

QUARRIES NATIONAL JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 21st meeting of the Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 18th March 2003 at 10.30am in HSE Rose Court, London

Present

Mr T Rose
Mr R Pearce
Mrs L Weston
Mrs H Turner
Mr A Miller
Mr J Byng
Mr D McClelland
Mr R Thorpe
Mr R Graham
Mr B Monson
Mr J Close
Mr M Isles
Mr M Pemberton
Mr M Mellow
Mr C Kirby
Mr B Nelson
Mr T Mellish
Mr R Allen
Mr D Sharman
Mr P Fairlamb
Mr K Dobbie
Mr C Webb
Mr P Foster

Representing

Chair – HSE
Secretary – HSE
Minute Secretary - HSE
HSE
HSE
DEFRA (Speaker)
Johnston Roadstone Ltd (Speaker)
GMB
Foster Yeoman Ltd
HSE NI
Lafarge Aggregates
Quarry Products Association
China Clay Association
T & G
Silica and Moulding Sands Association
British Aggregates Association
TUC
Environmental Services Association
Hanson
CoalPro
Sandsfield Gravel Co Ltd
EPIC
Institution of Materials, Minerals and Mining

Apologies

Mr D Pimblett
Mr M Smith
Mr J Atkinson
Mr I Glendinning
Mr R Claydon

Summary of Action agreed:

2. WORKFORCE TRAINING

Members to send email addresses to Rob.Pearce@hse.gsi.gov.uk advising him of relevant person to contact within their organisations on training needs.

10. VEHICLE SHEETING

Action – R Pearce to find out from FOD Safety Unit when the information sheet will be published.

1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members and guest speakers Mr Byng – DEFRA and Mr McClelland – Johnston Roadstone Ltd. Also welcomed was Mr R Graham substituting for Mr R Claydon, Mr B Nelson substituting for Mr I Glendinning and Mr R Thorpe replacing Mr D Pimblett.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER 2002

MINERAL WASTE DIRECTIVE – A MILLER

Still awaiting further guidance.

SILICA – R PEARCE

Work on the Silica essential control sheets is progressing they should be published shortly.

WORKFORCE TRAINING – R PEARCE

R Pearce reported back of the disappointment at continued poor take up of places despite advert in quarry factfile No 25 & 28 together with the promotion work of Foster Yeoman and Hanson. Members were reminded that delegates did not have to be TUC members to attend this course.

Points raised

Members felt that the course had not been advertised enough.

Agreed Action: Members to send email addresses to Rob.Pearce@hse.gsi.gov.uk advising him of relevant person within their organisation to contact on training needs.

ACCIDENT AETIOLOGY – P FOSTER (IOME)

Mr Foster gave a report on progress so far. A full report to be given at the next QNJAC meeting.

CHECKLIST SYSTEMS – C WEBB (EPIC)

The quarry safety checklist is now available from EPIC.

3. **HSE CHANGES – T ROSE**

Members were informed of the changes currently taking place in HSE. The chair advised that this might be his last meeting; this is yet to be finalised. He said that he was proud at what this industry had done and thanked all the members for their hard work.

4. **EXPLOSIVES: SECURITY AND AMMONIUM NITRATE – J BYNG (DEFRA)**

Mr Byng explained about the Government concerns with the large quantities of Ammonium Nitrate (AN) stored in this country and the possibility of accidental or deliberate detonation.

Due to the vast majority of AN traded in Great Britain being used as a fertilizer (DEFRA) the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have been asked to make a regulation which would make the AN around safer.

The proposed regulations would reduce the safety risks posed by the production, transportation and importation of AN. These regulations would require anybody in Great Britain producing, importing or storing relevant material to obtain a certificate to indicate that such material has passed a Detonation Resistance Test (DRT).

However it has been agreed that provisions need be made for certain industries e.g. Quarries. It is hoped that the industry would be made exempt from having to obtain a DRT Certificate.

Points raised

What has been done about transportation?

DEFRA felt that this industry should be exempt so that the AN could get into the quarries.

What was happening about the amount of AN stored?

A Miller reported that they were currently revising the Code of Practice on the 'Storing of Explosives'.

DEFRA hopes that it will be agreed for companies with demonstrated needs to be made exempt from having to obtain a (DRT) Certificate.

Next stage is for the proposed regulations to be put to the ministers at the end of March 2003, it is then expected that the Regulations will come into force by 1st May 2003.

5. **ELECTRICITY TARGETS IN SMALL COMPANIES – R PEARCE**

HSE has visited a number of quarries to carry out inspections of electrical installations. These visits indicated that while there were issues to address at most of the quarries the main areas of concern were managerial. The findings illustrate the effects of the declining presence of qualified electrical engineering expertise within the industry that has been evident over the last 10 years or so. There is a

need for people working to be competent and know what the maintenance scheme is in place. Members were reminded that a competent person must be on hand.

6. HEALTH TARGETS – H TURNER

The way forward and timescales from the Health Target Working party meeting held on 11th February 2003.

Simple guidance to be produced along the lines of the existing 'Health Surveillance' with extensive references rather than rewriting existing guidance. This guidance to be published on a revitalised QNJAC website for ease of updating.

New guidance to include: Fitness for work; sickness absence management; health surveillance; rehabilitation; ergonomics; stress; drugs and alcohol; welfare; working time; ethics and disability discrimination; contractors; working time; record keeping; health promotion.

New draft guidance to be produced by September 2003 ready for the next QNJAC meeting.

7. HARD TARGETS IN SMALL COMPANIES – MR D MCCLELLAND

Mr McClelland manager of Johnston Roadstone explained to members about the current work undertaken and the improvements his company has made.

Main points:

The company has trained all of its workforce of 21 people to a very high standard, out of that 21 people there are 6 people who are able to run the site;

It has very good welfare facilities;

They have a nurse on site every day for 30 minutes – this scheme has been in place for 8 years;

They have annual medicals;

In 2001 the company won the John Crabbe trophy for promoting health and safety in the quarry industry. They also won last year the SME trophy.

8. HSE RESEARCH – H TURNER

Mrs Turner reported about some research work, which had recently been carried out by The British Geological Survey on behalf of HSE. The next stage of the research was for HSE to do sampling and petrography of the crushed rock, dusts etc.

Way Forward: at the next QNJAC meeting consider implications of the current mapping and planned research, and arrange a guest speaker from the British Geological Survey. Mr Rose asked members to help with the research work by informing HSE of any problem areas they were aware of.

Points raised

QPA asked for there disappointment to be noted in not being involved with this project from the offset.

HSE pointed out that the work had followed the advice received from the QPA following earlier consultation.

9. OWNERSHIP OF HEALTH AND SAFETY – K DOBBIE

Mr Dobbie raised concerns about people still being killed in quarries. He asked if HSE could keep members informed of recent accidents. Mr Rose advised that due to legal reason this could not be done by HSE. He felt it best for QPA or TUC to take on the role of collating accidents for the industry.

Mr Dobbie raised the question about ownership of health and safety. Should this be HSE? He was advised that the ownership for health and safety was the responsibility of the individual company.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Roll Over Protection on Personnel Vehicles – J Close

J Close asked the questions as to whether or not roll over protection on certain vehicles was needed.

He was advised to look at the Quarries Regs and the Work Equipment directive. If vehicles are pre-1998, then they do not have to be fitted. Roll over protection only needs to be fitted if there is a risk of a vehicle overturning.

Vehicle Sheeting – M Isles

HSG 148 (Sheeting and Unsheeting of Tipper Lorries) has now been withdrawn, and is due to be redrafted. In the interim an information sheet will be published. This has already been produced by the Metals and Minerals Sector, and has now been passed onto HSE's FOD Safety Unit for consultation.

Agreed Action: **Action – R Pearce to find out from FOD Safety Unit when the information sheet will be published.**

Hillhead Safety Award

It was suggested that this year's hillhead safety award be presented to the Institute of Quarrying for its good work on NVQ's. Members agreed to this.

11. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7th October 2003 to be held in HSE Rose Court, London at 10.30am.

Close