

Foundries Industry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the 10th Meeting of the Foundries Industry Advisory Committee held on
Wednesday 15th October 2008 at 10.00.am, at HSE's Offices at
1, Hagley Road, Birmingham.

Present	Representing
Dr P Smith	HSE – Chair
Mrs L Weston	HSE - Minute Secretary
Dr J Osman	HSE – CSAG Epidemiology
Mr J McAlinden	HSE – Carcinogens Programme
Mrs C Lyons	HSE – Manufacturing Sector
Ms T Oliva	HSE – Manufacturing Sector
Mr M Johnson	HSE – Disease Reduction Programme
Mr K Gilroy	Doncaster Group
Mr B Womack	Alcan
Mr S Nicholas	Saint-Gobain Pipelines
Mrs E Streets	Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation
Mr D Bartlett	W H Rowe
Mr C Mills	CTI
Mr D Oddy	Federal Mogul
Mr J Parker	Cast Metals Federation
Mr J Easton	Unite
Mr B Hudspith	Unite
Mr G Morley	CTI
Mr N Talbot	Terrill Bros (Founders) Ltd

Apologies	Representing
Mr M Shenton	James W Shenton Ltd
Mr R Turley	Roger Turley Engineering Consultancy
Mrs P Murrell	ICME

1. Personalia

The Chair welcomed John Osman, Mike Johnson, Tracey Oliva from HSE and Eileen Street from the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. Apologies were received from Nina Day who was due to give a presentation on Securing Goods Safely.

Action: 1a. Invite Nina Day to attend the next meeting

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes of last meeting held on 27th February 2008 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising

Silica update – Health Surveillance

The issue on the use of x-ray for health surveillance was discussed further. It was agreed that members did not want foundries carrying out any health surveillance that was not thought to be necessary. All members who have signed up to the Silica Social Dialogue Agreement for Silica should already have appropriate health surveillance in place (SDA contained an annex on health surveillance).

FIAC with the remit to the Working Group proposed at the last meeting to draw up a proposal for health surveillance protocol had not yet been formed. John Parker and Bud Hudspith agreed to meet to discuss the composition of this group. The group will consist of 3 members initially who will be tasked with writing a health and safety protocol on health surveillance. The protocol will include evidence of best practice. This guidance will then be refined as more evidence is made available. It was agreed by members that more evidence was required on the frequency of x-rays. HSE are preparing a research bid to collect more data and will report back on progress. The research will look at data collected via other studies i.e. Dutch study into lung function testing. The brick industry already has a health and safety protocol in place and it was agreed that this could be used as a model.

Action 2a: John Osman to report back to FIAC on progress

Membership

Pam Murrell wishes to retain her place on the committee and agreed to send a substitute to meetings when she is not available. Due to recent organisation changes she had been unable to attend FIAC.

EMF Directive

John Parker had not yet discussed with SHIFT how they will take this issue forward. Kevin Gilroy reported that they had contracted some testing to be carried out as they had an employee with a pacemaker. They are looking at the results and will share these with SHIFT so that a matrix for processes, machines and exposure can be drawn up.

Action 2b: Kevin Gilroy to share results with SHIFT

Action 2c: SHIFT to outline how they will take forward issue

Azo dyes

Some industries that had previously used azo dye solvent red 164 were now using alternative products. It was reported that using other products may involve more complicated procedures and improved technology. WATCH were currently unable to give advice on alternative products due to lack of data. HSE had recently received data from two suppliers which they were currently analysing.

RIDDOR statistics

Claire produced the incidence data for foundries and had added this to her original presentation. Copies were available at the meeting and will be circulated to members via email.

HSEs latest accident statistics will be available on 29 October and will be used to produce an update on accident data for the next meeting.

Action 2d: Claire to present latest accident data on foundries

CTI data

The report on the analysis of the CTI data has now been cleared and will be published via the HSE website. CTI had requested some amendments which HSE had now actioned. Foundries need to be more alert to exposure levels and it was hoped that HSEs current work on LEV project would help raise some awareness. John McAlinden requested access to the original CTI data to try and identify which foundry processes involved employees were wearing PPE.

Action 2e. Glyn Morley and Chris Mills to look at data again to identify which process involved

Action 2f. Claire to send link to members when report published on HSE website

LEV project

Members discussed how HSE could target those premises that were not using LEV or not using it effectively. Some members felt that the current HSE project was targeting those who already had effective monitoring and maintenance in place. HSE will present the results of the LEV project to show how effective the use of LEV is. They would also be targeting the supply side so that better product information is available to buyers. Some foundries have LEV but may have been ill informed on which system to buy. An HSE workshop for sellers and buyers would tackle this issue.

Action 2g. John McAlinden to send out an overview of what HSE is doing on planned LEV work

Action 2h. Claire to circulate results so far from of LEV project.

3. Lung cancer and exposure to FFP in steel foundry workers.

John Osman reported that HSE wants information on the number of work related cancer is so that resource can be directed appropriately. There is a need to know what type of cancer is occurring and how exposures are occurring. HSE Research Report 595 'Burden of occupational cancer in GB' provides some of this information. Although research had been done in other countries we needed to concentrate on

what happens in GB. Approximately 4% of reported cancers are due to workplace exposure. In 2004 there were 26 cases of cancer reported from 3,700 working in the GB foundry industry. Evidence is required to make decisions rather than pressure from other sources. There was still some difficulty detecting the cause of cancer as in some cases this may be confounded by smoking. Cases of occupational cancer detected today will be due to workplace exposures 30-40years ago. HSE hoped that by 2009 they should be able to estimate what the current exposure level is and where action needs to be focused to prevent future cases.

Agreed Action

Action 3a Dr John Osman to attend next meeting to discuss these outcomes further

Action 3b: CMF was asked to explore further research on geographical factors on cancer results i.e. does living in a rural area rather than a city affect incidence exposure?

4. 'Look after your Lungs'

Eileen Streets informed FIAC that the Roy Castle Lung Foundation was the only UK charity wholly dedicated to defeating lung cancer. They worked closely with the Department of Health and their 'Look after your lungs' programme aimed to target high risk groups (manual workers) through workplace 'stop smoking' groups. These linked to local health initiatives and general health and wellbeing messages. Eileen was interested in finding cost benefit analysis data to show employers the benefits of helping workers stop smoking. This could be expressed as days lost to smoking-related ill health.

Eileen invited organisations to work with them to promote their stop smoking and health messages.

Action 4a. John Parker to ask CMF members if they have any cost-benefit data available. SHIFT will also communicate the message to members

Action 4b. FIAC agenda item for February – explore joint working on healthy lungs project

5. Foundry Monitoring – site visit protocol

John McAlinden tabled the site visit protocol that had been circulated to members before the meeting. It explained why monitoring would be carried out and what was involved. It was requested that the protocol was amended to advise volunteers that any urine samples taken would be destroyed after testing. The aim is to visit 3 CMF foundry members where the exposure risk to benzene and aromatic amines will be targeted. John Parker will supply a list of foundries which includes those who completed the azo dye survey last November. HSE confirmed that all volunteers will be given the protocol to read before agreeing to biological monitoring. They will also have access to a health physician if they wish. The anonymised results of all biological monitoring will be reported back to FIAC.

Action 5a. John McAlinden to amend protocol to confirm urine samples are destroyed after testing.

Action 5b. Andrew Easterbrook to provide details of the aluminium foundry process that produced benzene exposures

6. Draft statements on the use of azo dyes in foundries

John Parker confirmed that a position statement had been prepared in liaison with Bud Hudspith and this had now been sent to CMF members and trade journals.

Claire had produced an internal instruction to HSE inspectors highlighting the issue and giving advice on what to do when visiting premises where azo dyes may be in use. SIM 03/2008/10 is available on the HSE website.

http://intranet/operational/sims/manuf/3_08_10.htm

Some members confirmed that they no longer use azo dyes and expressed concern that some companies still continue to use them. HSE confirmed that in some cases users were not aware of what products contained azo dyes as data sheets did not always provide sufficient details. Work was being done with suppliers to improve product data sheets to raise awareness.

7. Update from SHIFT

John Parker reported on the last years work completed through SHIFT. Work had covered a wide range of topics including azo dyes, EMF, Dust and LEV monitoring. A full list was presented to members. The original 5 year targets set for SHIFT had now been achieved and CMF council had agreed to work with SHIFT to set new targets. It was hoped this work would be completed in the New Year. SHIFT had succeeded in bringing together stakeholders who would not normally have had an opportunity to meet and discuss confidential and commercial issues. It was hoped that future plans would include visits to member sites.

8. Social Dialogue Agreement

John Parker reported that the overall response rate to the first survey was 33%. NEPSI was happy with the first response rate but still aim to work towards improving awareness. The next reporting window is April 2010. SHIFT planned a workshop to address some of the difficulties experienced through the first reporting exercise.

Bud attended the NEPSI Council meeting in June 2008 and reported that some concern was raised about the high level of some of the reported figures. The UKs figures were currently collated along with those for the EU so we cannot extract just UK figures to explore what was reported. John Parker had been asked to confirm to NEPSI that he was content for data to be issued by country in future.

9. Development of cancer WebPages

Mike Johnson from HSEs Disease Reduction Programme (DRP) demonstrated the test pages for new WebPages providing information and guidance on work related cancer issues. The information was divided into sections dealing with information by trade, advice for employers, what HSE is doing and how workplace cancer could affect workers. Links would also be built in to other HSE programmes, i.e. slips, trips and falls.

Further links explored the risks and provided basic practical advice on how to reduce the risk of exposure to chemical carcinogens. Links to technical guidance provides detailed information, best working practice, and current legislation. There was also information on HSEs current activity to reduce the incidence of workplace cancers through the Disease Reduction Programme, particularly through occupations where there is a particular risk to exposure i.e. foundries, manufacture of steel and aluminium.

Members were invited to supply case studies for the WebPages to demonstrate particular jobs to highlight so to the risk and how exposure had been reduced. The WebPages are due to be launched in spring 2009 via the HSE website but will be discussed again at the next FIAC meeting.

Action 9a. John Parker to ask CMF members for suitable case studies

10. Greenstreet Bergman report on Targeted Initiatives

Tracey Oliva presented a summary of the 11 targeted initiatives within HSE manufacturing sector. The outcome showed;

- significant reductions in injury reduction;
- improvements in health and safety;
- superior health and safety management;
- managers and workers reported more improvements in health and safety performance

The information was available via HSE web and the reports key messages were shared via the Revitalising Network

(<http://webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/inovem/inovem.ti/revitalising.network>).

The report will be presented to the HSE Board in February 2009 and the outcome will be reported back to FIAC.

The report is available via www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr620.htm

11. Any other business

Members were advised of HSEs 'STEP', a slips and trips e-learning package. Members are invited to pre-register to receive an e-mail alert when it becomes available. It offers advice and occupation-specific case studies.

www.hse.gov.uk/slips/step/index.htm

As part of the LEV engineering control initiative HSL are holding a number of one day training events for LEV trainers or advisors.

The new HSE Enforcement Policy Statement is available on HSE website. The new Health and Safety Offences Act 2008 raises the penalty from 5K to 20K for breaches of health and safety regulations and extends the range of offences for which an individual can be imprisoned.

Following the death of a foundry worker on 17 March 2007 from molten metal burns sustained whilst he was at work; HM Coroner had asked HSE to raise awareness of a number of issues;

- The importance of using personal protective equipment in the correct manner
- The role of supervision in ensuring that the importance and need for correct protective is communicated to workers and that it is correctly used
- The consequences of water contamination of working furnace and need for appropriate control measures to prevent this occurring

Members were invited to alert their industries to this issue. A draft safety alert was circulated for comment.

Action 11a. Members to send comments to Phil Smith by 10 November 2008

Date and venue of next meeting

11th February 2009 at Cast Metals Federation, National Metalforming Centre, 47 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 6PY

ACTION SUMMARY 15TH OCTOBER 2008			
No.	Action	Name	Progress
1a	Invite Nina Day to 11 th February 2009 meeting	Claire	Cleared
2a	Report back on progress re Health Surveillance	John Osman	
2b	Share results of EMF testing with SHIFT	Kevin Gilroy	
2c	Outline how will take information from action 2a forward	SHIFT	
2d	Present latest foundry accident statistics at next meeting	Claire	Agenda item
2e	Look at original CTI data to identify process carried out during exposure testing	CTI	

2f	Send link to CTI report when published on HSE web site	Claire	
2g	Send outline of HSE LEV programme	John McAlinden	Cleared. Attached with minutes
2h	Circulate results from LEV project inspections	Claire	
3a	Update FIAC on research bid for cancer exposure data search	John Osman	
3b	Explore if geographical factors have an effect on occupational cancer results	CMF	
4a	Invite case studies form members on cost benefits from encouraging workers to stop smoking	CMF	
4b	Agenda item – explore joint working on healthy lungs project	FIAC	
5a	Amend protocol to confirm urine samples will be destroyed after testing	John McAlinden	
5b	Provide details of aluminium visit process that produced benzene exposure	A Easterbrook	Cleared. Sent to members
9a	Invite case studies for occupational cancer WebPages	CMF	
11a	Members to send comments re alerting industries to issues arising from fatal accident involving molten metal	FIAC	