for operatives. Also, it was reported that ARCA had developed the experienced worker route for operatives to gain an NVQ, and that ARCA is still the only provider of that method of assessment.

It was also reported that the CITB, under their new remit, is keen to set training standards for the construction industry as a whole and carry out some third-party quality assurance of that training provision. As one of the Sector Representative Organisations, ARCA will be assisting CITB in developing this.

ATaC members heard that a Trailblazer Apprenticeship Scheme for analysts and surveyors was in the process of being

developed. The standard has been accepted by the Institute for Apprenticeships, and ATaC are now awaiting approval of the end-point assessment. This scheme will allow analytical laboratories to take on apprentices and take advantage of the generous financial funding that is available for their training, qualifications and assessment.

This AGM was the final meeting as Chairman for Grant Beglan, as he handed over the Chairmanship of the Association to Alan Davies of Asbestos Business Contractors Ltd. Alan closed the meeting with his incoming Chairman's speech and stated that:

'The Governing Council is dedicated to continuing the challenge of raising the standards in the whole of our asbestos industry by introducing further qualifications and improving the standards of all employees, whether based on-site or in the office. Also assisting our members with practical help by providing competent advice and a helping hand where needed.'

Following the meeting members enjoyed a 3-course silver service lunch in the Thomas Lord Suite, and were entertained by former world snooker champion, Dennis Taylor, who provided the after-dinner speech.

Feedback on the venue was very positive so Lords Cricket Ground has already been booked for 2018. The ARCA AGM is always held on the first Friday of October, so in next year this will be the 5th October, so please put this date in your diary now.

