

**MINUTES OF THE 43rd MEETING OF THE
TEXTILES INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
held on 7 October 2010 at HSE Nottingham**

Attendees

Representing

Mr Huw Jones (Chair)	Courtaulds and UK Fashion and Textiles - UKFT
Mrs Angela Madden	Madden Consulting
Mr Paul Pearson	UK Leather Federation
Mr Terry Britton	Unite
Mr Robert Sneddon	Community
Mr Geoff Cox	HSE
Mrs Rosie Bricis	HSE
Mrs Wendie Drammeh (Minutes Secretary)	HSE

Apologies

Mr Alan Edmond	Community
Mr Phil McNulty	UNITE
Mr Gary Dickson	Scottish Leather Group Limited
Ms Elaine Davies	British Footwear Association
Mr Pete Charlesworth	Textile Centre of Excellence
Mr Adam Mansell	UKFT
Mr Tim Small (Secretary)	HSE

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

No	Action	by when
1	(Min 2.7) Members to send Mrs Madden any useful data they hold on spirometry testing.	end Nov 2010
2	<p>(Min 2.7) Mrs Bricis to send Members HSE's most recent information on COPD.</p> <p>Information about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) can be found on the HSE website at the following links:</p> <p>www.hse.gov.uk/copd/index.htm, www.hse.gov.uk/copd/causes.htm</p> <p><i>Health monitoring for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (G401) -</i> www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/iacs/acts/301106/acts252006annex4.pdf</p> <p>www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/iacs/acts/watch/180304/annex1copd.pdf www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/iacs/acts/watch/051005/15annexe3.pdf</p>	complete

No	Action	by when
3	<p>(Min 2.6) Mrs Bricis to send members information about when respiratory health surveillance is appropriate.</p> <p>Information about respiratory health surveillance can be found at the following links:</p> <p><i>OC 273/13 – Health surveillance requirements of COSHH Reg 11</i> www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/fod/oc/200-299/273_13.pdf</p> <p>www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/l5.pdf, particularly pages 60 - 67,</p> <p><i>Health surveillance at work (HSG 61) -</i> www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg61.pdf</p> <p>Although the following two links are aimed at the construction industry, they contain a lot of useful information that can be applied to other industries.</p> <p><i>Occupational health standards in the construction industry -</i> www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr584.pdf, in particular pages 16-18.</p> <p>www.hse.gov.uk/construction/healthrisks/hsrespiratory.htm</p>	complete
4	<p>(Min 2.7) Mr Sneddon and Mr Pearson to send Mrs Bricis the footwear industry's COSHH Data Document.</p> <p>The document can be found on the BFA website at www.britfoot.com/documents/COSHH%20pdf.pdf.</p>	complete
5	<p>(Min 2.7) Mr Sneddon to make enquiries at the TUC about a current industrial disease project and report back to members.</p>	end Nov 2010
6	<p>(Min 2.8) Mr Jones to send members details of a REACH research paper produced by UKFT that contains a list of SVHC chemicals used in the textile and leather industries.</p>	end Nov 2010
7	<p>Min 3.1) Mrs Bricis to send members information about the known hazards of nanotechnology.</p> <p>Information about nanotechnology and useful links to other sources and reports can be found on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/horizons/nanotech.htm.</p> <p>The document, <i>Nanotechnology – Horizon Scanning Information Note No HSIN1</i>, which can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsin1.pdf, gives a useful summary.</p> <p>The UK <i>Nanotechnologies Strategy: Small Technologies, Great Opportunities</i> was launched in March 2010. This Strategy sets out how Government will take action to ensure that everyone in the UK can safely benefit from the societal and economic opportunities that these technologies offer, whilst addressing the challenges that they might present. Further information can be found on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills website at http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/interactive.bis.gov.uk/nano/ and a copy of the strategy can be downloaded from http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/BISPartners/GoScience/Docs/U/10-825-uk-nanotechnologies-strategy.</p>	complete

No	Action	by when
8	(Min 3.1) Members to read through the HSL horizon-scanning report discussed briefly at the meeting and send any further comments to Mrs Bricis.	end Nov 2010
9	(Min 4.1) Mr Cox to send a letter to each Member outlining the discussion on the way forward for TEXIAC.	complete
10	(Min 4.1) Members to send Mrs Bricis their responses to Geoff Cox's letter.	end Oct 2010
11	(Min 4.1) Mrs Bricis to collate responses from all members for discussion at a future date.	mid Nov 2010
12	(Min 5.1) Mr Pearson to send Mrs Bricis an update on the Leonardo Project.	end Nov 2010
13	(Min 5.1) Mr Pearson to send Mrs Bricis the leather industry's social and environmental report, which had been completed recently.	end Nov 2010
14	(Min 5.1) Mr Pearson to send Mrs Bricis a copy of UK Leather's latest newsletter, which features Scottish Leather's new thermal energy plant.	complete
15	(Min 5.2) Mr Sneddon to report back from the health and safety meeting that he is due to attend in November 2010 in Brussels.	end Dec 2010
16	(Min 5.2) Members to let Mr Sneddon have their ideas for suitable health and safety projects that might benefit from funding.	end Oct 2010
17	(Min 6.1) Members to promote the Safe Maintenance Campaign leaflets as widely as possible.	ongoing

MINUTES

1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from: Pete Charlesworth, Adam Mansell, Elaine Davies, Gary Dickson, Alan Edmond, Phil McNulty and Tim Small.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 The following actions from the meeting held on 19 May 2010 have been completed:

(Min 2.4) Mr Jones to contact the Textile Finishers Association to ascertain if Tim Price would be attending future TEXIAC meetings or if the TFA wished to nominate a different representative.

(Min 3.3) Members to send Mrs Bricis examples of their organisation's good practice in relation to pre-employment checks, induction procedures, skin, night working and use of chemicals.

(Min 3.3) Mrs Bricis to co-ordinate the information received and disseminate to members.

(Min 3.4) Mr Pearson and Mr Edmonds to report back to members on the type of inductions carried out in the leather industry before agency workers are employed.

(Min 3.4) Mr Dickson to send members a copy of Scottish Leather's presentation for contractors.

(Min 3.5) Mr Dickson to send members a copy of Scottish Leather's asbestos risk assessment.

(Min 3.5) Mrs Bricis to forward to Mr Edmonds contact details for Steve Shutler, the asbestos consultant who had given a presentation at the TEXIAC Open Meeting in January 2010.

(Min 5.1) Mr Britton to send Mrs Bricis the fit notes information that had been used at a Unite presentation.

(Min 5.2) Mr Edmonds to send Mrs Bricis the REACH information that he has collated.

(Min 5.3) Members to include horizon-scanning as an agenda item at the next meeting.

2.2 (Min 2.2) Mr Jones to attend one of the Footwear & Leather Industry Health & Safety Committee (FLIHSC) meetings as an observer.

Mr Jones will attend the annual Footwear Industry Health & Safety Conference, which is to be held on 23 March 2011.

2.3 (Min 3.2) Mr Dickson to send members a copy of Scottish Leather's policy on drugs and alcohol misuse.

The Chair thanked Mr Dickson for sending this information and a general discussion ensued about the new Equality Act and the difficulties of questioning staff about their disabilities and medical histories.

Some useful information about the Equality Act can be found on the following web links:

www.hse.gov.uk/disability/index.htm

www.acas.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=2833&p=0

www.equalities.gov.uk/equality_bill.aspx

www.equalities.gov.uk/equality_act_2010/equality_act_2010_what_do_i_n.aspx

www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/401727_EDF_Disability_acc.pdf

www.officefordisability.gov.uk/docs/wor/new/ea-guide.pdf (NB draft guidance)

2.4 (Min 3.3(3) Mr Small to write a short paragraph on asbestos for the HSE textiles website, which will then link into HSE's main asbestos website.

This is to be incorporated into the new textiles website, which is to be updated during 2010-11.

2.5 (Min 3.5) Mr Jones to speak with Steve Shutler to see if they could devise a way to take asbestos safety messages to SMEs.

Completed. Mr Jones has negotiated a 20% discount for the industries covered by TEXIAC from S B Asbestos Management Ltd.

2.6 (Min 3.5) Mrs Bricis to include links to asbestos information in the new textiles website.

These are to be included as part of HSE's textile website update during 2010-11. Detailed information about asbestos can be found on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm.

2.7 (Min 4.5) Members to send Mrs Madden any useful data they hold on spirometry testing.

No information yet received. Mrs Madden had particular concerns about the possible health problems arising from raw wool scouring. It was also felt that respiratory health surveillance was not being carried out by businesses as conscientiously as it should be.

- Mrs Bricis to send Members HSE's most recent information on COPD and respiratory health surveillance.
- Mr Sneddon and Mr Pearson to send Mrs Bricis the footwear industry's COSHH information booklet.
- Mr Sneddon to make enquiries at the TUC on a current industrial disease project and report back.

2.8 (Min 5.2) Mrs Bricis to e-mail members with REACH information as it arrives.

Completed. Mr Jones agreed to send members details of a REACH research paper produced by UKFT and a testing house that contains a list of SVHC chemicals used in the textile and leather industries.

3. HORIZON SCANNING

3.1 Members had received a copy of a horizon-scanning report on the textile industry produced by the Health and Safety Laboratory.

A general discussion was held on nanotechnology and its possible health hazards.

- Mrs Bricis to send members HSE's latest information about the hazards of nanotechnology.
- Members to read through the HSL report and send any comments to Mrs Bricis.

4.0 TEXIAC – THE WAY AHEAD

4.1 Mr Cox introduced the discussion by sharing his perspective as the Head of HSE's Manufacturing Sector.

IACs are no longer advisory bodies to the Health & Safety Commission (HSC), which merged with HSE in 2008. The HSE Board now expects IACs to play a significant part in delivering the HSE Strategy, as outlined in Judith Hackitt's letter to IAC Chairs in June 2009.

The discussion paper circulated to members with the agenda drew attention to the mismatch between HSE's current expectations of IACs and the capacity of TEXIAC members to work in that way, taking into account trade association and TU membership levels and the ability to commit others to courses of action.

Members seem very satisfied with TEXIAC as it is, ie a means of sharing information and good practice. However, this creates some problems as the HSE staff who are engaged with TEXIAC are obliged to look for more concrete deliverables than members can achieve realistically. The easiest way of relieving this tension would be to unshackle the committee from its current IAC status and the accountability relationships that go with it.

HSE values its working relationships with those directly involved in industry – these keep HSE relevant, well-informed and proportionate. There is no intention to withdraw HSE's support for the TEXIAC industries or to lessen its productive engagement with the industry bodies represented on the committee.

The Government's Spending Review may have an impact on the amount of resources that HSE can dedicate to the group but this information will not become clear until well after the outcome of the Review is announced.

Members recognise the value of sharing information and appreciate the added value of a tripartite body, so the best solution would seem to be to continue with these relationships outside IAC status.

A general discussion ensued as to what TEXIAC should evolve into, including:

- A standalone forum constituted on a voluntary basis – although this might struggle with changes in personnel in the longer term.
- Using the *Revitalising Network* as the basis of a forum, ie members could join together with other industry representatives during *RN* events and then meet their textile, leather and footwear colleagues separately afterwards.
- A forum under the auspices of an existing pan-industry body, such as UKFT. It was felt that UKFT branding might help reach some parts of the industry better and increase recognition of health and safety issues.

Members who spoke expressed a preference that any successor body to TEXIAC should be tripartite (ie employers, trades unions and HSE).

4.2 Mr Cox agreed to send a letter to all Committee members outlining the discussion at the meeting and to which responses from Members would be appreciated.

Mrs Bricis agreed to collate responses from all members for discussion at a future date.

5.0 FEEDBACK FROM INDUSTRIES

5.1 *Paul Pearson – UK Leather Federation*

The first half of this year had shown signs of recovery in the leather industry, although the world supply of hides and skins was reducing by 2% each year. Raw material prices are higher now than in 2008 and sheepskin prices are higher than in 2004. The FLIHSC has produced a new guide on permits to work, which will be available shortly. The industry's NVQs and SVQs have now been accredited officially.

Mr Pearson agreed to send Mrs Bricis:

- an update on the Leonardo Project;
- the leather industry's social and environmental report;

- a copy of UK Leather's latest Newsletter, which featured Scottish Leather's new thermal energy plant.

5.2 Robert Sneddon - Community

Mr Sneddon is to attend a meeting in Brussels in November that will discuss funding for health and safety projects. He asked members for their ideas on what could be included and agreed to report back at the next meeting.

5.3 Terry Britton – UNITE

As a union rep, he has been busier than ever. It is possible that the new Government will consider kitting out the armed forces with British-made textiles.

5.4 Angela Madden – Madden Consulting

Times are still tough in the textiles industry, with companies struggling, making redundancies and working short weeks. There has been a 60% increase in the price of raw materials.

5.5 Huw Jones, Courtaulds and UKFT

Niche markets in textiles are doing very well, although other businesses are struggling and technologies are ageing. Two sock manufacturers have lost major contract work to China this year. Major retailers are doing well and are working off lower stock levels.

6.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Safe Maintenance Campaign – Geoff Cox

Information about the Safe Maintenance Campaign can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/safemaintenance/index.htm.

Members were asked to promote to their industries the leaflets that they had been sent earlier in the year. The information given on these leaflets can be found on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/safemaintenance/checklist.htm.

6.2 Safety consultants – voluntary accreditation scheme

HSE is working with a network of health and safety organisations on options for a voluntary accreditation scheme for safety consultants. The aim of the scheme is to:

- help raise the standard of safety advice being given by consultants to employers; and
- make it easier for those employers who do need to use external safety advice to find consultants in whom they can have confidence.

Some more information can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/press/2010/hse-oscr.htm.