

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Secretary's Report – From meeting date: 25 March 2004

| Min. Ref | What | Action by who | Progress | Deadline/ Status |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|--|------------------|
| 1: Introduction and apologies | | | | |
| 1.1.4 | A member raised concern that she does not wish to be referred to as the ACTS' consumer representative (as she has no links to consumer associations) – her preference being the title 'independent member'. | ACTS Secretariat | Research carried out by Secretariat into the circumstances of members original appointment to ACTS. Agreement reached on 6 th April that in future the member would be listed as the ACTS' "public interest member" as per appointment. | Complete |
| 1.1.5 | Members questioned whether the two independent expert members who resigned in Jan/Feb 2004 would be replaced. The Chair proposed a discussion, perhaps in July 2004, on any gaps (in expertise) in the Committee. | ACTS Secretariat | Oral presentation to be given (agenda item 6) at 8 July ACTS meeting. | In progress |
| 1.1.6 | Several members raised concern regarding Secretariat's move to electronic distribution of papers. A proposal was made that HSE provides power sockets for use of laptops at the next meeting (so avoiding need to print documents). Others requested paper copies only. Chair agreed to liaise with Secretariat to agree way forward. E-Mail members to ascertain who requires hard copy distribution or a power socket. | ACTS Secretariat | Paper copies of all documents to be sent to those members that request them; Other members to receive only electronic copies (with the exception of substantial consultation-style papers); Provide power sockets at future meetings for those members wishing to use laptops. | Complete |

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| 1.1.8 | Extend ACTS members thanks to authors of draft HSC paper on Nanotechnology. Secretariat to provide members with copy of final version of the paper (HSC/04/42 plus Annexes) that was presented to HSC on 6 th April (now on the intranet). | ACTS Secretariat | Paper sent to ACTS members. 07/05/2004 | Complete |
| 2: ACTS open meetings – Review of October 2003 meeting and future strategy | | | | |
| 2.5 | To revisit the ACTS Steering Group's original thinking (they met in Dec. 2002) and get something together for 8 th July 04 (i.e. proposals and an open meeting). Secretariat to e-mail members with updated plans for 2004 open meeting. | ACTS Secretariat | No suitable room (i.e. combined Rose/Globe) available in Rose Court for 8 th July. Also the Chair was unavailable for the July meeting. Therefore the 2004 open meeting will take place on 25 Nov. Paper ACTS/22/2004 to be presented at 8 July meeting . | In progress |
| 3: Progressing the work plan – Liaison with other committees | | | | |
| 3.3 | Secretariat to e-mail committees visited to let them know we are taking things forward. | ACTS Secretariat | E-Mail sent 11/05/2004. | Complete |
| 3.4 | Tailor the progress report (i.e. make it user-friendly) and send out electronically so members can prioritise the initiatives identified and provide their views. Depending on feedback from members, consider organising a meeting or telephone conference of ACTS' "volunteers", i.e. to agree which initiatives are taken forward. | ACTS Secretariat | Initiatives table sent out on 23/06/2004 to volunteers for comments. | In Progress |
| 4: Review of the flour dust MEL (originally Agenda item 7) | | | | |

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| 4.4 | HSE to take away and consider results from discussion on 25/03/04. Also to discuss how to identify/reach those who could represent smaller groups/players. Need also to agree the messages that are to be put over. The proposal was that a working group be formed that would cover these issues. | | The first meeting of the working group will take place in the Autumn. However, a meeting will be held with HSE representatives on 6 July to discuss the feedback from the ACTS meeting held in March, what information we currently have on flour dust and to prepare for the main meeting in the Autumn. | In progress |
| 4.5 | TU and CBI sides both offered to identify representatives who have bakery industry knowledge. | TU/CBI | One TU, one CBI and Two Trade Association nominees (all with industry experience) have accepted invitations to join the working group. | Complete |
| 4.6 | Members volunteering to join the proposed WG to contact HSE by end of April. | Members | Two ACTS members (one TU rep and one Local Authorities rep) have joined the working group. | Complete |
| 5: Refractory ceramic fibres (Agenda item 4) | | | | |
| 5.3 | Committee accepted recommendations as per paper (ACTS/02/2004) subject to an evaluation of the new limit being carried out in 3 years time. HSE to take forward. | ACTS Secretariat & HSE | Evaluation to be taken forward as part of the evaluation of HSE's Chemicals Programme as a whole. | In Progress |
| 6: WATCH (Agenda item 5) | | | | |
| 6.2 | E-Mail composition and Terms of Reference of WATCH to ACTS member. | ACTS Secretariat | E-mail sent to WATCH Secretariat 30/03/04. E-mail sent to ACTS member 05/04/04. | Complete |

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| 6.5 | TU-side raised concern that the recently circulated RoadMap (on setting EU limits) does not explain the mechanism existing for how to feed into the limit setting process at an early stage. Questioned what is the ACTS mechanism for getting involved. ACTS Secretary invited TU-side to attend a meeting with the CIA that was already scheduled. TU-side indicated they would think about being involved with the meeting. | HSE/TU-side | The meeting referred to on 25 March was unable to take place. The Chair has now had high level meetings with both the CIA and the TUC. | Complete |
| 6.7 | Ask next meeting of WATCH to continue discussions of interaction with SCOEL and EU limit setting process and put on paper their findings for ACTS to see. | ACTS Secretariat | E-mail sent to WATCH Secretary. WATCH discussed this issue at its last meeting. An oral report will be given at the July meeting. | In Progress |
| 7: Proposals to introduce a new OEL framework (CD189) – Update (Agenda item 6) | | | | |
| 7.2 | Form an HSE/Social Partner drafting group to refine COSHH ACoP and guidance in light of concerns from stakeholder groups about the complexity of the text. (This will clarify that there is no intention to raise the status of <i>COSHH Essentials</i> to that of regulation and that large companies already complying with MELs/OESs can continue to use their existing practice.) | HSE & OEL WG | Issues covered in ACTS/20/2004 to be presented at July ACTS meeting. | In Progress |
| 7.2 | To consider the options for the transfer of OESs for discussion and agreement at the WG's next meeting. | OEL WG | Issues covered in ACTS/20/2004 to be presented at July ACTS meeting. | In Progress |
| 7.2 | The 7 objectives for a new approach to OELs established by the OEL Working Group at the outset should be revisited to ensure the current version of the proposal meets the criteria. | HSE | Issues covered in ACTS/20/2004 to be presented at July ACTS meeting. | In Progress |
| 7.2 | Changes to COSHH Regulations from the new OEL framework to be made at the same time as those to implement the Directive on Chromium VI Cement. | HSE | In progress. | End 2004 |
| 8: Progress with the asthma strategy | | | | |

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| - | <i>No actions</i> | - | - | - |
| 9: Cancer and skin disease strategy | | | | |
| - | <i>No actions</i> | - | - | - |
| 10: The EU chemicals Strategy (REACH) | | | | |
| - | <i>No actions</i> | - | - | - |
| 11: Minutes of meeting held on 17 October 2003 | | | | |
| - | <i>No actions</i> | - | - | - |
| 12: Notes from 1st ACTS open meeting, 17 October 2003 | | | | |
| - | <i>No actions</i> | - | - | - |
| 13: Matters arising and Secretary's report | | | | |
| - | <i>No actions</i> | - | - | - |
| Below the line items brought above the line for discussion | | | | |
| 14: Genetic testing in the workplace | | | | |
| 14.1 | Paper ACTS/10/2004: TU-member requested fuller discussion on this at a future meeting (as per paragraph 12 of paper). It was agreed that before this item is put on a future agenda, the member would speak to a colleague (TU-side, but also Chair of OHAC's Genetic Screening WG) to agree whether it is a worthwhile agenda item. | TU-side | Awaiting feedback from TU-side. | |
| 19: Current Developments | | | | |

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| 19.1 | <p>Paper ACTS/17/2004 – Proposals for the control of inhalable dust in coal mines (CD194): Page 3 of paper (penultimate paragraph) – There is reference to the proposal for an exposure limit of 0.3 mg.m⁻³ for quartz. Secretariat to seek clarification of this figure as there is a 20% chance of developing silicosis at this level. Raise ACTS concern on this to relevant IAC and establish whether ACTS or the IAC will ultimately approve the new limit.</p> | <p>ACTS Secretariat to liase with Deep Mined Coal IAC</p> | <p>Concerns passed on to HSE Mines Quarries and Explosive Policy Section who are taking forward the proposals in CD194. ACTS members were encouraged to reply to CD194 in person.</p> <p>2 members commented on the CD and HSE (HIPD1) has responded to their concerns by individual letter.</p> | <p>Complete.</p> |