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FOUNDRIES INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Future of the Foundry Industry Advisory Committee

Briefing Paper to Accompany the HSC Ways of Working paper HSC/01/178

By Paul Harvey, Secretary to FIAC

Summary

In order for the HSC to concentrate in achieving its Revitalising Targets a fundamental review of its work with advisory committees has been undertaken. The findings of this review indicate that the majority of advisory committees will be decoupled from HSC and their work delegated to HSE.

Background

The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) has been evaluating its work with all advisory committees and asking how it can focus on the "Revitalising" targets with greatest effect. This has resulted in the production of the "HSC ways of working" paper (copy enclosed)

The HSC has set up 25 advisory committees, which represent a wide range of interests. Each of these AC's requires HSE and HSC time in the production of raison d'être papers, appointments, work plans, reconstitution papers and general administration.

The Commission values the work of the AC's and seeks their continuation but in a less bureaucratic manner. Delegating the responsibility of the AC's to the HSE will free the HSC of unnecessary bureaucracy and give the AC's greater flexibility.

The HSC will continue to have direct links with a small core of AC's which meet the criteria set out in the paper, clearly FIAC falls outside this narrow group (as do the

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majority of AC's). However, HSC stresses that the AC's will retain ability to advise the HSC.

The Aim

The intention of decoupling is to give time for HSC to concentrate upon its "Revitalising" targets and to introduce more flexible constitutions into the AC's.

The HSE's Director General, Timothy Walker, has made it clear he strongly supports the continuation of tripartite bodies, which have been the foundation of AC's success.

The change of status would allow the body to realign membership, to take account of changes to the industry and to ensure that it dedicates itself to the "Revitalising" agenda.

The Effect

Decoupling AC's from HSC would reduce the bureaucratic mountain generated and give the new bodies an opportunity to reconstitute under new rules.

The new body would retain the ability to advise the Commission and have similar influencing power, if constituted along the tripartite grounds.

The constitution and administration of the body would be open for discussion. Options may include chairman and secretariat functions being taken on by the membership or by HSE. Membership could be expanded to include training bodies, suppliers, manufacturers bodies, other hot metal industries and other representatives.

Timescale

This item is to be raised as an agenda item at the October 2002 FIAC meeting. Reconstitution of the FIAC is due in October 2003. It is extremely unlikely that HSC will agree to reconstitute FIAC therefore the body has 12 months to make ready for a changeover.

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Action Required

FIAC should discuss the implications of the HSC proposals and identify actions to bring about a smooth changeover to any effective body.

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