

Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances Paper		ACTS/5/2011	
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Update on Partnership Teams

A paper by Jenny Hagan

This is a further update on the 'Dust and Fumes' Project, which aims to reduce the incidents of respiratory disease by raising awareness of the long term health effects of inhaling dust and fumes in the workplace.

To recap, this is work done by the Respiratory Diseases Team within the Long Latency Health Risks Division (LLHRD). Using information gathered over a number of years, five 'high risk' industries have been identified for targeted initiatives to raise awareness of risks and change behaviours – stoneworking, construction, foundries, quarries and welding. Activities within these five areas is managed and developed by individual 'partnership teams', with membership from organisations and individuals having the capacity and influence to drive forward change.

Welding: The group has entered into discussions over the production of an independent website, entitled Bad Air Day to distribute additional sources of information to the HSE website. The Association of Welding Distributors (AWD) has been working jointly with HSE to run a further 4 Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADS) this autumn in Glasgow, Port Talbot, Rotherham and Weybridge, following on from last years well received events. Items to be discussed at the next meeting on 28 November 2011 include key messages, stickers for supply equipment, visuals and leaflets. The group are continuing to work with HSE to produce the Vocational Education and Training (VET) tool and will trial it this autumn. It will be available to purchase by colleges and training establishments, from January 2012.

Stoneworkers: HSE is working with the group to finalise a communications strategy, which will be offered to the partners and used to guide future interventions.

Quarries: The Quarries Partnership Team (QPT) continues to raise the profile of health issues relating to exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) within the industry. Two new partners have joined, meaning all of the five major UK quarry operators are now represented. Silica and Moulding Sands Association (SAMSA) hosted three safety days for their members in September and early October, which included control of dust as a topic. SAMSA are also leading the newly formed Dimensional Stone Group, which has been set up to tackle the issues of dust across all industries that use

stone products; a number of QPT members are involved and HSE is represented by Sector colleagues.

Foundries: Work of the group is closely aligned to that of the Foundries Industry Advisory Committee and the latter has asked that consideration is given to the combining the two.

Construction: – The partnership team is considering the challenges of controlling dust at source. Hilti GB (a construction industry supplier) hosted a practical demonstration of on-tool extraction systems at their training centre in October to inform the partners' discussions. European Power Tools Association (EPTA) are to develop an 'extraction user guide' for provision with power tools. The partnership are also developing ideas for a website to host information on dust for the industry; this will take the form of new pages on the HSE Construction site. Working Well Together (an industry campaign to reduce deaths, injuries and ill health) ran a SHAD on 15 September, which included issues of dust exposure, in particular the need for tight-fitting RPE to be face fit tested. This helped identify a possible barrier for trades' people, in that there is no information provided at point of sale with facemasks of the need for face fit. The Partnership Team manager has identified a relevant stakeholder who can help to remove this barrier and work on this is being developed.