

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE			
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)			
<b>Meeting date:</b>	16 March 2011	<b>FOI status:</b>	Fully open
<b>Type of paper:</b>	Above-the-line	<b>Exemptions:</b>	None
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<b>Cleared by:</b>	Philip White, Chair of CONIAC, on 1 March 2011		

## CONIAC Plan of Work 2011/2012

### A paper by Anthony Lees, Secretary to CONIAC

#### Purpose of the paper

For information, discussion and agreement at the meeting on 16 March 2011

CONIAC is asked to approve a draft Plan of Work for 2011/2012.  
CONIAC is asked to consider the work of its Standing Committees.

#### Background

1. CONIAC was reconstituted in March 2010 for a period of three years. Its terms of reference set out its aims and way of working. Among its aims is to “seek to stimulate action aimed at securing better health and safety outcomes in the industry in accordance with the goals of HSE’s Strategy.” Key to CONIAC’s way of working and the achievement of its aims is its establishment of a number of working groups which focus on particular matters and seek to encourage action by the industry. CONIAC monitors, and directs as necessary, the activities of the working groups.

#### Argument

2. CONIAC is now beginning its second year of business (March 2011 to March 2012) and it is appropriate that it should address the following two matters which fall due at this time.

#### Plan of Work

3. CONIAC should agree at this meeting a suitable Plan of Work for 2011/2012. A draft plan for consideration is at **Annex 1**.

**Recommendation:** That CONIAC agrees the draft Plan of Work

#### Standing Committees

4. Three of CONIAC’s working groups – the *Safety Working Group*, the *Health Risks Working Group*, and the *Working Well Together Steering Committee* - are of a type known as Standing Committees. Standing Committees have no defined lifespan and because of this CONIAC’s terms of reference require that each year it should make an assessment of the value of

continuing each Standing Committee. Where CONIAC determines that a Standing Committee should not continue the Chair (of CONIAC) shall formally terminate it. CONIAC is asked to consider whether or not to continue each of the three groups named above. Information on their activities in 2010/2011 and their plans for 2011/2012 is given in **Annex 2**.

**Recommendation:** That CONIAC agrees to the continuation of its Standing Committees.

### **Consultation**

5. The Chairs of the Standing Committees have provided information in relation to their groups.

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## Draft CONIAC Plan of Work for 2011/2012

CONIAC's activities aim to support the HSE Strategy by seeking improved outcomes in health and safety in construction.

### **Meetings**

1. CONIAC will meet three times in 2011/2012. The meetings will be in Rose Court and occur on 16 March, 13 July and 16 November. The following matters will be considered:

(a) March meeting - CONIAC Plan of Work for 2011/2012, Construction Division Plan of Work for 2011/2012 and Communications Strategy, Evaluation of CDM 2007

(b) July meeting – Proposed: Competence issues, Evaluation of CDM 2007, Work at Height Campaign by Safety Working Group

(c) November meeting – content to be decided.

### **Management of working groups**

2. CONIAC's working groups are the principal means for furtherance of its aims during 2011/2012. In connection with this:

(a) CONIAC shall consider a report on the recent activities of each of its working groups at each of the above meetings and, where necessary, give directions to them.

(b) Where CONIAC agrees to the establishment of a new working group, Members shall, where appropriate, nominate persons to serve on it. (For example, it may be appropriate to establish a working group during 2011/2012 to develop proposals for modifications to the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 if this appears necessary in the light of the findings of the evaluation).

(c) If asked for direct assistance of a practical sort by (the Chair of) any working group, CONIAC Members (and the organisations they represent) will consider how they can help. (For example, the Safety Working Group is developing a Work at Height Strategy and it has asked CONIAC Members to consider if they could help by acting as ambassadors for the strategy).

### **Assistance to Construction Division (CD)**

3. CONIAC Members (and the organisations they represent) to consider how they can assist CD, for example commenting on the CD plan of work and be ready to consider helping in other appropriate ways.

## **Supplementary information to draft Plan of Work**

A number of CONIAC members have indicated specific activities by their organisations that support CONIAC's aims and contribute to the HSE Strategy. These are set out below:

**National Specialist Contractors Council (NSCC)** will assist HSE in achieving its goal of adapting and customising approaches to help the increasing numbers of SMEs in different sectors comply with their health and safety obligations. NSCC will, in collaboration with its 32 member organisations, help SMEs to understand and comply with relevant parts of health and safety law by producing guidance for specialist contractors on their obligations and provision expectations with regard to site welfare.

NSCC will also contribute views of its members into the consultation on the proposed amendment to regulation 3(2) of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR).

NSCC will be running its eighth annual accident survey which collects accident information from specialist contractors for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

The NSCC Health and Safety Committee will be meeting twice in 2011 to look at issues topical to the health and safety of specialist contractors and the wider construction industry and to share best practice across the different trades that are represented.

NSCC, as an affiliate member, will continue to contribute to the Safety Schemes in Procurement Forum (SSIP) in order to further reduce the bureaucracy, duplication and cost associated with health and safety pre-qualification.

**UK Contractors Group (UKCG)** is actively involved in or has agreed in principle to support the following:

1. CONIAC and its Health Risks Working Group.
2. Strategic Forum for Construction, particularly its Plant Safety Group.
3. CDM 2007 evaluation.
4. Director duties/senior leadership
5. CONIAC Major Incident Working Group
6. UKCG working groups looking at worker engagement, occupational health, service avoidance, competence and data collection.
7. CSCS and CPCS management committee

## Information in relation to Standing Committees

### Health Risks Working Group (HR WG)

#### 1. **What the HR WG achieved in 2010/2011**

This Group has met three times (July 2010, November 2010 and February 2011). Three main outputs have been agreed to date and are now being developed:

- a) industry-wide representative membership of the Group – which has lastly been complemented by the addition of two designer community representatives;
- b) agreement of Terms of Reference for the Group which explains its purpose:  
*...to provide leadership and guidance to the construction industry and HSE on how to reduce the numbers of people whose health is made worse by working in the construction industry; to work with other industry groups as and when appropriate.*
- c) agreement of a planned approach to providing advice to the construction industry on what it should be asking for and what is supplied to it by occupational health service providers to ensure the management of health risks in the workplace and to be able to look after its workforce.

#### 2. **The HR WG for 2011/2012**

The Group is now focusing efforts on delivering four outputs in support of the work described in c) above, namely developing:

- a) a position paper setting out why the Group sees a need for such guidance.
- b) guidance for employers;
- c) simpler guidance for employees; and, in the longer term;
- d) guidance for the designer community.

The Group's agreed Terms of Reference further indicate how this work is to be taken forward:

- a) by clarifying the definition and practical remit of 'occupational health' in the context of the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 as it applies to the construction industry;
- b) by considering the range of health risks affecting construction workers and developing a prioritised and targeted plan of work to help address those health risks;

- c) developing suitable SMART output and outcome indicators to measure the performance of the above plan;
  - d) providing interim reports to each full CONIAC meeting;
  - e) determining the duration of the committee's constitution.
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## **Safety Working Group (SWG)**

### **1. Work in 2010/2011**

The SWG took reports from the Strategic Forum for Construction's Plant Safety Group (PSG) and noted in particular the work which was undertaken on quick hitches, tower cranes, telehandlers and mobile elevated working platforms (MEWPs). This has prevented duplication of work and helped with promotion of the PSG agenda and products. The SWG also contributed to consultation on the revision of *Fire safety in construction* (HSG 168).

The main focus of the SWG has continued to be the development of a strategy and business plan to address the continuing toll of fatal and serious injuries caused by falls. The Group has been very keen to ensure that its members are driving and contributing fully to this work but it has taken longer than anticipated to get this level of engagement. Broad analysis of intelligence has identified that there are no obvious construction trades or activities to target and therefore no obvious quick or big wins. The most noticeable common features are the persistent number of fatalities from falling through fragile roofs and the prevalence of falls in shorter duration works on domestic and smaller commercial properties. The analysis leads the work of the Group strongly into the areas of small sites, micro business and hard to reach groups of workers.

The vision of the group is to develop a 25-year approach with the ultimate aim of making work at height without precautions as socially unacceptable as drinking and driving. To this end the group has established sub-Groups to focus particular issues such as equipment and competence. The sub-Groups are working on tangible proposals which will be discussed at an SWG meeting in March, this will inform the development of a business plan.

### **2. Work in 2011/2012**

The SWG does not yet have a formal work plan for the coming year. However, the focus will remain on work at height. The meeting in March will discuss the findings of the sub-Groups and start to build a prioritised business plan for submission to CONIAC in the summer.

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## **Working Well Together Steering Committee (WWT) (Neil Stephens to approve)**

### **1. *What was achieved in 2010/2011***

WWT continues to maintain the momentum it created in the previous year, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WWT Campaign. To date WWT groups have run 57 events, engaging with 6500 delegates. There are still 17 events to run by the end of March. We are confident that we will reach almost last year's total of 8800 delegates.

This is against a backdrop of a very difficult year, both for the industry and in light of the budgetary constraints introduced following the change of government. WWT continues to be an exemplar in partnership working, always willing to share experiences and best practice with other groups. The recent uptake and interest in the programme of Mock Trials rolling out across the country is clear evidence of this practice.

### **2. *Workplan for 2011/2012***

Budgets have yet to be agreed for 2011/2012, but groups have already committed to 22 events from April onwards. WWT is the key deliverable in HSE's workplan for reaching and engaging construction micro SMEs. The programme of events include SHAD type events, Designer Days, Mock Trials, White Van Roadshows and the continued development of the WWT website.

### **3. *Any other relevant information for CONIAC's consideration***

Despite the uncertainty surrounding the current funding position, the industry continues to endorse and support WWT, without which HSE would be in serious danger of not being able to actively engage with sufficient numbers of SMEs in such a cost effective and efficient way.

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## **Information in relation to *ad hoc* Working Groups**

### **CDM Evaluation Working Group**

A recommendation will be made to CONIAC in March 2011 that further work on the findings of the evaluation of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 should be remitted to this Group. This will require the re-convening of this group. CONIAC Secretariat has written to the members of this group proposing this.

### **Major Accident Potential Working Group**

With the publication of HSE Contract Research Report RR834, 'Preventing Catastrophic Events in Construction' the formal constitution of the proposed

CONIAC Working Group to take forward its recommendations can now proceed.

Those CONIAC Members whose nominations have been accepted will now be approached with a view to the Group meeting for the first time in the first quarter of 2011-12. The first meeting will agree the general scope and terms of reference of the group prior to a formal plan of work being submitted before the July 2011 meeting of CONIAC.