

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 MAY 2002 AT
MARSHALLS MILL LEEDS**

Present

Mr A D Porter
Miss M Kingman
Mr I Cook
Mr S Kay
Mr N Halton
Mr K Wilson
Mr J Beardsley
Ms A Cavell
Mr R Johnson
Mr S Walsh
Mr A Jones
Mr R Binch
Mr N Campbell
Dr F Gallagher
Mr T Egginton
Ms A Rayner

Representing

HSE Chairman
HSE Secretary
HSE
HSE
TUC
TUC
CBI
CBI
CBI
CBI
CBI
CBI
CBI
HSE, EMAS
Speaker - AEA Technology
Minutes Secretary

Apologies

Dr M Hewson
Mr P Gates
Mr G Rudd
Mrs S Bearcroft

Observers

Summary of actions agreed:

- 1) (3.2) To secure replacement for Mr Mitchell.
 - 1) Action - Secretary.
- 2) (6.2) To include 'noise' as a quick-start topic in audit.

Action - Mr Kay.

- 3) **(6.2)** Prepare for official launch of Audit.
Action - Secretary and Members.
- 4) **(7.1)** To amend the Common Strategy document.
Action - Secretary.
- 5) **((8.2)** To circulate an edited version of Mr Egginton's report on HTDMs.
Action - Secretary.
- 6) **(9.2)** To make enquiries into sources of finance to sponsor a rehabilitation trial.
Action - Secretary/Mr Cook.
- 7) **(10.1)** To reconsider the OC in the light of consultation comments.
Action - Dr Gallagher/Mr Kay
- 8) **(10.3)** To set up a steering committee to oversee a project on reducing noise at source.
Action - Secretary.
- 9) **(12.2)** To arrange for audio-tape in TEXIAC Noise Action Pack to be translated into the five main Asian languages.
Action - Secretary.
- 10) **(12.3)** To distribute copies of the illustrations to members.
Action - Secretary.

1 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the 20th meeting of TEXIAC and introduced Kevin Wilson to his first TEXIAC meeting. Kevin has been nominated by TGWU as the replacement for John Rutherford. He is the Safety Advisor to Hugh McKay Carpets Ltd, Durham.
- 1.2 The Chairman introduced Terry Eggington from Veritec Limited (formerly AEA Technology) to the meeting who was giving a presentation on the findings from a HSE project on High Temperature Dyeing Machines.

2 MINUTES OF THE 19TH MEETING OF TEXIAC HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2002 AT LEEDS TOWN HALL

- 2.1 It was pointed out that there was an error at 4.1 of the previous minutes; Mr Rutherford was a member of the Wool Industry Health and Safety Committee not the CBWT H&S Committee.

The minutes were then agreed as a true record of the proceedings.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 19 MEETING OF TEXIAC HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2002.

- 3.1 (Min 1.2) To seek a replacement for Mr Rutherford. Mr Kevin Wilson had been nominated as a replacement for Mr Rutherford.

- 3.2 (Min 3.2) To seek a replacement for Mr Mitchell - The Carpet Foundation had been reorganized to become a marketing body. This had hampered efforts to find a replacement but a representative had been approached and it was hoped that there would be a replacement for Mr Mitchell by the next meeting.
- 3.3 (Min 3.7) To consider how to take forward the findings of the research into the accident rate in the cotton industry. Miss Kingman had made a proposal on an accident bench marking scheme which Mr Walsh was progressing.
- 3.4 (Min 5.2) To pursue the possibility of incorporating the 'anchor statements' and scoring system which inspectors would be using for the 'revitalizing' topics and to rename the package. This would be taken at Item 5 on the Agenda.
- 3.5 (Min 5.3) To investigate whether the audit package could be made available on the HSE Web site and pending the outcome, to make arrangements for a suitable launch in liaison with CBWT. This would be taken at Item 6 on the Agenda.
- 3.6 (Min 6.1) To consult widely on the Common Strategy paper and to present views to next meeting. This would be taken at Item 7 on the Agenda.
- 3.7 (Min 7.5) To raise concerns about the impact of the various proposals being considered in the negotiations of the Physical Agents (Noise) Directive with the rapporteur/EP/MEPs. It was understood that employers' bodies had lobbied very effectively and managed to get some of the proposals withdrawn.

4. INDUSTRY COMMITTEES - REPORTS BY CHAIR/SECRETARY.

- 4.1 Footwear
Mr Campbell reported that work was progressing on the fire document. The committee was considering how to communicate 'revitalizing' to managers. They were also trying to identify footwear manufacturers in the UK to build a more accurate database.
- 4.2 Wool
The last meeting on 25 February had considered the industry model safety audit. The HSE information sheet on investigated transport accidents had been reworked as a free checklist and had been well received. Mr Johnson had been trying to persuade the European Health and Safety Agency to compare standards of enforcement across Europe.
Mr Johnson reported his concern that insurance companies were now setting the agenda on health and safety via increased insurance premiums. Higher premiums were now claiming the attention of CEOs and he considered that there may be an opportunity to exert influence to improve their health and safety performance. He also reported that the huge increase in Employers Liability Compulsory insurance had resulted in a number of firms having difficulty in meeting the premiums and a small number experiencing real difficulty in obtaining EL cover....

- 4.3 Cotton
The H&S Group had held two meetings to date at which trades union representation had been disappointing. The next meeting would be held on 18 August 2002.
- 4.4 Knitting
It was reported that, at its meeting in March, the KDLI Health and Safety Committee had agreed to adopt a policy on 'rehabilitation'. Mrs Carvell raised concerns about the likely impact of the Physical Agents (Noise) Directive and the increased employers liability insurance costs. She reported that East Midlands Development Agency had funded a £1.2m building for the Leicester Textile Resource Center. A sub-committee had been set up to examine health and safety issues in the narrow fabrics sector.
- 4.5 Clothing
Mr Jones reported that HSE had agreed to adopt the small clothing leaflet; it is to be revised prior to publication and translated into the five Asian languages. He also reported that the industry profile was changing; many large companies had now shrunk and small firms were largely unrepresented.
- 5 PAPER 20/02/01 - EXPLAINING FOD'S 'REVITALIZING' APPROACH.**
- 5.1 The paper explained HSE's approach to inspection in the coming year. Proactive inspection efforts in the textiles sector would be directed towards 'poor performers' About 25 companies across the Sector had been identified as meeting HSE's criteria as poor performers i.e. having more than 100 employees and at least 15 accidents in the last three years.
- 6 TEXTILE INDUSTRY MODEL SAFETY AUDIT**
- 6.1 Agreement had been secured to place the audit on the HSE web site so that users could download and use only those parts appropriate to their needs. Hard copies could also be made available by industry committees for use as they wished but HSE would only keep the web site version updated.
- 6.2 Since the last meeting the layout of the audit package had been simplified still further. It now incorporated a 'quick start' version, concentrating on HSE's priority programs - MSDs, falls from heights, slips, trips and falls and workplace transport. The question sets for these topics would include the 'anchor statements' and assessment scale to be used by inspectors. It was agreed to include 'noise' as a quick start topic.
- Plans for the launch would be made once a date had been set for 'going live'.
- 6.3 The Chairman complimented Mr Kay on the work he had done on the safety audit and said it would be a useful document.

7 PAPER 19/02/1 REVITALIZING HEALTH AND SAFETY: A COMMON STRATEGY TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE TEXTILES AND FOOTWEAR INDUSTRIES - DISCUSSION ON WAY FORWARD.

7.1 Miss Kingman asked for feedback on the Common Strategy document which had been introduced at the previous meeting. Members asked for clarification on how the 'poor performers' were to be selected; there was concern that if the criteria of more than 100 employees was employed, a large part of the industry would be excluded. Also, some members felt that using accident rates would discriminate unfairly against 'good reporters' and could impact on their ability to obtain insurance.

7.2□

It was agreed that the reference to 'poor performers' would be removed from the Common Strategy document. Candidates for trialing the Audit would be selected from firms with more than 50 employed, on a random basis.

8 PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS FROM PROJECT ON INSPECTION OF HIGH TEMPERATURE DYEING MACHINES (HTDM's)

8.1 Mr Egginton gave a presentation of the findings from the Sector project on HTDM's. He had been contracted to HSE to provide expertise on pressure systems. The project involved visiting a representative sample of dyehouses in the UK where HTDM's were in use to assess compliance with the requirements of the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 and with PM4.

8.2

The project raised some concerns about the standard of maintenance of safety devices and training of operators and highlighted problems in complying with Written Schemes of Examination. The full report would be received in due course and an edited version would be circulated to the Committee.

9 MSD WORKING GROUP - DISCUSSION OF FUTURE WORKPLACE.

9.1 Mr Cook introduced the discussion by setting out the progress of the Working Group to date and making a number of proposals for future action.□

9.2 A query was raised into whether funding could be found to finance a volunteer company to set up a rehabilitation scheme, possibly in conjunction with an insurance company. It was decided to return to this subject at the next meeting when Miss Kingman and Mr. Cook had looked into what money could be made available.

9.3 Dr Gallagher said that useful information on rehabilitation could be found on the web site at: www.ohstrategy.net.

10 HEALTH TOPICS

- 10.1 Dr Gallagher spoke to a draft OC on Health Surveillance which had been circulated to members for consultation. He highlighted a change in approach from the previous version in that prospective employees would be asked to complete a pre-employment questionnaire which would be sent direct to an OH practitioner. Members raised a concern that the questionnaire would be difficult to complete for people who did not have English as a first language and small firms would be unlikely to have occupational health support.
- 10.2 Mr Cook introduced and circulated a paper entitled 'Textile Action on Noise 2002/2 Enforcement Inspections - Report of the Outcomes' which would be discussed at the next meeting.
- 10.3 In response to concerns about the impact of the likely implementation of the Physical Agents (Noise) Directive in 3 years' time, Miss Kingman introduced a proposal to use 'in-house' HSE expertise to produce practical solutions to reducing noise at source on a broad range of machinery. However, she asked for guidance from the Committee on the selection of types of machines to be included. It was agreed that a steering committee would be set up to guide the scope of the project.

11 UPDATE ON INCIDENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 11.1
- ◆ **Publications**
 - ◆ Information Sheets on spotting solvents and dust control in dyeing had now been printed.
 - ◆ New enforcement policy statement: this makes decisions more transparent and lays down clearer guidelines on when there should be a presumption of prosecution.
 - ◆ COSHH Essentials - paper version 1999. New interactive version on web site.
 - ◆ Working together: guidance for contractors and supplies.
 - ◆ Effective Health and Safety Training - resource pack priced at £22, sets out model training course for small/medium businesses to use in-house - health and safety management and risk assessment.
 - ◆ ULDs in workplace, replaces previous HSG 60. How to identify and manage ULDs; fits with HSC priority program on MSDs, £10.
- 11.2
- Prosecutions**
- ◆ Foam UK Ltd, Hackney - 28/01/02 : failure to comply with IN served on a Foam store : Fire resistant storage. Pleaded not guilty, fined £2000 plus £2000 costs and court order.¥

- ♦ Empress Garland, Southend : non wovens and sponges (cleaning materials) Faulty guard on foam slitting machine, mesh guard with an access gate : interlock disabled. Machine had not traveled all the way through the work piece. IP entered to trigger sensor and activate travel. Right hand was pulled onto the blade - lacerations. 18/03/02 fined £2,500 plus costs.
- ♦ Glemsford Silk Mills, silk weavers. Accident to dye house worker whose eye was contaminated with Formic acid. Fined £4000 plus costs on 01/02/02.
- ♦ Catensa (UK) Ltd., Nottingham, Felt manufacturer for the auto industry. IP crushed his hand and lost part of his thumb at feed rollers of a guillotine. PE device had been overridden. Fined £10,000 plus costs on 18/02/02.
- ♦ Wool Combers (Scourers) Ltd. IP fell 20 ft from the top of a blending bin whilst dismantling using scissors lift, no harness, climbed out onto galvanized roof sheet which gave way, no method statement, nor risk assessment. Fined £14,000 plus £1300 costs on 27/03/02.
- ♦ Kaywool Products, Oldham - bed manufactures. Following injury and complaint, poor MH procedures found, single operators handling double mattresses. Also RIDDOR non reporting charge. MHOR Reg 4 2 x £2500 plus costs on 22/04/02.
- ♦ James Walker, Mirfield, Woolen spinning and blanket weaving. IP checking moving machinery on bleaching line, climbing up on a plinth, slipped and hand went into squeeze rollers at end of line. 06/03/02 £4500 plus costs.□

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12.1 Members were informed that the revitalizing ready reckoner could be found on the HSE web site. They were also told that 'Skillfast UK' a trailblazer Sector Skills Council representing the textiles and footwear industries was to hold its inaugural meeting on 8 May 2002.
- 12.2 Miss Kingman informed members that a request had been made for the audio tape from the noise action pack to be translated into various Asian languages. It was agreed that the tape should be translated into Hindu, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi and Gujarati.
- 12.3 There was a request that the illustrations of textile sector accidents in the recent HSC Newsletter be made available in a reproducible form.

13 Date and venues of future meetings

- 13.1 Tuesday 15 October 2002 at Marshalls Mill.
Wednesday 15 January 2003 (open meeting) venue to be decided.
Wednesday 13 May 2003 at Marshalls Mill.

Close