

**Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances Secretary's Report****ACTS/04/2006****Meeting date:** 3 May 2006**Open Govt. Status:** Fully Open**Exemptions:** None**Type of Paper** Information**HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION****ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES****Secretary's Report (following meeting on 17 November 2005)**

<b>Ref</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Action by</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
3.6	<b>Secretariat to set up and facilitate Working Group. WG to report its findings to ACTS at next meeting</b>	Secretariat/WG	Working Group is set up and the first mtg was held on 3 February 2006	On going

3.7	<p>Members asked that the group consider the following issues:</p> <p>HSE views (including those of the Disease Reduction Board) should be represented, since the ACTS agenda was shaped substantively by the HSE view of the world. The Chair would fulfil this function.</p> <p>In view of the paucity of ACTS agenda items recently and the fact that so much is going on across HSE, whether all relevant issues were being put before ACTS; and how to re-establish the links in the light of a move towards programme working.</p> <p>The extent to which ACTS members could suggest agenda items.</p> <p>How to identify and eradicate duplication with other cross-cutting committees.</p> <p>Whether there needed to be a representative from the Disease Reduction Programme Board at all ACTS meetings.</p> <p>Arrangements for Chairing the Committee (civil servant vs. independent Chair) &amp; whether this raised any neutrality issues or caused conflict in communications between ACTS and HSC/E.</p> <p>ACTS running costs (public expenditure and members' time) as part of the business case.</p> <p>Action: WG to consider the issues</p>	ACTS Working GroupWG.	Please see WG mtg Minutes	On going
3.8	Secretariat to arrange an ACTS mtg early in 2006	HSE	Done	
2.2	Richard Pedersen to provide PowerPoint presentation to Secretariat. Secretariat to circulate with minutes	HSE	Done	

2.3	<p>There needed to be clear guidance for users of chemicals on the implications of REACH. ACTS members wished to see a note on what was planned prior to April 2007 to advise employers of the forthcoming changes. (HSE to clarify the position in a note to ACTS.)</p> <p>A few sentences should be included in the draft HSC paper HSC/05/126 setting out the ACTS position on REACH, The key point to bring out would be that REACH would not undermine COSHH and any erroneous impression that it might do so might need to be addressed by the Commission in its communications. ACTS asked that the paper be copied to members for information. (Paper to include line on ACTS views. Final version to be copied to ACTS for information)</p> <p>The feeling was that REACH would inevitably generate initial confusion and this would need to be addressed by HSE in the form of advice/guidance, to include clarification/reassurance that if they are operating COSHH properly now then they may not need to change what they're doing at all. There was concern that SMEs in particular needed to be targeted to ensure the messages reached them. One popular suggestion was to devise a 'control sheet' to show how COSHH/REACH intermesh. ACTS wished to see and comment on any "REACH" guidance prepared by HSE for employers. <b>(HSE guidance to be circulated to ACTS for comment)</b></p>	HSE	<p>Please see attached 'Note to ACTS members: Guidance on REACH'</p> <p>Paper HSC/06/13 is attached for information. ACTS views are reflected in paragraph 15.</p>	
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4.1	Remove the final sentence in paragraph 2.6 of the Minutes <b>Secretariat to amend the minutes accordingly</b>	HSE	Done	
5.1	The discussion on the information paper on asbestos ACTS/02/2005 and results of recent consultation on amendments to the asbestos legislation and ACoPs would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. <b>(Secretariat to put this item on the next agenda)</b>	HSE	Done	