

Health and Safety Executive Board			HSE/09/M1
Meeting Date:	28 January 2009	FoI Status	Open
FoI Exemptions			
Trim Reference:	2009/81237		
Rose Court, London			

Present:

Judith Hackitt – Chair	Danny Carrigan	Robin Dahlberg	Judith Donovan
David Gartside	Sayeed Khan	Hugh Robertson	John Spanswick
Sandy Blair	Liz Snape		

Also attending:

Geoffrey Podger, Kevin Myers, Sandra Caldwell, Alex Brett-Holt, Giles Denham, Steve Dennis, Sally Sykes, Elaine Harbour, Lorraine Cassell and Dan Manghai

Apologies: Renè McTaggart

Minutes: Elaine Harbour

Open Session	
1	Agenda Item One: Welcome and Introduction
1.1	<p><u>Introduction</u> Judith Hackitt welcomed everyone to the HSE Board meeting. The Board thanked Sandra Caldwell for all her work for HSE including acting as Chief and Deputy Chief Executive and wished her well in her retirement. The Board also thanked Renè McTaggart and Lorraine Cassell for their support to the Board and wished them well in their new posts. The Chair also welcomed 2 new Secretariat support staff who were attending their first Board meeting, Dan Manghai and Laurence Monaghan</p>
1.2	<p><u>Minutes</u> The draft minutes of the 17th December meeting were agreed as drafted.</p>
1.3	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> The Chair provided a brief update on matters arising since the last meeting. Her report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 8 successful strategy consultation workshops had been held with the final consultation event taking place in Glasgow tomorrow. b. The forward look and agendas for future Board meetings had been developed to take account of Board members views at the last meeting c. That HSE has appointed David Ashton as Director of FOD and Gordon Macdonald as Director of HID.
2	Agenda Item Two: Chief Executive’s Report (paper HSE/09/9)
2.1	<p>As well as his written report Geoffrey provided an oral update highlighting the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The LPG explosion at the Drumtochty Arms Hotel, Aberdeenshire main lines of enquiry focus on product safety and the contractor working on the appliances. The circumstances leading up to the incident have nothing in common with the ICL explosion but the ICL inquiry had been kept fully informed. b. The ICL inquiry report itself is likely to be delayed until April/May c. The Downs judicial review of PSD has serious ramifications for UK pesticides

	<p>policy and PSD's ability to fulfil its regulatory responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. The impact assessment for the Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) Directive is due in summer 2009. e. We continue to analyse the implementation options for the Artificial Optical Radiation (AOR) Directive and will report to the Board in April. f. Following the December Board meeting HSE officials had met with representatives from the Home Builders Federation who have agreed to reconsider their advice and bring it into line with HSE's gas safety alert on flues in ceiling voids; and g. The regional strategy consultation events had been well attended and it was important to carefully consider the points raised at the events
2.2	The Board thanked Geoffrey for his report and agreed the importance of getting the strategy implementation proposals out soon and where possible to use examples of other organisations who are willing to align delivery plans to encourage others to consider what they were going to do in response to the strategy.
3	Agenda Item Three: Oral Presentation on the follow-up to the release of the accident and injury statistics
3.1	<p>Jane Willis gave an update on the 2007/08 statistics and explained how they are used in HSE, she made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the statistics are an important source of data that help inform priorities at a macro level but they need to be supplemented with other sources of intelligence b. It was important not to look at the figures in isolation but to look at trends over the longer term c. HSE use the statistics to identify areas to target to improve our impact. There are clear improvements demonstrated in certain sectors from such a targeted approach e.g. construction d. There is work ongoing with HSL to develop a harm index to look at what other factors should be taken into account. e. The Board were asked to consider how we use the statistics in light of the new strategy and whether HSE should seek to find changing/emerging risks to target
3.2	<p>The Board thanked Jane for her presentation and made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board agreed that the discussion was helpful and timely given the strategy workshops. b. The Board expressed concern about the focus on fatals as this was felt to understate the size of the problem and had been a recurring theme at the strategy consultation workshops. c. The Board wanted to look further at how the statistics are used to ensure we focus on the right agenda. d. The Board noted that the public sector trends showed little improvement and requested a future agenda item on Health and Social Service
Action point 39	Secretariat to add to forward look
4	Agenda Item Four: Oral presentation on Emerging Energy Technologies (including carbon capture) (paper HSE/09/15)
4.1	<p>Taf Powell updated the Board on work underway and in development to address the issues around Emerging Energy Technologies (EET).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The presentation provided an overview of EET and considered the following

	<p>technologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Carbon capture & storage ii) Natural gas storage for storage potential iii) Renewables (wind, wave, tidal, biomass) iv) Distributed generation; and v) Cleaner coal technologies <p>b. There are resource implications as this work develops and the EET Programme board will look at evidence based interventions and a resource strategy. The Programme Board will have members external to HSE.</p>
4.2	<p>The Board thanked Taf for his presentation and made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board confirmed their support for the work; confirming it was in line with the new strategy. b. The Board also supported the view of HSE as a responsible enabler who will address safety concerns c. The board noted the resource issues and requested the Programme Board undertake an early appraisal of finance and resource requirements d. Further updates were requested in due course.
5	Agenda Item Five: Update on the response to the SoS on proposals to increase Tower Crane Safety
5.1	<p>Stephen Williams gave an update on the options available to address the concerns raised by the Secretary of State over construction plant safety and in particular the request to consider a register of tower cranes. Stephen made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the risks associated with tower cranes fall into the following categories: design & fabrication; safety in erection; safety of the erected structure; maintenance once erected; safety in use; safety during dismantling; behavioural issues relating to crane drivers. b. There is a suite of legislative controls already in place and HSE and industry have been working together and have already put in place additional guidance/advisory controls to improve tower crane safety c. There are 2 non-mutually exclusive approaches to a tower crane register <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Statutory or non-statutory vehicle; and ii) Improvements through other means
5.2	<p>The Board thanked Stephen for his update and made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board agreed that the work was required to address public concerns as well as responding to the Select Committee recommendations and SoS concerns b. In addition to the other measures already in place a register of tower cranes was needed. A voluntary register was to be introduced that would allow HSE to test out the register and what is required before introducing a statutory register.
	Agenda Item Six: Presentation to update the Board on the creation of a single chemical regulation function (paper HSE/09/17)
6.1	<p>Kerr Wilson updated the Board on the responsibilities and organisational arrangements for bringing together the chemical regulatory schemes with in HSE and made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The new Chemical Regulation Directorate will bring together the EU/UK regimes on pesticides, biocides, chemicals & detergents with expertise in chemicals regulatory science and policy work.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. The Board were asked to note that a single directorate would have a range of expertise and cover a number of activities c. CRD will have 250 staff based in York and Redgrave Court Bootle, at a cost base of £18million, 90% of which is funded on non HSE income d. Members of the Board were invited to visit York in due course
6.2	<p>The Board thanked Kerr for his presentation and made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board were assured that the new Division would enhance a corporate approach to the use of science b. The Board confirmed their full support for the move to bring together CASU and PSD to form the new directorate.
7	Agenda Item Seven: Proposed changes to HSE's complaints handling procedure (paper HSE/09/10)
7.1	<p>David Ashton outlined the proposed changes to HSE's complaints handling procedure and made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The move to a risk based approach would enable HSE to concentrate on serious complaints and distance itself from trivial complaints where they are not the best use of our resource b. The trial of the new system resulted in a drop in the rate of referral to Inspectors so freeing up Inspector's time c. The new procedure would place complaints handling in a better shape for the Easier Access to services (EASe) programme which will introduce a single point of entry into HSE.
7.2	<p>The Board thanked David for his update and made the following comments in response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Board endorsed the changes proposed to the new complaint procedure and the consistent approach this would provide. b. The board requested officials manage closely and look for enhancements to the system to ensure effective application. c. The Board requested an update 6 months after implementation.
Action point 40	David Ashton to produce an update report after 6 months
8	AOB
8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board were updated on the gas registration scheme transition from Corgi to Capita which is due to go live from April 2009: including the notification/publication of the new scheme by both Capita and HSE • The Board welcomed HSE's lead in reinforcing the change and requested a note before the next Board meeting on information to the public about the scheme.
Action point 41	Les Philpott /Avril Adams to provide a note for Board members
11	Below the line papers
11.1	<p>The following papers were cleared without amendment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strategy for negotiating changes to the Seveso II Directive (HSE/09/3) b. EC Proposals to re-cast the Basic Safety Standards and other Euratom Directives (HSE/09/5)