

Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances Paper		ACTS/08/2008	
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES

UPDATE - HSE CANCER SEMINAR ON 4 JUNE 2008

A Paper by Lydia Harrison – HSE

Issue

1. Bud Hudspith of Unite has requested that an update paper be put to ACTS on the cancer workshop that took place in June 2008.

Timing

2. Routine.

Recommendation

3. ACTS is requested to note the contents of the paper.

Background

4. The workshop hosted by HSE in June 2007 discussed priorities for tackling occupational cancer (<http://hse.gov.uk/drp/workshop.pdf>). One of the themes that emerged was the need to widen our focus to consider ways of improving the control of dusts, gases and fumes in the workplace generally, in order to reduce the risks of developing a range of occupational diseases.

5. A second stakeholder workshop was held on 4 June this year, bringing together stakeholders in industries where there was the potential for workplace exposure to dusts/gases/fumes that could be carcinogenic or cause long latency respiratory disease. The aim was to begin to build effective partnerships to achieve sustained change in the workplace to eliminate, reduce or effectively control exposures. Those attending shared examples of good practice and began to identify areas in which all of us in the health and safety system could work together to take practical action. This is the beginning of a much longer process. HSE is currently examining the views put forward in the workshop and will be inviting individual industries/parts of industries to move forward by working with HSE and other partners in a series of smaller, subsequent meetings/working groups to tackle specific aspects of reducing workplace exposure.

6. A report of the workshop is currently being prepared and should be available around the end of July. A copy will be circulated to ACTS members as soon as it becomes available.

Action

7. Members are requested to note the information provided.

Contact

8. ACDS Secretariat.