

The Ceramics Industry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the meeting of CERIAC held on 14th June 2001

Present	Representing
Mr G Baker	Chair
Mr P R Monaghan	Secretary
Mr R Pearman	TUC
Mr K Morton	CBI
Dr M Moore	CBI
Mr A Hansbury	CBI
Mr F Morrall	CBI
Mr H Fraser	CBI
Mr M Morgan	HSE
Mr M Thomas	HSE
Miss L Ollerhead	HSE
Apologies	Observers
Mr L McCluskey	
Mr M Young	
Mr J Alcock	
Mr G Oakes	
Mr S Adams	
Mr D Beattie	
Ms J Dawson	

Summary of Action agreed:

1. INTRODUCTION

Chair to write to HSC expressing concerns that:

- **Government reorganisations should not reduce the effectiveness of HSE**
- **the link between health and safety and environmental regulatory activity has been adversely affected.**

2. SILICA

Secretary to raise concern with the author and seek clarification of the status of the paper given at the international conference.

3. **REVITALISING HEALTH AND SAFETY - CERAMICS INDUSTRY
'PLEDGE'**
Secretary to pursue the arrangements for the formal signing by the HSC commissioners in the Autumn.
4. **KILN WRECK CLEARANCE**
 - i. Secretary to enquire with other Sector Inspectors to consider whether guidance on this type of work could be extended to other industries (e.g. glass, steel etc.)
 - ii. A working group is to be set up to discuss kiln wreck clearances and whether the guidance needs updating.
5. **HSC FUNDED TRAINING BID**
Members to pass ideas on further training initiatives to the Secretary. One idea put forward was an interactive CD ROM.
6. **HIGH VISIBILITY CLOTHING**
 - i. Members to enquire whether their companies have encountered similar problems.
 - ii. Members to inform Secretary if new product would be beneficial to them.
7. **CONCORDAT**
 - i. Members to pass any ideas on initial proposal to the Secretary.
 - ii. Topic to be included on agenda for next meeting.
8. **AUTOMATED BRICK EQUIPMENT**
 - i. Industry representatives to meet to discuss current standards of guarding for brick machinery and way ahead.
 - ii. Secretary to contact this group with a view to joining the discussions.

0 CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The Chair informed members about Mr Beattie's impending resignation and that a replacement will need to be identified.

The Chair also informed members about the changes implemented by the General Election, in particular the move of HSC/E to the new Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions.

Action Agreed: Chair to write to HSC expressing concerns that:

- Government reorganisations should not reduce the effectiveness of HSE
- the link between health and safety and environmental regulatory activity has been adversely affected

1 Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2001
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 *Silica*

The first phase of the review will be completed by September. Members will receive a early draft of the findings, six weeks before the WATCH meeting.

Members have heard that the paper is to be presented at an international meeting prior to the WATCH meeting and felt that this was inappropriate before it had been fully considered by WATCH.

Action Agreed: Secretary to raise concern with the author and seek clarification of the status of the paper given at the international conference.

2.2 *Noise*

Authority's proposals on environmental noise levels at quarries. The working group has now completed their work and discussions have progressed to the next stage. The likely time scale for the implementation of the new limits is three years.

Members will receive updates on progress as they occur.

2.3 *Publications*

The Secretary had received no new publication ideas for inclusion in the chart distributed at the last meeting.

2.4 *Construction*

As part of the Ceramics Pledge, a working group has been formed to produce guidance on contractors for CDM clients. The guidance will be in the form of a BCC seminar. It is hoped that a representative from the construction group at HSE will work with the working group and address the seminar.

3 REVITALISING IAC'S

The next stage of the review will be the publication of a Discussion Document. Members were encouraged to comment on the content.

4 REVITALISING HEALTH AND SAFETY - CERAMICS INDUSTRY 'PLEDGE'

The proposals originally planned for this meeting have been postponed due to the logistics of getting all key stakeholders together. Three Commissioners have agreed to sign the pledge and it is proposed to coincide the next CERIAC meeting with an HSC meeting.

The details of the meeting will be discussed at the next Pledge Monitoring Group later this month.

The number of companies signing up to the pledge has been very encouraging and all companies are fully supportive of the initiative.

The Monitoring Group is currently looking at the issues of contractors, training, the provision of Occupational Health support and the quantifying of ill health cases.

Action Agreed: Secretary to pursue the arrangements for the formal signing by the HSC commissioners in the Autumn.

5 CERIAC WORK PLAN - FUTURE

PAPER CERIAC 01/07 by Secretary

An outline of the work plan, which will be presented to the Commission after the IAC review was discussed.

Action agreed: Any further comments on the content of the work plan to be passed to the Secretary by 2nd July.

6 CERIAC WORK PLAN - CURRENT

6.1 *Silica*

The guidance is now in the final stages and will be passed for publishing in the near future.

6.2 *Personal Protective Equipment*

The first draft of the PPE guidance has now gone to internal consultees for comments.

6.3 *Kiln Wreck Clearance*

The business case for the revision of the guidance has now been approved. Industry contacts will be required for familiarising the researcher with different types of kilns. Members recommended that other industries should be approached to learn from their experiences of hot working.

Members also noted that even though kiln wrecks are classed as high risk, they are not common occurrences. There was also concerns that the guidance would not tie in with the Ceramics Pledge.

Action agreed:

- i. Secretary to enquire with other Sector Inspectors to consider whether guidance on this type of work could be extended to other industries (e.g. glass, steel etc.)**
- ii. A working group is to be set up to discuss kiln wreck clearances and whether the guidance needs updating.**

7 HSC FUNDED TRAINING BID

PAPER CERIAC 01/08 by Secretary

HSE has been successful in obtaining funding to update the training course, CERISHEC. It is proposed that the course will be modular with some modules applying to all industries and others being industry specific.

A monitoring board has been set up to help with the update and has already met to discuss details.

Action agreed: Members to pass ideas on further training initiatives to the Secretary. One idea put forward was an interactive CD ROM.

8 POTTERIES SUBCOMMITTEE

The subcommittee has now combined with the BCC Whitewares Group, which met last week.

One of the main items on the agenda was private litigation. The number of accidents are decreasing but the number of claims are increasing. Some companies in the ceramic sector are finding it difficult to get insurance.

9 BALL MILLS

The working group met earlier this week, to hear the findings of the research carried out by SIRIUS. The findings will now be used to compile guidance notes on safe operation of the mills.

A skeleton for the guidance is being prepared, then the working group will meet again to draft the text.

10 HIGH VISIBILITY CLOTHING

PAPER CERIAC 01/06 by Secretary

Some industries have experienced high costs associated with the use of high visibility clothing and more importantly, reduced performance due to the laundering process.

A new high visibility product is currently being tested which eliminates the need for laundering. The product is made up of patches which can be torn off as they become worn, to reveal a new layer.

- Action agreed:**
- i. Members to enquire whether their companies have encountered similar problems.**
 - ii. Members to inform Secretary if new product would be beneficial to them.**

11 Any other business

11.1 Concordat

Paper CERIAC 01/09 by Secretary

Members had raised concerns that 'concordats', which define methods of communication and modes of interaction between HSE and individual (national) companies, may not be the best way forward when liaising with industry.

The Secretary presented a paper which adapts the idea so that the whole of industry is included. Companies, which have elected to be part of the concordat scheme, would have their health and safety performance reviewed over a set period of time and agree to a series of action points and standards to be agreed between HSE, employers and the unions.

Whilst there was some apprehension members agreed that the idea was worth debating further and that the details would need to be discussed in some depth.

- Action agreed:**
- Members to pass any ideas on initial proposal to the Secretary.**
 - Topic to be included on agenda for next meeting.**

11.2 *Sulphuric Acid*

Members were informed of a new study (as yet unpublished) which highlights dangers associated with sulphuric acid. The general view of members was that the substance is used in insignificant quantities in the ceramics industry.

The Secretary will keep members informed.

11.3 *Metal Based Pigments*

There is a proposal to undertake research into the risk of contamination rising from metal based pigments.

Members felt that the risk for the ceramics industry was minimal and that if the work was to proceed there should first be a pilot study which should also try and link measured contamination with actual exposure.

11.4 *Automated Brick Equipment*

The Secretary reported on concerns by Inspectors on the standard of guarding of automated plant in the brick industry. Members agreed that there was a need for consistency and a clear understanding of safe working practices.

- Action agreed:**
- i. Industry representatives to meet to discuss current standards of guarding for brick machinery and way ahead.**
 - ii. Secretary to contact this group with a view to joining the discussions**

12 **Date and venue of next meeting**

Tuesday 23rd October 2001, Rose Court, London

Close