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**HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE**

**CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)**

# Review of recent activities of CONIAC sub-groups

**A paper by the CONIAC Secretariat**

**Cleared by Philip White, Chair of CONIAC, on 7 July 2009**

## Summary


For information only

1. This paper reviews the work of CONIAC's sub-groups for the period April 2009 to June 2009.


## Timing

2. Routine

## Recommendation

3. That CONIAC notes the activities of the sub-groups.

## Background

4. CONIAC has asked to be kept informed of the work of its sub-groups. Three of these have been active during the period covered by this report:

- Working Well Together Steering Group
- Safety Working Group
- Occupational Health Working Group.

Updating information for each of the above is set out in **Annex 1** to this paper

5. CONIAC agreed at its meeting on 26 March to the formation of a new Working Group to assist HSE with the formal evaluation of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. Subsequently, Members were asked to submit nominations for persons to serve on the group. The information received is now being collated. HSE will select members of the group based on the evidence on each nominee's knowledge and experience with regard to CDM issues and the need to have a reasonable balance among

duty holders and other stakeholder groups. It is expected that selection and appointments will be made during early August and it is hoped to convene the first meeting of the new group towards the end of August.

**Consultation**

6. Chairs of the Groups mentioned in paragraph 4 have contributed to and agreed this paper.

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**Annex 1**

**CONIAC sub-groups: update on activities undertaken from May 2009 to June 2009**

Note that information on the scope and general aims of each Group can be found in paper **M1/2009/4** and is not repeated here.

## 1. Working Well Together Steering Group (WWT SG)

***Activities undertaken since last report:***

The SG met on 30 April 2009 at day 2 of a 2-day conference to mark the 10th Anniversary of WWT. The guest speaker at the Conference was Rita Donaghy, who gave an overview of the work she's been undertaking on behalf of the Secretary of State. Rita thanked everyone involved in WWT for the very worthwhile contribution she believes WWT is making to the Industry.

The purpose of the SG meeting was to review last year's programme of work, share good practice and agree priority areas of work for the next financial year. A presentation was given on the new Small Sites Strategy and it was agreed that WWT Groups would be actively involved in its delivery. There are currently 15 WWT groups (East Midlands and Leicester, Northampton & Rutland have recently merged). It was also agreed that a Business Plan would be produced for WWT which would include its aims and objectives, strategies, target audience etc. Each Regional Group will also produce a Business Plan which will feed in to the National Plan. Finally, it was agreed that a paper would be produced twice a year to be presented to CONIAC, the first planned for the autumn meeting.

Several events have taken place across the country since April, these include a Mock Trial, a Construction Expo event, Asbestos Awareness events, a

Designer Awareness Day, Builders Merchants events, two SHADs and two White Van Roadshows. The most recent Roadshow was launched at the Westfield Shopping City site under construction at the Olympic site, with John Spanswick officially launching the 2-week tour. The tour then moved to the South of England Show to engage with construction workers whilst visiting the show with their families. 1050 workers were seen on the tour plus 40+ workers at the show who would like to be kept informed of the next WWT events in their area.

***Planned activities for 2009/2010:***

- The network of Regional Groups continues at 15 but we are planning to provide additional support to bolster any group that's finding it difficult to maintain or recruit members.
- The WWT team continue to work with WWT Groups to trial new ways of engaging with the micro SMEs and the hard to reach.
- The Educational/Promotion element of the Small Sites Strategy will delivered through WWT.
- The WWT website will be launched in its final version at the end of June, we then plan to evaluate its usage and further develop as necessary. This will give each Regional group their own pages to promote their group and activities.
- A further 12 WWT events are already on the calendar for the remainder of the year, with more in the early planning stages.

## 2. Safety Working Group (SWG)

The Group held a meeting on 22 April at which it:
was briefed on:

- the results of the Refurbishment campaign;
- Construction Division's plan of work for 2009/2010;
- HSE's work to develop proposals for a register of tower cranes

discussed:

- the effectiveness of HSE's "Shattered Lives" campaign;
- the prominence of work at height issues in the results of HSE's Refurbishment campaign and how the Group should respond to this;
- a presentation on human factors in fatal accidents;

was asked to:

- comment on a draft Safety Alert on carbon monoxide;
- provide examples of fatal or serious work at height incidents and/or photographs illustrating good or bad practice for use in simple guidance;

agreed:

- to delegate its work in connection with construction plant to the Strategic Forum's newly-created Plant Safety Working Group;
- a Plan of Work for 2009/2010 (see **Annex 2**).

## 3. Occupational Health Working Group

The Group has not met during the last year. However, discussions are in progress about how the Group might be revitalized, possibly with a number of specific task and finish activities.

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**Annex 2**

### CONIAC Safety Working Group – Plan of Work for 2009/2010

| *Objective* | *Progress* |
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| Improve operation of the Group to give more weight to delivery and less to information sharing. | The Group is setting up a small task and finish group to report by January 2010 on work at height improvements picking up from the refurbishment campaign and behavioural analysis of fatal accidents. Group members also to each contribute one case study of a falls accident. |
| Improve industry representation on the Group. | Invited representatives from housebuilding, UKCG, ConstructionSkills and designers. |
| Consider how the work of the Group will complement that of the SFfC Plant Safety Group particularly in relation to work on tower cranes and quick hitch devices. | 22 April 2009 agreed to delegate construction plant issues to SFfC PSG with report back to CONIAC SWG to provide oversight. Kevin Minton (CPA) is member of both groups and will facilitate this. |
| Review critically a package of measures for tower crane safety improvements. | 22 April 2009 group discussed HSE's overall approach and no group member was able to suggest anything else which ought to be included. Will provide updates to next meetings. |
| Consider the outcome of the Secretary of State's Enquiry into Construction Fatal Accidents and contribute to any arising actions. | Work on this to begin in September, following publication of Enquiry report. |
| Consider work which has been undertaken to examine behavioural causes of fatal accidents and make recommendations. | Jonathan Bohm (HSE) gave a presentation on Fatal Accidents Analysis – Human Factors to the Group on 22 April 2009 and the Group agreed to consider management of holes in floors. Also pursuing issuing of safety alert on CO poisoning as this aligns with earlier concerns of the Group. |