

# DRAFT

Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances Paper		ACTS/6/2010	
Meeting date:	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2010	Open Govt. Status:	Open
Type of paper:	Above the line	File Ref:	2010/216728
Exemptions:	None		

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES

### Plan of Work 2010 - 2011

#### Reconstitution

Subject to the anticipated approval by the HSE Board, the Secretariat will formally reconstitute ACTS as a tripartite advisory committee of the HSE. As the reconstitution process will take some time to complete, the current ACTS membership will continue.

The Committee's reconstitution will follow established procedures<sup>1</sup>.

#### ACTS meetings

ACTS will aim to meet at least twice a year.

ACTS will seek, through its reconstitution, Plan of Work and meeting agendas, to focus on supporting delivery of HSE's Strategy for the Health and Safety System. Whilst there is considerable value to be gained from its role as a high level discussion forum involving external stakeholders with specialised knowledge; it should, through its reconstitution also ensure that it:

- Supports the HSE Strategy;
- Provides advice to HSE on generic issues requiring input and support;
- Provides a forum to discuss health issues, particularly those which the HSE has prioritised;
- Shares and reports best practice.

#### Key Activities for 2010 – 2011

With the benefit of its tripartite structure, ACTS will assist the HSE Board to deliver its strategy 'be **part of the solution**' by providing advice and input relating to exposure to substances in the workplace. In particular, ACTS will help develop the priorities agreed by the HSE Board in the paper: ***Delivering for Health – 'A Future Work Plan in Response to HSE's Healthier Workplaces Strategic Goal'***.

As a priority, ACTS will consider, from first principles, risk reduction strategies for health risks from dust (including the Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) for silica) and the dust initiative work HSE is currently taking forward.

ACTS will also consider:

- how its activities complement that of other Government advisory bodies, with a view to minimising any overlaps and identifying any gaps;
- current arrangements for measuring work-related ill health and opportunities to improve these;
- the findings that arise from research commissioned by the HSE on the future burden of occupational cancer in Great Britain and the implications for the HSE's future work priorities.

---

<sup>1</sup> ACTS/2/2010

## DRAFT

- how gender balance and diversity in relation to current and future health risks are addressed by the HSE;
- the UK strategy on Nanotechnology;
- the prevention, control and management of exposure to toxic substances in the recycling industry
- priority areas for future research in relation to health risks and the protection of workers' health.

### **Working groups /Sub Committees**

To provide the appropriate support to deliver its work plan and in light of legislative changes at EU and national level, the HSE and ACTS will consider the need for the following groups:

- Standing Committee on Hazard Information and Packaging (SCHIP)
- The Working Group on Action to Control Chemicals (WATCH)
- European Risk Management Advisory Group (ERMAG).
- Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) Framework Review Working Group.
- Working Group on COSHH Essentials

### **Contact**

Jenny Hagan  
jenny.hagan@hse.gsi.gov.uk