

**MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE
REPAIR HEALTH & SAFETY FORUM**

WEDNESDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2008

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE, WARWICK.

Present:

Alison Higginson	Profit from Training
Aslam Vaid	MVRA
Bud Hudspith	Unite
Colin Copelin	Confederation of Passenger Transport
Dave Garratt	Garage Equipment Association Ltd
David White	NTDA
Eric Hammond	Representing AVRO
Eric McDonald	Transport and General Workers Union
Ian Holmes	Sigerson Associates
Ian Lewis	Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre
John Morecroft	VBRA
John Graham	Zurich Risk Services (representing SAFeD)
Jon Stannard	Warwickshire College
Paul Cooper	Hartwell PLC (representing Motor Dealer Safety Group)
Peter Barlow	Retail Motor Industry Federation
Peter Purdom	Signum Publications Ltd
Steve Green	Association of Colleges
Steve Hunter	Freight Transport Association
Terry Crampton	Institute of Vehicle Recovery
Peter Woolgar	HSE, Birmingham (Chairman)
Kevin Hallas	HSL, Buxton
Lousie Rice	HSE, Bootle
Andrew Lake	HSE, East Grinstead
Anne Rayner	HSE (Minutes)

1) Welcome, Introduction and Apologies.

Peter Woolgar opened the meeting and welcomed members and speakers to the meeting. He told members that the MVR pages on the HSE Website had been updated at the end of September, and thanked those members who had advertised the update in trade magazines and in information to their members. As a result in October the number of website visitors had increased by more than 50% and the number of pages downloaded increased from about 10,000/month to more than 35,000.

2) Minutes of the last meeting of May 7th 2008 and matters arising (including an update on Biofuels and Biocides)

The minutes of the previous meeting on May 7th 2008 were agreed as a true record.

Actions arising from previous minutes:

Bio fuels and Biocides - Forum members to send any evidence of ill health or dermatitis from exposure to biofuels in MVR to Peter Woolgar. Peter Woolgar to look into the possibility of research and provide an update at next meeting.

Peter Woolgar advised that he had not received any evidence of ill health or dermatitis. However, he had achieved agreement for HSE to fund some research with HSL on the suitability of gloves for different types of fuel. A broad research protocol had been agreed and discussions on the detailed research were ongoing.

Revision of HSG 62/67 - Andrew to enquire whether the free leaflets could be produced in other languages.

Peter Woolgar advised that the project had not yet reached the stage of considering the free leaflets but the issue of their availability in other languages would be considered at the appropriate time.

3) Accidents and Incidents in MVR - Ian Holmes

Mr Holmes presented this item and explained that it was based on a presentation previously given by Mike Burd of HSE, but extended to include many incidents that he had personally investigated. He advised that workers in the industry had a 1 in 15,000 chance of being killed at work each year. He illustrated common causes and consequences of accidents including falls from vehicles, tankers and working platforms, entrapment, crushing, workplace transport, lifting, supporting, fire and explosion, use of abrasive wheels and pressure equipment.

Members commented on the number of pits which were uncovered in the slides and Mr Woolgar said there were examples of 'pit covers' in the packs.

4) Slips and Trips in MVR

- Kevin Hallas

Mr Hallas advised that about 38% of all major injuries arose from slip/trips. He spoke about the coefficient of friction needed to reduce slipping risk and showed examples of ways of testing surfaces for 'slipperiness'. He advised on how to reduce floor slipperiness and on the effects of different types of footwear.

Mr Hallas told members that a third of all falls start with a trip and explained that HSL had produced a Slips and Trips e-learning package providing slips and trips guidance through interactive learning which was due to go live in February. It was pitched at 3 different levels of knowledge. The package would be free to download from the internet or purchasable as a DVD from HSE Books for £9 plus VAT. More information on the tool and also the opportunity to register interest can be found at the following link <http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/step/> Members asked if it might be possible to do a version of the tool with a specific MVR element.

A member made the point that Bio fuels could cause a greater slip hazard due to the higher grease content and Mr Hallas said, in that case, it would be even more important to clean floors properly. There was then general discussion about suitable flooring in the industry and the difficulty of keeping it clean. Mr Woolgar said that this was something that the Forum may need to work on.

Action: Mr Woolgar to pursue whether an MVR specific STEP tool could be developed.

5) MVR Training (including workshop visit)

- Jon Stannard

Mr Stannard gave a presentation about the structure of MVR training and the courses available at the college. This was followed by a visit to the college MVR workshop.

6) Updates

a) Revision of HSG 62/67

- Andrew Lake

Mr Lake recapped the reasons behind, and the ongoing activity to revise, HSG 62 and HSG 67 into one priced publication. It will be given the new number: HSG261. The first drafts of all the chapters had been completed and sent to the working group members. All the comments received would be collated and the drafts reviewed/revised. There would be more detail on body shops, slips and trips, skin care, and an expanded noise and vibration section. The expected publication date was summer 2009 and there was a possibility that a DVD might be produced to accompany it. It was intended to present the essentials from HSG261 as free guidance to download from the MVR website. Mr Woolgar said that although the HSG had been sent out to the working group for consultation, if other members wished to comment he would send it to them.

b) 2 Post Lifts

- Andrew Lake

The SIM 'Defective locking devices identified on modern 2-post vehicle lifts' had been published and a copy was in the meeting packs. Also available on the website at: -

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sectors/manuf/030812.htm>

It was thought that the new SIM would have greater impact than the previous SIM on 2 post lifts, which dealt only with old lifts without interlocking for the arms.

http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sectors/manuf/3_05_05.pdf

There was some discussion about the merits of using pits rather than vehicle lifts. Mr Lake agreed to send Colin Copelin the latest relevant draft chapter from HSG 261

Action: Mr Lake to forward information regarding pits to Colin Copelin.

c) Large vehicle isocyanate spraying

- Andrew Lake

Mr Lake provided an update on the HSE enforcement action arising from inspection of MVR bodyshops. There had been 65 enforcement notices on isocyanate spraying issued over the period under COSHH and nearly 460 visits. Mr Lake said that the majority of Notices were not asking for risk assessment but required specific action.

7) Vehicle body lining

- John Morecroft

Mr Morecroft gave a short talk on the systems now available for lining vehicle cargo spaces. Some were based on urea chemistry and allegedly were not hazardous during application. Mr Woolgar had concerns whether some linings contained isocyanates. He asked if anyone had any more information on the subject.

Action: Mr Woolgar to investigate the subject of body lining and isocyanates and report back.

8) Ten years of MVR H&S Forum – a celebration?

- Peter Woolgar

Mr Woolgar said that the Forum would have been active for 10 years in January 2009 and that partnership working in MVR was achieving improvements in H&S. He suggested that this was cause for celebration, possibly combined with a launch of the HSG 261 guidance in the summer or early autumn of 2009 (depending on the publication date). Members thought this was a good idea. Mr Woolgar said he would put in a bid for funds and asked if members might wish to contribute to funding the event?

Action: Members to advise Peter Woolgar if they would be willing to provide a contribution to an event to launch HSG 261 and celebrate 10 years of effective partnership working in MVR.

9) For info items

- Peter Woolgar

a) New HSE Strategy

Following the disbanding of the Health and Safety Commission and creation of an HSE Board, a new health and safety strategy had been developed, which was to be launched on 3 December. There were also to be regional workshops in January and members names had been given so they could be invited.

b) Health and Safety Offences Act

Due to come into effect in January 2009. Fines for most regulatory offences would be increased to £20,000.

c) Safety Alerts

Generally when there had been fatalities in any industry, and where there was anything new or novel, the industry had been alerted. But after an incident at a hand fed platen the info did not go out because of possible prejudice to legal proceedings and there was another similar fatality. The need for an improved alert system had been raised with HSE by the union UNITE. HSE was currently working on developing an alert system.

d) Transfer of MVR premises to LA's for inspection

A pilot project when MVR premises in Peterborough had been transferred to the LA had worked out well. A similar extended project was due to be started in Hampshire for a 3 year period. LA's are to take on peripatetic MVR activities as well.

Action: Mr Woolgar to confirm the start date of the Hampshire project to the minutes.

10) AoB

- Peter Woolgar

Date and venue of next meeting – it was agreed that the following meeting would take place in week commencing May 11th 2009, the date to be put in the minutes. Venue to be agreed later.

Action: Mr Woolgar to agree a date for the May 2009 meeting and add it to the minutes.

Post meeting note: The next MVR H&S meeting will be on 14 May 2009 at HSE, Birmingham