

Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances Paper		ACTS/15 /2010	
Meeting date:	11 November 2010	Open Govt. Status:	Open
Type of paper:	Information	File Ref:	2010/544846
Exemptions:	None		

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Update on Partnership Teams

A paper by Jenny Hagan

Following on from ACTS paper ACTS/7/2010, this is a further update on the 'Dust and Fumes' Project, which aims to reduce the incidents of respiratory disease by raising awareness of the long term health effects of inhaling dust and fumes in the workplace.

To recap, this is work done by the Respiratory Diseases Team within the Long Latency Health Risks Division (LLHRD). Using information gathered over a number of years, five 'high risk' industries have been identified for targeted initiatives to raise awareness of risks and change behaviours – stoneworking, construction, foundries, quarries and welding. Activities within these five areas will be managed and developed by individual 'partnership teams', with membership from organisations and individuals having the capacity and influence to drive forward change.

Response so far has been positive, with members of the partnership teams, (representing employers and employees, trade associations, equipment and material suppliers, etc) showing a keen interest in working together and developing and delivering initiatives (with HSE support). A brief overview of some of this work is presented below.

Welding: The welding partnership team have met three times (with further meetings arranged for December 2010 and February 2011). The group is very keen to progress with the development of key messages, and has been considering examples of leaflets, power point presentations, posters, etc. that have been prepared by members. The possibility of using a DVD will also be considered. Members have offered resources (such as their websites) to spread messages and host documents, etc, that may be developed. Members are also keen to work with HSE on the development of a vocational training tool for 16 - 19 year old students. The Association of Welding Distribution has held 4 industry seminars across the country to raise awareness of dust and fume issues.

Stoneworkers: This partnership team has met twice to date. The team has agreed a 'badged statement' outlining the scope of the project and details the partners involved with their accompanying logos, reinforcing the industry partnership approach. A web community has been set up to facilitate the sharing of information between partners. Work has gone on to review and

amend the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Stonemasonry resulting in all vocational qualifications for stoneworkers containing more information on Health and Safety. This led to Construction Skills reviewing all other relevant NOS to make similar changes where possible.

Quarries: This partnership team has met twice to date. The Mineral Products Association has held 3 H&S Seminars for employees in the industry which included sessions on control of Dust. A web community has been set up to facilitate the sharing of information between partners. The Institute of Quarrying (the education/training body for the quarrying industry) is to host a series of 15 talks to raise awareness of 'Dust ' and promote good working practices. The Mineral Product Qualifications Council is planning a 'Dust' Control and Measurement of RCS' training course.

Foundries: This partnership team has met three times to date with a fourth meeting planned in March 2011. The team has also agreed a badged statement similar to that for stoneworkers. Many ideas and suggestions have been made by the team on how to communicate key messages, an article has appeared in the Foundry Trade Journal, awareness of COSHH issues are being raised in the industry as well as looking to include reference to COSHH in NVQs. NEPSI have produced PIMEX videos on silica dust control and LEV in connection with fettling and shot blasting and the team are looking to make these and other relevant videos available to all foundries. Induction procedures for those new to foundries is also being looked at.

Construction: The construction partnership team is still being developed and at the time of writing this paper had not yet held its first meeting (this is planned for early November). There has been an excellent response from those contacted and invited to be members, and support has been secured from representatives from major areas of the industry.