

### **AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)**

Advisory Committees are a major source of expertise and advice to the Commission on specific health and safety matters and issues, and have a key role in delivering the outcomes of the Strategic Plan. The AIAC was the first advisory committee to be established by the Commission. It meets two to three times a year.

Reconstituted in April 2005 to reflect the changing structure of the industry and the influence of the wider food chain, AIAC's membership is drawn from a wide range of organisations with the potential to represent, influence and incentivise the industry to raise health and safety standards. The current membership is set out at the end of this annex.

The Committee's role is to identify future trends, anticipate their likely impacts on health and safety performance and identify appropriate strategies to raise health and safety performance and promote these in the wider rural community.

The AIAC's aims and objectives are:

- To translate and disseminate the Commission's priorities to its constituencies
- To reduce the number of fatalities, major injuries and days lost caused by accidents and work related ill health
- To achieve culture change resulting in an agriculture industry, which recognises and accepts that high standards of health and safety are an integral part of successful business practice: and
- To contribute to delivering HSC's vision, and Strategy and PSA targets
- To promote better understanding and recognition of the risks to health and safety of farmers and farm workers
- To share information on new strategies and approaches for reducing risks;
- To build partnerships and commitment for future work

It is responsible for developing its own work plan that directly contributes to the delivery of the HSC/Es strategy, targets and key work streams. The current workplan is at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/hsc/iacs/aiac/workplan2005.pdf>

Under the plan members agreed to set up the following project groups to address industry specific issues:

- The Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG)
- Transport
- Casual, temporary and migrant workers
- Child Safety
- Worker involvement; and
- Musculoskeletal Disorders
- Training and Education

Five of the Working Groups are currently active. Recent progress is summarised below:

## **AFAG**

- AFAG's original work programme and terms of reference agreed with the AIAC in 2005, have been amended to take account of recent developments in the sector.
- Several research projects are ongoing and/or proposed.
- Progress has been made since 2005 in most of the projects by 'task and finish' working groups. Further information is available at:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/hsc/iacs/aiac/afag/index.htm>

## **Transport**

- The aim of group is to encourage the exchange of information between HSE and stakeholders, to promote joint working and to co-ordinate publicity initiatives. Good progress made by the transport 'task and finish' working group.
- The group is notable for its joint working. Through it, HSE has signed a partnership agreement with the Agricultural Engineers' Association (AEA), has secured commitment from other industry stakeholders, including Lantra Awards for delivery of SHADs and has agreed a Memorandum of Understanding the Sector Skills Council for the land based sector (Lantra).
- Further information is available at:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/hsc/iacs/aiac/transport.htm>

## **Casual, Temporary and Migrant Working Project**

- An advisory pocket card summarising migrant workers' rights and responsibilities and replacing obsolete guidance, was published in 2007.
- Complementary guidance for SMEs in the agriculture and food industries is under development; targeted for publication in autumn 2007.
- A communications strategy involving stakeholders, and agencies and departments including the Border and Immigration Agency, ports of entry Jobcentre Plus etc. has been developed to disseminate the guidance.
- The work of the group has stimulated development of HSE's migrant workers' website.

## **Worker Involvement**

- The group is working to analyse and apply the outcomes of commissioned research over the past 10 years on roving safety representatives within HSC's developing strategy on worker involvement. The problem is particularly acute in agriculture given low levels of TU membership, the trends towards increasing casualisation, contractorisation and temporary working in the industry and the geographical dispersion and isolation of workplaces.

## **Child Safety**

- The group is scoping the problems based on the principle that 'what is safe for children visiting farms will be safe for children living on farms' with a view to targeting future priorities, initiatives and activities.
- The group is also reviewing the scope for giving greater prominence to child safety in the SHAD programme.

**MSDs in agriculture**

- The Sector is to contact AIAC members and form a MSD working group.

**Training**

- Given the development of the suite of Vocational Qualifications on managing health and safety in the industry the members agreed the key task now was to promote and encourage uptake. This can be done independently and for the time being at least, the group can effectively be stood down.

**AIAC Membership – as at August 2007**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	
Elizabeth Gibby	HSE: Head of Injuries Reduction Programme	Chair
Nick Sangha	HSE: Agriculture & Food Sector	Secretary
Jill Hewitt	National Association of Agricultural Contractors	NAAC
Roger Lane-Knott	Agricultural Engineers Association	AEA
Chris Kaufman	Unite: (T&G)	Unite
Teresa MacKay*	Unite: (T&G)	Unite
Ivan Monckton	Unite: (T&G)	Unite
Zad Padda	Ethical First	
Rick Sunderland	National Association of Principal Agriculture Education Officers	NAPAEO
Marcus Themans	National Farmers Union	NFU
Pat Stanley	National Farmers Union	NFU
Andrew Clark	National Farmers Union	NFU
James Brown	Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group	AFAG
David Leavesley*	NFU Mutual Risk Management Services Ltd	
Madge Moore	Lantra	
Chris McCann	Asda	
James Eckley	National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs	NFYFC
Caroline Bedell	Country Land and Business Association	CLA
Helen Shipsey/ Harriet Flanagan	Country Land and Business Association	CLA
David Knowles	IOSH Rural Industries Group	IOSH

\* Members who have resigned from AIAC during August 2007. Replacement nominations have been received.

The committee and its subcommittees and working groups are supported and in many cases chaired by staff from HSE's Agriculture and Food Sector.