

MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR HEALTH & SAFETY FORUM

Eleventh Meeting Wednesday 26 November 2003
Health & Safety Executive, 1 Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8HS

Present:

G Begley	Association of Colleges
P Concannon	Commercial Workers Union
S Biddle	Road Haulage Association
M Hooker	Solihull MBC
P Cooper	Motor Dealer Safety Group
J Nelson	Garage Equipment Association
A Bird	Vehicle Builders and Repairers Association
S Prest	Society of Operations Engineers
D Innes	Scottish Motor Trade Association
D Littleford	Signum Publications Ltd
D Reed	Motor Importers H&S Group
P Preece	Birmingham City Council
M Whitley	Transport & General Workers Union
P Barlow	Retail Motor Industry Federation
S Dean	Vehicle Operator Services Agency
C Copelin	Confederation of Passenger Transport
I Taylor	Motor Vehicle Repairers Association
R Dawson	Institute of Vehicle Recovery
A Haggan	HSE Northern Ireland
M Downey	HSE Northern Ireland
Prof. A Hay	Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances (ACTS)
T Moore	Automotive Skills Ltd
J Powell	HSE Manufacturing Sector (Chair)
K Williams	HSE Manufacturing Sector (Secretary)
A Garrod	HSE Chemical Risk Assessment Control Group
S Chaker	HSE Operational Group
S Maidment	HSE Head of Midlands, Wales & SW Specialist Group
C Quarrie	HSE Human Factors Group
A Lake	HSE Manufacturing Sector
P Harvey	HSE Manufacturing Sector
B Easterby	HSE Midlands Specialist Group
M Piney	HSE Wales & SW Specialist Group

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

John Powell welcomed Professor Alastair Hay OBE, TUC nominee on ACTS and WATCH; Tony Moore, Education & Training Manager at Automotive Skills Ltd; Malcolm Downey, who will be replacing Audrey Haggan; and Gerry Begley and Sarah Prest who were attending in place of Stephen Green and Ian Chisholm, respectively.

Apologies for absence were received from E McDonald, TGWU; A Higginson, National Tyre Distributors Association; Ian Lewis, Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre; Tom

Gallier, UNISON; I Holmes Sigerson Associates; Barry Revans, Freight Transport Association; B Spratt, Automotive Distribution Federation.

2 Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting 13 May 2003

A Consultative Document on the proposed Work at Heights Regulations is to be published on 4 December 2003. There will be a 3-month consultation period and it is expected that the new Regulations will come into force in Autumn 2004.

Peter Barlow confirmed that proposals to introduce new requirements concerning persons who work with air conditioning equipment were slowly moving forward and another meeting was due to be held in December 2003.

John Powell briefed members on the recently published HSE leaflet INDG381 '*Passport schemes for health, safety and the environment: a good practice guide*'. John Nelson confirmed that he was meeting the Compressed Gas Association (CGA) the following week. Discussions on its Passport Scheme for service engineers had petered out.

3 Launch of new HSE leaflet on Safe working with LPG-fuelled vehicles

The meeting of the MVR Forum was used to launch a new HSE (free) leaflet/poster INDG387 *Safe working with LPG-fuelled motor vehicles*. John Powell thanked members of the Fuel Safety WG plus all those who had taken part in the consultation exercise. The publication can be downloaded from the MVR website.

John Powell commented that concerns had been expressed about the small number of persons who had been trained to work on LPG-fuelled vehicles. There were about 80,000 such vehicles on our roads at present and he hoped that the new leaflet would assist in the training of persons involved in the servicing, repair, recovery and breaking of vehicles fuelled with LPG.

This was the fifth leaflet/poster providing advice for the MVR industry. HSE Books may publish them as a priced set in the future. All are downloadable from the MVR webpages. Peter Barlow mentioned that he regularly saw the posters displayed on garage workshop walls. Other members commented that they had been welcomed by the industry.

4 DSEAR (Dangerous Substances & Explosive Atmospheres Regs 2002)

At the previous meeting, Bob Easterby had briefed members on the requirements of DSEAR and the implications for MVR. He updated members on progress with the ACOPs, suggested which of the ACOPs would be of most relevance to MVR and answered members' problems/queries. There would be six priced publications available from HSE Books.

Peter Barlow said that he was concerned not only about the costs of the ACOPs but also of the associated publications referred to in them eg British Standards. These were too expensive for his members. He called for more simpler guidance which could be downloaded from HSE's website.

John Powell confirmed that guidance was being prepared on the *Application of DSEAR to MVR*. He wasn't sure how it would be published but it would be simple, free and available on the MVR webpages, hopefully in Spring 2004.

5 HSE leaflet INDG388 on Working with 2-pack isocyanate paints

Des Browne, Minister for the Department for Work and Pensions, launched the new free HSE leaflet/poster INDG388 *Safety in motor vehicle repair: Working with 2-pack isocyanate paints* when he opened a workshop focusing on the cause, impact and prevention of occupational asthma during European Week for Safety and Health at Work. The leaflet can be downloaded from the MVR website. John Powell thanked members of the Bodyshop WG and all those who had been involved in the consultation process and distribution of the leaflet.

6 Isocyanates in MVR Update (including e:COSHH Essentials worksheets)

Andrew Garrod, Chair of the Bodyshop WG, demonstrated how to use the new e:COSHH Essentials worksheets on the use of isocyanate paints in MVR now available on the Internet. Feedback on the worksheets from small businesses had been very positive so far. Any recommendations from the proposed Bodyshop WG meeting in early 2004 would be addressed and, where necessary, amendments made.

7 Working in Partnership with other Committees

Professor Hay, the TUC nominated member on the Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances (ACTS), said that ACTS wanted to 'work in partnership' with other committees, like the MVR Forum. The purpose of his visit was to (i) raise the profile of ACTS and its work plan (ii) explain and raise awareness of HSC/E's Chemicals Strategy (iii) encourage groups such as the MVR Forum to promote awareness of e:COSHH Essentials among its members/networks (iv) raise awareness of the Asthma Strategy (v) establish what the MVR Forum can do to contribute to HSC/E's Chemicals Strategy; and (vi) identify if ACTS can do anything to help the MVR Forum.

Mark Piney commented that spraying/baking were the main causes of exposure to isocyanates and contributed to the increase in asthma cases. The Midlands, Wales & SW Specialist Group were proposing to survey a range of MVR Bodyshops to monitor controls based on the biological monitoring of staff

David Littleford wondered whether the industry should be trying to find alternatives to isocyanate paints and if health surveillance should cover everyone having access to bodyshops using isocyanates rather than just the operators. John Powell commented that these were issues that the Bodyshop WG might consider.

8 London 'Isocyanate in MVR' Initiatives

Sarah Chaker, who heads a Group of Operational Inspectors in London, spoke about various initiatives carried out in the London area during 2003 to improve working conditions in garages, particularly small enterprises undertaking respraying work. There have already been a number of Safety Awareness Days and seminars, and during European Week for Safety and Health at Work some 90 visits were carried out involving both Operational inspectors and staff from the Health and Safety Laboratories (HSL).

Peter Barlow wondered if all Bodyshops where isocyanate paints are sprayed could be required to apply for an Authorisation, not just those which used a specified quantity. Professor Hay thought that this was an issue that ACTS could consider, if it was referred to them.

Other members thought that companies involved in insurance repair work tended to have the better standards and that more attention should be focused on those not involved. More involvement by the insurance companies might bring about improvements in working conditions.

9 Future HSE Initiatives on Isocyanates

Steve Maidment, Head of HSE's Midlands, Wales and South West Specialist Group advised members of a new HSE initiative on isocyanates in MVR commencing April 2004. The initiative would be undertaken by Occupational Hygiene Specialist Inspectors and concentrate on all aspects isocyanate use in MVR, including health surveillance. The three-year campaign will start with a series of nation-wide seminars to be followed by an enforcement led workplace inspection programme. It was hoped that MVR industry representatives would offer their support, particularly at the seminars.

10 Automotive Skills Ltd (formerly the Motor Industry Training Council)

Tony Moore, Education and Training Manager for Automotive Skills Ltd (formerly the Motor Industry Training Council (MITC)), explained the role of the organisation in developing national standards for the training of persons employed in the Motor Industry. The industry recruits some 8-10,000 persons each year, all requiring training of some kind. Their programmes cover all aspects of the industry, both technical and non-technical, and include training for Managers/Supervisors. Information on training providers for the motor industry will be available on their website in December 2003.

11 Enforcing Authority Allocation

HSC's strategy document for 2004-10 <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/strategy> discusses options for closer co-operation between the HSE and Local Authorities in the enforcement of workplace health and safety legislation.

12 Manual Handling Risk Assessment Flowcharts

Chris Quarrie from HSE's Human Factors Group described the Manual Handling Assessment Charts (MAC), a new tool designed to help assess manual handling risks. HSE (free) leaflet INDG383 *Manual Handling Assessment Charts (MAC)* explains how to complete a MAC assessment. Further information can be obtained on the MSD website at www.hse.gov.uk/msd.

John Powell reminded members that 'handling and sprain' injuries account for about 30% of all reported injuries in MVR. He mentioned a new (free) leaflet/poster INDG390 *Choosing a welding set? Make sure you can handle it* that contains an ergonomic checklist to help buyers of new welding equipment make the right choice. The leaflet is available on the HSE website.

13 Safe Draining of Petrol in Scrapyards

Paul Harvey, who has responsibility for the Waste and Recycling Industries spoke about the risks during petrol draining at scrapyards. He is working with the relevant trade associations developing guidance on the Safe Draining of Petrol in Scrapyards to meet changes in working practices for scrapping vehicles under the End of Life Vehicles Directive (ELV) and standards for Automotive Treatment Facilities (ATFs) .

Free leaflet/poster INDG331 contains guidance on the *Safe use of petrol in garages*. Fires and explosions from the mishandling of petrol are a major cause of fatal accidents in MVR. In one such case, an employee was horrifically burned (but fortunately

survived) when petrol he was draining from a vehicle's petrol tank was ignited by a boiler pilot light and exploded. His employer had recently been fined £10,000 for failing to train him in the correct health and safety procedures.

14 MVR Website

John Powell informed members that in the first three months following the launch of the MVR website <http://www.hse.gov.uk/mvr> , the site had had over 13,500 'hits'. He was looking for support for a new initiative to get MVR businesses with access to the internet to Bookmark the site as one of their 'favourites' so that they are only '**one click away**' from health and safety information relevant to the industry. The website will be updated in December 2003 to include Roadside recovery/repair activities.

15 Work Related Road Safety

At the previous meeting, Steve Kirton, Institute of Vehicle Recovery (IVR) showed the video *Life on the Edge 6. Roadside Technicians: It's your call* that deals specifically with the safety of people involved in roadside recovery operations.

Since that meeting, there had been at least two deaths to roadside recovery technicians. Many of these incidents are not reportable under RIDDOR, but it has been estimated that as many as 8-10 workpeople are killed every year while carrying out roadside recovery/repair activities.

New guidance is being prepared for Inspectors on the application of health and safety legislation to roadside activities. Whilst other Agencies eg Police, Highways Agency have responsibility for the investigation of road traffic incidents, employers still have a responsibility to ensure the safety of their employees and the public eg through safe systems of work and adequate training. In addition, vehicles and/or attachments such as winches and cranes may be classed as 'work equipment'.

The HSE and Department of Transport have issued joint guidance on work related road safety in a new free leaflet INDG382 *Driving at Work: Managing work related road safety* (see HSE Press Release dated 17 September 2003). It is estimated that up to a third of all road traffic accidents involve someone who is at work at the time. This may account for over 20 deaths and 250 serious injuries every week.

John Powell also mentioned that a new HSE/FTA (Freight Transport Association) telephone helpline had been set up to give advice on workplace transport safety – dial 0870 099 0099 (see press release dated 29 October 2003).

17 Any Other Business

John Powell mentioned the Association of British Insurers (ABI) initiative to recognise good practice – to date there has been no further information on this initiative.

18 Date and venue of next meeting

The next meeting of the MVR Forum will be held on **Wednesday 12 May 2004** at HSE's Birmingham office at 1 Hagley Road, Birmingham.