



ASBESTOS IN SOIL WORKING GROUP

The interest in establishing an asbestos in soil working group was first raised at the Amsterdam workshop in November 2016 and the proposals for the working group were presented and agreed at the Milan workshop in June this year.

Asbestos is a common and challenging contaminant in soil; a legacy of wide spread historic use in buildings and poor historic control of construction waste, building demolition, and re-use of crushed demolition aggregate as made ground.



Hazard/risk perception and acceptance can vary widely amongst stakeholders and the management of asbestos in soil can vary widely as a result. Differing stakeholder positions on risk acceptance or risk avoidance (zero tolerance) can have a significant impact on project designs, programmes, and costs, and there is little harmonisation in approach across Europe.



This is a high interest, risk driving, and high cost issue facing brownfield development and NICOLE is well placed to provide a pan-European perspective, identify opportunities for harmonisation, improve awareness and understanding, promote greater consistency and advocate a pragmatic, sustainable approach.



The currently proposed scope for the WG is as follows:

- Collate and benchmark existing guidance and standards across Europe
- Identify currently employed remediation treatment and disposal options
- Identify existing research efforts into characterisation, risk assessment and remediation, and identify research opportunities that could support a sustainable pragmatic approach
- Share case studies that support this approach or identify the pitfalls of alternatives

If you are interested in joining this new group and actively contributing, the first WG session takes place on Wednesday 4th October in Copenhagen. You are welcome to join and influence the group's success!

Chair: Simon Cole, AECOM.