



4th January 2010

MEDIA RELEASE

GOSHA Launches Asbestos Safety Training

GOSHA is delighted to announce the availability of asbestos safety training. This training is available to all business throughout the Bailiwick.

Two types of courses will be available:

- **Managing Asbestos**
Aimed at providing individuals responsible for the management of premises with the knowledge necessary to ensure compliance with the Guernsey Asbestos Approved Code of Practice.
- **Asbestos Awareness**
A training session for all maintenance, installation and construction staff who may come into contact with asbestos during the course of their duties.

GOSHA Chairman, Andrew Mills, emphasises that “this training can literally save lives and improve the long term health of workers throughout the Bailiwick. This training is being presented on a not-for-profit basis – providing an opportunity for local business to equip their staff at a cost-effective level.”

The training is being supported by the Health & Social Services Department, who are providing the venues in Guernsey. Director of Corporate Services for HSSD, Mr Richard Evans, emphasised that “HSSD is keen to ensure that information about the dangers of asbestos is given to as many people as possible, to reduce the extremely unpleasant health effects. HSSD maintenance personnel will be attending the training, and we are pleased to support GOSHA in providing venues for the courses”.

The training will be delivered by local specialists:

Mr Angus McClellan of NAS Laboratories Ltd,

who is a qualified asbestos surveyor and a former HSE Inspector.

Mr Jonathan Webb,

the Health & Safety Manager of HSSD and a Chartered Health & Safety Practitioner.

Mr Jonathan Coyde, of Copollo & Coyde Ltd,

a local Health & Safety consultant and a Chartered Health & Safety Practitioner.

The Health & Safety Executive in the UK highlights that asbestos is “The single greatest cause of work-related deaths in the UK”. Asbestos materials were used in buildings right up to the late 1990’s. Use of some materials continued in the Channel Islands even after the UK banned them, until they were banned here also.

GOSHA committee member and recent winner of the Chairman’s Award, Beckie Gabriel, is concerned that many people don’t even realise that they are likely to come into contact with asbestos materials. If you work in any of the following occupations, and are working on a building built or refurbished before 2000, you may come in to contact with asbestos:

- Heating and ventilation engineers
- Demolition workers
- Carpenters and joiners
- Plumbers
- Roofing contractors
- Painters and decorators
- Plasterers
- Construction workers
- Flooring specialists
- Fire and burglar alarm installers
- Shop fitters
- Gas fitters
- Computer installers
- General maintenance staff eg caretakers
- Telecommunications engineers
- Building surveyors
- Cable layers
- Electricians

Richard Brown, Chief Inspector of the Guernsey Health & Safety Executive, highlights that the law in Guernsey requires employers, occupiers and employees to manage asbestos – to avoid exposure to people. “Asbestos is generally not a hazard if it is undamaged. However, all buildings are required to comply with the Health and Safety at Work (General) (Guernsey) Ordinance 1987. An Approved Code of Practice was published in 2010, providing details of how the law can be complied with. Training for staff who may come into contact with asbestos, or who are required to manage it, forms a significant part of the duties placed onto organisations.”

Each training session will be one day in duration. It is important that candidates attend the full training. There will be an assessment at the end of the course.

The course fees are £60 per person.

Dates of the training are:

3 rd Feb 2011	Asbestos Awareness
17 th Feb 2011	Managing Asbestos
3 rd Mar 2011	Asbestos Awareness
17 th Mar 2011	Asbestos Awareness
7 th Apr 2011	Asbestos Awareness
21 st Apr 2011	Managing Asbestos
5 th May 2011	Asbestos Awareness
19 th May 2011	Asbestos Awareness

A further date for training to be held in Alderney will be announced shortly

Persons interested in attending the training should email the GOSHA team at gosha@btinternet.com

INFORMATION FOR EDITORS:

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibre, which was used in many building products over a number of decades. Damage to materials containing asbestos can release asbestos fibres, which enter the lungs and can lead to serious health conditions – such as asbestosis or mesothelioma.

Information about health and safety of asbestos can be found at

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm>

The local Approved Code of Practice can be downloaded from

http://www.hse.guernsey.gg/PDFs/ACOP_Asbestos_Revised_12052010.pdf

Information about GOSHA

Guernsey Occupational Safety and Health Association (GOSHA) is a not-for-profit organisation which promotes workplace health & safety throughout the Bailiwick.

GOSHA holds regular open-events relating to special interest topics. Forthcoming events include a presentation on the management of heavy plant machinery by Finning Ltd on the 27th January. Events about marine equipment safety and racetrack safety are also planned for the first quarter of the year.

GOSHA receives no central funding and is entirely funded by members' subscriptions. Membership categories include large corporate organisations, small and medium sized businesses and individuals.

The Guernsey Health & Safety Executive supports the GOSHA committee. Richard Brown – Chief Inspector of Health & Safety comments “GOSHA presents a good opportunity for local organisations to network and share ideas and solutions to ensure best practices in health & safety”.

The GOSHA website can be found at www.gosha.org.gg

Photograph and Interview opportunity

A photograph and interview opportunity is available with Mr Jonathan Webb, Vice-Chairman of GOSHA and Mr Angus McClellan. Media representative will be able to photograph Mr McClellan in asbestos protective equipment without any risk of exposure to asbestos materials and to interview him about asbestos issues within the Channel Islands.

The photograph and interview opportunity is available at 11:00 on Thu 6th Jan 2010 at the Corporate Headquarters of HSSD. Media representatives wishing to attend should contact Jonathan Webb on 07839 106140 so that arrangements can be made.

Queries or questions relating to this media release should be directed to the GOSHA Vice-Chairman, Mr Jonathan Webb 07839 106140 or gosha@btinternet.com