

SoBRA Subgroup – Technical Panel

Draft Terms of Reference (March 2018)

Membership

By invitation from those accredited as ASoBRA.

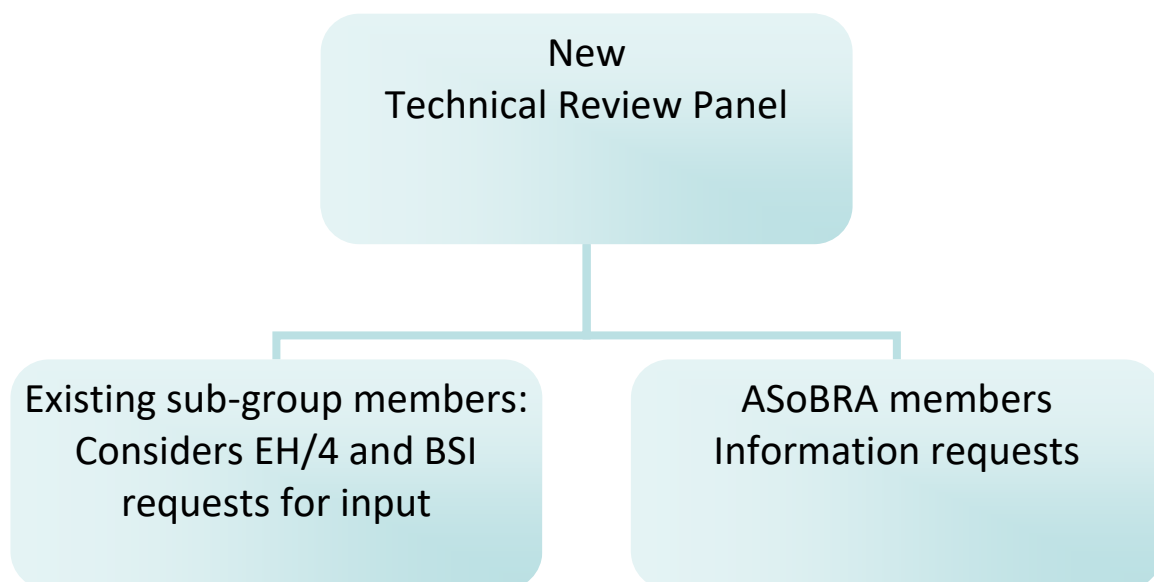
Details of the initiative

Increasingly SoBRA is being asked to review and comment not only upon draft standards (UK and European) but also upon changing UK guidance. SoBRA has a core aim to assist in the development of future guidance, either through coordinated responses to consultation documents or by providing direct input to guidance.

SoBRA currently has a standards Subgroup, but this sub-group does not currently have a remit to review all guidance changes taking place. The sub-group also struggles to deliver timely commentary as it not have an extensive sub-group member base to call upon.

We therefore wish to invite all members qualified as ASoBRA to join a newly formed ‘SoBRA Technical Review Panel’.

The ‘SoBRA Technical Panel’ would be invited at an early opportunity to contribute to and shape the content of draft standards and UK guidance. It is not intended that this panel replaces the existing standards sub-group but would simply extend the numbers and widen its remit (see below).



The members of the ‘SoBRA Technical Review Panel’ would be listed upon the SoBRA website and recognition for their efforts will be publically expressed.

The Executive committee see this as an opportunity to widen our influence, deliver UK change and increase member participation in SoBRA, in addition to meeting our core objectives. The creation of this panel is therefore considered to be in line with our aims and is also supportive of our further growth and recognition.

Terms of reference

The purpose of the group is to influence, contribute and provide support to both national and international guidance development.

- SoBRA is a member organisation of EH/4 (Soil Quality), the technical committee responsible for British Standards and the UK input into ISO/TC190 and CEN/TC345 for International/European standardisation in the field of soil quality (see: <https://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/committees/50001294>).
- SoBRA is a member of the BSI technical committee for water quality.
- SoBRA is a member of the Land Forum and receives a number of UK guidance documents annually through this group for comment.
- SoBRA can expect to receive additional guidance documents both from its own internal sub-groups but also from other UK organisations.

The group would welcome any ASoBRA risk assessor interested in influencing standards that are related to land contamination risk assessment. Providing active participation in standardisation and developing guidance is important to ensure views of those with expertise in this field are represented and standards produced are relevant, valid, technically sound and deliverable.

To those whom accept membership we acknowledge that all may not always have an opinion or necessarily be available in the required timeframe for individual consultations. Documents received may not relate to an individual's area of expertise but we hope that our members will voluntarily seek to commit their views when they can in a timely manner.

We seek to form the group by:

1. Inviting all those ASoBRA risk assessors to partake
2. Those wishing to participate would be listed and acknowledged upon the SoBRA website
3. An email circulation list would be established and managed by the EC sponsor
4. Hold a start up conference call to discuss ways of working including agreement amongst the group on the best methodology for sharing documents, consolidating comments and timescales
5. The EC Sponsor would collate and share documents received for distribution
 - a. EC sponsor to discuss with Mike Quint (current standards lead) for early notice

As the panel would be representing the SoBRA committee a degree of consideration and control should be considered and discussed. It is consequently suggested that the panel return their comments to the Executive Committee for consolidation/ cursory review and SoBRA then deliver.

The EC sponsor is to consider the best approach with the group and revisit the effectiveness or need for compiling within 12mths.

Individuals commenting to a document would be referred to as XXXXX, Company X, acting on behalf of the SoBRA Technical Panel. If views were an ASoBRA risk assessor's own and not necessarily those of their employer, the 'Company X' would be omitted.

Membership of the group will be revisited regularly by the EC Sponsor (Geraint Williams) and recommendations to the member list or improvements in organisation, made.

All reviews are to be unbiased and objective in line with the expectations of an individual member's professional code of conduct under their Chartership qualification.

Anticipated timescales and outputs

1. To be reactionary
2. Consolidated comments and/ or cursory due diligence of comments received.