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HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORT & MACHINERY WORKING GROUP
REPORT FOR 18 DECEMBER 2009 AIAC MEETING

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IN 2009-10 & BEYOND

Background

1. The original 'Transport' Group was set up as a 'task & finish' Project Group in 2005. After the first review and scoping meeting it was agreed that the main value and purpose of the Group was to identify and share information on key issues, identify research needs, develop and promote guidance in a more coordinated way. This does not lend itself to a 'task & finish' approach. As previously reported to AIAC, the major visible activity of the Group has been annual Workshops, focussing on particular themes. The last of these was held in December 2008. However, there has been continuing discussion and liaison between individual members and their organisations on a range of issues and events since.

Activity in 2009-10

2. A 'Transport & Machinery Workshop' has not yet been convened (in 2009) as it was preferred to wait until HSE's communications strategy for the Agriculture Revisited initiative, extension of the 'Make The Promise' campaign for 2009-10 and beyond and HSE's future presence and attendance at shows and other technical events, etc, became clearer.

3. However, during the current work year, the work of the Group has been progressed through liaison and initiatives between partners and at events, some of which have been jointly sponsored with other organisations and agencies. For example:

4. **Research and Guidance** - Members of the Group have played a major part in the development of new guidance on tractor-trailer braking. This is based on research sponsored jointly by HSE, DfT and manufacturers (through the AEA). This arose from discussions at previous workshops and has led to leading manufacturers printing booklets based on common text. BAGMA have also undertaken research and are revising their guidance on the Vehicle Health Check Scheme. These will form a core

part of publicity and demonstrations at SHADs etc throughout the remainder of 2009/10 and beyond.

5. Technical representatives from a number of member organisations have also agreed to assist in the revision of HSG89 "Safeguarding of Agricultural Machinery – Guidance for Designers, Suppliers and Users". This is being converted into a web-based format as part of the 'Equipment Supply Chain' Project under Agriculture Revisited. The AEA, BAGMA, NFU and other industry training and professional bodies (eg IAgRE) are also acting as a Steering Group for this Project.

6. Most recently HSE has been involved in producing a multi-lingual, interactive DVD for induction and training of supervisors and operators involved in harvesting and transport of potatoes. This was produced in association with the Potato Council and was launched at Potato 2009, Harrogate on 25 November. This DVD will be sent to all potato growers in the country, and provides a good model for other industry 'Commodity Groups' to develop a similar approach.

7. **Awards** – The support of industry partners for the 'Equipment Supply Chain' Project has also led to the establishment of Awards for safe design of machinery and student projects. A prize was presented to CaseIH as one of the RASE prizes at the Royal Show in July 2009. This received publicity in the media. The IAgRE will award their Student Project prize at their Annual Conference in May 2010.

8. **Safety & Health Awareness Days (SHADs)** - Transport issues continue to be a major theme in the practical demonstrations at Farming SHADs. These include safe use of telehandlers, ATVs, overhead power lines (OHPLs) safety and safety of children. HSE and Lantra Awards held an updating seminar for instructors to ensure examples of incidents used and good practice messages are current and relevant. A typical example is the need to expand the information presented on selection and maintenance of trailer braking systems. Transport is also one of the central themes of Forestry SHADs, which include operation of forwarders and handling of logs, and active management of work sites.

9. **'Transport Safety' Awareness events** – Several of these new events have been developed and delivered in 2009, in addition to the traditional HSE-run SHADs. These arose following discussions at the last AIAC Transport Workshop held in December 2008 and a successful inter-agency pilot event organised at G's in Cambs on the theme of 'Safe on-road, Safe off-road' in 2009. The concept was developed further in two events run in conjunction with HSE, Network Rail, ORR and the electricity supply industry - through EDF, representing the Energy Network Association (ENA).

10. The first 'national' event was hosted and convened by IOSH, mainly targeting consultants and safety advisors in larger organisations. A series of interviews with the speakers covering Agriculture Revisited and the specific transport safety topics covered at the event are available on the IOSH 'You Tube' site: (e.g. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Clh7Hq2QGP0&feature=player_profilepage).

11. The second event was aimed specifically at 'Authorised Users' of rail crossings, convened by ORR and Network Rail. A number of farmers attended. These events were both held at the Forestry Commission, Cannock Chase and a significant outcome of these successful events is that Network Rail are arranging to install a complete 'user-worked' rail crossing permanently at Cannock. This will be available for the major APF Forestry Show in September 2010, as well as corporate and open

training events, HSE SHADs for a range of industries, etc throughout 2010 and beyond.

12. **Publicity** – In addition to the above examples of media coverage, partner organisations have carried a wide range of articles on transport and machinery issues in their respective journals and newsletters, eg NFU, BAGMA and Unite. HSE has also regularly placed detailed 'Academy' articles in Farmers Weekly, as well as other leading journals.

Membership and Scope

13. Members have commented that the occasional Workshops provide a unique forum for discussion amongst the major organisations in the industry and are an effective way to update and promote collaborative/coordinated working. The membership of the Group covers a wide range of organisations and includes other Government Departments and Agencies. As a consequence, attendance at Workshops is flexible, depending upon the topics for discussion, although the core members of the Group are consistent. These include representatives from all organisations represented on AIAC as well as other bodies.

14. This broad 'church' provides a sound base for consultation and networking and is considered adequate to encompass the wider remit of the Group - extended to include machinery as well as transport issues - as agreed by AIAC earlier in 2009.

Future meetings

15. The next 'Transport & Machinery Workshop' is proposed in March 2010, before the 'show season'. The agenda will include a review of the accident history related to machinery as well as transport, and this will inform a discussion on the format and content of the web-based guidance for designers, suppliers and users on 'Safeguarding Agricultural Machinery', being developed from HSE's publication HSG89.

16. Members of this Group will also be apprised of the latest developments of Agriculture Revisited and the next steps in the 'Make The Promise' campaign and it is intended to discuss what we all plan to do at Shows, etc, during 2010-11. In this context, it is intended to agree key messages and publicity opportunities (by other stakeholders, rather than just HSE) – in line with the call for the AIAC to become an 'action' based committee and to reflect and support the HSE Board's new Strategy for 'The Health and Safety of Great Britain\ Be part of the solution".

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