

**Open Government status:** Fully Open

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**Exempt material:** None

**Meeting Date:** 25 March 2004

**Type of Paper:** Information

## HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES

#### Secretary's Report (following 17 October 2003 meeting)

Ref	What	Action by	Progress
<b>1</b>	<b>Review of the Open Meeting</b>		
1.2	Analyse & summarise the feedback questionnaires from the public attendees of the 17 October Open Meeting	ACTS Secretariat	Analysis will be presented as part of ACTS/01/2004 paper at March 2004 ACTS meeting
1.3	Committee members to e-mail Secretariat with their reflections on the open meeting and their ideas for future open meetings	Committee members (all)	General consensus was, that the open meeting worked well. The variety of ideas for future open meetings led to a procedural change in handling this issue.
1.3	Secretariat will ballot members, by e-mail, to identify the most popular format for future open meetings	ACTS Secretariat	To be taken forward by ACTS/ 01/2004 with subsequent discussion 25 March 2004 (next ACTS meeting)
1.3	Secretariat will prepare an 'options' paper for discussion in March 2004	ACTS Secretariat	To be taken forward by ACTS/ 01/2004 with subsequent discussion 25 March 2004 (next ACTS meeting)
<b>2</b>	<b>Review of ACTS' sub-groups</b>		
2.3	For both ACTS and WATCH to stay relevant, they would need to evolve accordingly. It was therefore agreed that WATCH will be reviewed in 2 years time	WATCH Secretariat	WATCH to be reviewed in 2005

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2.4	The Review Group had also considered the roles of WATCH and WEELS in the EU exposure limit setting process. The role of WEELS has been redefined as a tripartite forum for developing UK negotiating positions by acting as a conduit for transmitting information to stakeholders and also allowing them to feed into the process. WEELS will develop these ideas further and report back to ACTS in 6 months	WEELS	WEELS to report after May meeting
2.5	2.4 - Discussion took place with regards to scientific committees, WEELs, SCOEL and the EU limit setting process. The Chair expressed a need for a diagram of the various committees and their roles with a map of how they link into Europe.	HSE, International Chemicals Branch	Road map document circulated to members (for comment) on 22/01/2004
<b>3</b>	<b>Progressing the work plan – feedback from liaison with other committees</b>		
3.1	The volunteer member provided feedback from SSHSCC (ship building) who would welcome ACTS help with “what chemicals/ coatings etc. go onto or into ships”, also would like help with getting information on chemical “removal” added to data sheets. The Chair drew a parallel with CDM Regs, e.g. safety files, an idea that could be transferable to ships?	ACTS Secretariat  HSE, Marine, Aviation and Civil Contingencies Section  HSE, Manufacturing Sector	The key differences between buildings and ships are that the latter are mobile and they operate in an international dimension. Work may be undertaken upon a vessel in several shipyards in several countries during its lifetime. The majority of vessels repaired in British shipyards are foreign owned and foreign 'flagged'. Regulation of ships is mainly driven by the flag state, although most requirements are based upon agreements at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), also the 'port' state can deal with limited issues. IMO have recently been progressing proposals for vessels to be scrapped to be accompanied by information on the 'contents' of a vessel. The IMO proposals build on an industry code of practice on shiprecycling. HSE, Marine, Aviation and Civil Contingencies Section will seek the views of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency regarding this issue.
3.2	A member asked why we are not visiting the LA Forum and the Oil IAC (OIAC). On 24/10 emailed one of the volunteers and suggested he now visit LA Forum as he cannot now visit HSBLC (bakeries).	ACTS Secretariat	Email sent to member re: LA Forum on 24/10 A volunteer will attend March meeting of LA forum

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3.3	A member has now volunteered to go to the bakeries committee. Committee Chair notified of change. Arrangements to be made.	ACTS Secretariat	Member attended HSBLC meeting 10/12/2003
3.4	A volunteer confirmed will visit CHARGE but awaiting date of meeting.	ACTS Secretariat	Volunteer attended CHARGE 03/02/2004
3.5	Volunteers requested for textiles, plastics, construction (RA?), OHAC and Foundries. One member happy to do any - dates required.	ACTS Secretariat	Volunteer attended CONIAC occupational health working party 20/01/2004 Also attended Plastics (PPHSLC) 28/01/2004 Volunteer visit to Foundries IAC arranged for 22/04/2004 Textiles and OHAC still to be arranged
3.6	Member suggested sending eCE mouse mats to all IAC/SAC members. <i>(Plan instead to include mouse mat in the Communication Packs given to IAC/SAC committee members ahead of visit by ACTS member.)</i>	ACTS Secretariat	Mouse mats included in communication packs November 2003 onwards
3.7	Member offered to bring the importance of this (ACTS work plan) initiative to Secretary of TEXIAC's attention to ensure that an opportunity arises to go to TEXIAC.	Member	The member did speak to the Secretary of TEXIAC. While TEXIAC are not opposed to the visit, they do question the value of it & feel they have already devoted a proportionate amount of resource to this area of their work plan, as they have already produced some guidance on commonly used chemicals in the industry
<b>4</b>	<b>The EU chemicals strategy</b>		
4.1	A member requested a discussion on the "Duty of care" which she argued had been weakened. Debate followed, discussing "due diligence" etc. Agreed was for ACTS to discuss this and other issues in the proposals at the next meeting. The Secretary explained EC to publish legislative proposals on 29/10/2003. The member stressed that as what will be published on 29/10 is not final, ACTS should discuss where it stands.	HSE, International Chemicals Branch ACTS Secretariat	Overtaken by events. Once members had seen the proposals published on the internet (29/10), the request for a debate was withdrawn.
4.2	The Chair asked that member to put a series of questions forward that she would like the Committee to discuss.	Member	Member asked that the item be withdrawn from next ACTS meeting agenda.
4.3	The Chair asked all members to look at the update paper tabled on 17 October and identify questions for debate in March. The issues raised should be " <b>issues of concern members have</b>	HSE, International Chemicals	HSE, International Chemicals Branch wrote to members raising the issue. Lack of response led to paper ACTS/08/2004 being withdrawn from the

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	<i>for EU work place</i> ". The concerns will be for the Committee and <u>not</u> HSE to respond to, i.e. HSE will not produce responses to the points in advance of the meeting. ACTS Secretariat stated that "HSE, International Chemicals Branch will write to members, giving a date for response".	Branch	agenda. Agenda item (10) will remain, with the ACTS Secretary giving an update on progress with REACH since Oct 2003 (i.e. referring to the REACH information that will be put in the Current developments paper).
<b>5</b>	<b>Introduction to the cancer &amp; skin disease strategies</b>		
5.1	Following HSE, Cancer and Skin Disease Section's verbal update, members asked for a more formal paper at a future meeting..	HSE, Cancer & Skin Disease Section	Paper ACTS/07/2004 to be presented March 2004 ACTS meeting
5.2	In the meantime, HSE, Cancer and Skin Disease Section asked members to raise any specific questions they have, directly with him.	Committee members (all)	No questions raised