

# ENGINEERING INDUSTRY NOISE TASK GROUP MINUTES OF 15<sup>TH</sup> MEETING, 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2004

Held at EEF, Broadway House, London.

## **Present**

Gary Booton – EEF (EINTG Chairman)  
Sarah Haynes – HSE Manufacturing Sector (EINTG Secretary)  
John Hustwick - Industrial Noise and Vibration Centre  
Bob Hanlon- EEF, West Midlands  
Tim Humphreys – Association of British Insurers  
Tim Ward – HSE  
Tarla Patel - HSE  
Eric Campbell – Wire Health and Safety Committee  
David Allison – Marine Painting Forum  
Louise Ward – EEF, London

## **Apologies**

D Brotherton – MMMA  
Ken Hardman –  
Martin Bevan – GMB  
Tony McCarthy – NUDAGO  
Stan Hardy – British Metal forming

Gary Booton welcomed everybody.

## **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting were accepted as a true record.

- Ideas to improve attendance:

This is a very big problem, and there were very few present for this meeting. The group is not viable if meetings continue to be so poorly attended and whilst some members do little to further the aims of EINTG.

The venue may have been a particular problem for this meeting as attendance is somewhat better when meetings are held in Birmingham.

**Action** G Booton and S Haynes meet to map out way forward for group, go back to members and canvass opinions.

EINTG have been approached to join the Manufacturing Sector Revitalising Network. Gary Booton is already a member of this forum and will also represent EINTG. This Network may offer opportunities to canvass new members.

- Hazmap deferred again due to absence of Martin Bevan

**Action** Place on agenda of next meeting.

- Web stats have not been obtained.

**Action** T Patel to do.

### Progress with toolbox talk

- HSE have found some money to produce this pack. It will comprise training material on cards, illustrations of hearing protection, the CD that simulates hearing loss and HSE free leaflets contained in a robust folder. HSE publications are proposing to sell the talk between £10 and £15. EINTG felt that people who are keen enough to do noise training would not be put off by the cost. Information on likely sales will be helpful.

**Action** G Booton to canvass regional EEF associations

- The protection value of different hearing protection varies. Over protection can also cause problems and reduce acceptance by the workforce.

**Action** S Haynes to make sure that this is covered in the pack.

- GMB are to trial the talk. Also offers from EEF West Midlands and we may manage to find a small company who are willing to trial. We are hoping to get the talk published in January 2005.

- Agreed to launch the talk in April to tie in with launch of Euro-Week. SHP article to coincide.

**Action** R Hanlon to write.

- Launch events will help to raise awareness. The real measure of success will be if we get owners of small companies to do the training. EEF local reps will publicise, but this will not necessarily reach small firms. The Business Link website and Local Authority support for start up firms are two possible avenues.

**Action** Sarah to get in touch with LAU.

Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADS) have been a useful tool in HSE's dealings with the Agriculture industry. Noise seminars run on this basis are one way of reaching small companies. In order to stimulate a good turnout, companies need some perceived benefit from attending, such as HSE not visiting or some insurance benefit.

SSHCC meeting 8<sup>th</sup> December- try to persuade one of the larger yards to run an awareness day for all their contractors?

**Action** T Ward and S Haynes to explore possibility of SHADs.

The Product Safety Manufacturer's Association may be willing to publicise the pack.

**Action** S Haynes to contact N Day to discuss.

EEF to ask customers about what they think- supply feedback form in pack.

### Noise control checklist and other guidance

- No comments have yet been received on the noise control checklist or on the German case studies.

**Action** S Haynes to circulate again for comments, get placed on website.

- Issue of freely available case studies only being released in priced publications.

**Action** *T Ward continuing to plug away.*

- There has been no progress with development of compressor case studies. Decided to broaden scope to advise on noise sources associated with air and steam systems. There are a number of small changes that can be made to achieve big gains. Noise generated by these systems are a problem for many industries. HSE had an information sheet that covered this which is now out of print. Additional drivers to stimulate better control of air or steam is reduced energy costs- anecdote about a soft drinks manufacturer who had a “leak week” where everybody from chairman to cleaner had to report leaks, this saved the use of one compressor. Climate change is another driver. There may be a possible partnership opportunity with Envirowise. Atlas Copco sells silencers and may be prepared to help.

**Action** *T Ward and S Haynes to progress.*

### **Noise induced hearing loss case studies**

No progress. Intended to illustrate the impact that hearing loss has on people’s lives. Union members thought that they would be able to get from their litigation departments.

**Action** *members to forward suitable studies to S Haynes.*

### **Plans for Noise control seminars**

INVC and EEF proposing to run some ‘expert’ seminars to coincide with launch of new regs.

**Action** *P Wilson & G Booton.*

Regional EEF and HSE are planning some more general awareness raising seminars

**Action** *J Powell looking into.*

### **Progress with Physical Agents (Noise) Directive**

Consultation finished end of June, generally people in agreement with recommendations. Hoping to go to HSC with regulations Feb 2005, implementation 2006. Because of the proposal for common commencement dates for regulations this may slip to April 2006.

### **Planned events for European Week of Health and Safety 2005**

IOSH are to take the lead on Euro Week. 20 April 2005 launch in EU parliament on International Noise awareness day. Launch with packs, stands, seminars and workshops. Sarah Hamilton, from IOSH is running it (tel: 0116 257 3100, e mail: sarah.hamilton@IOSH.co.uk), are any members of this group interested in taking part? Euro Week will be 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2005. Tim doing seminar with the Institute of Acoustics during that week.

**Action** *inform T Patel of any other events.*

**Any other business**

“Acoustic shock” Institute of Acoustics meeting on acoustic shock. HSE have a position statement on acc shock, just about to update and place on website. No reported cases to HSE on injury, lost time etc.

**Dates and venues of next meetings**

Will be circulated after G Booton and S Haynes have met to discuss way forward for group.