

Open Government
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**HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)**

FISA update November 2016

Significant matters

1. Since the last AIAC meeting/ the FISA Steering group has met on 7 June 2016 and 14 September 2016. There are currently 8 working groups looking at specific forestry safety issues

<http://www.ukfisa.com/working-groups.html>
2. No further progress has been made in trying to adopt the Articles and Rules rejected by the AGM in March 2016. Neither the FCA nor FISA have been able to agree a way forward to revise the Articles and Rules in such a way that they will win the support of the bulk of the membership. FISA is continuing to work to its existing Articles
3. Membership is increasing and currently stands at 700
4. Two new contractor members have been elected to the Steering Group. These are Brendan Burns (FCA Chair, Scotland) and Simon Bowes (FCA Chair, England).
5. The relationship between FISA and the FCA has not improved, delaying progress with safety concerns. As a result, the Steering Group voted to suspend the FCA membership of FISA.
6. The working groups continue to be active on a range of topics. New volunteers are always sought for the Working Groups.
7. **Safety Documents WG** –New style easier to print guides are a priority for this group.
8. **Communications WG** – FISA attend APF with an indoor stand promoting lone worker safety and FISA guides and an outdoor display area concentrating on MSD's which was well received by visitors to the site. FISA attended the Royal Welsh, and Highland Shows. FISA is looking for members to promote FISA and forestry health and safety through their own social media sites.
9. **Learning & Behaviour WG** – encouraging more people to submit safety bulletins, template for completing on line. This group is preparing toolbox talks to be available from the FISA website. New members have expressed an interest in joining.

10. **Skills & Development WG** – FISA has contributed to the development of an assisted felling/edge tree training course by Lantra. FISA Supervisor and FWM courses continue to run. This group are involved with the joint AFAG chainsaw project. Group also working on updated skyline guidance
11. **Forest Haulage WG** - the driver safety booklet has been issued. Currently reviewing the adequacy of existing crane operator training course with training providers.
12. **Electricity/ Utilities Protocols WG** - the group met on 29 September to consider priorities for work over the next three years.
13. **Worksite management WG** – exemplar COSHH assessment has been produced by this group. . Discussions are being held with a manufacturer for an improved design of spray suit.
14. **Machinery Plant & Equipment WG** – this group met in July and put forward proposals for inclusion in the FISA Strategic plan. A sub-group looking at small forestry machinery is being set up. Tillhill provided a demonstration of assisted felling using winches for the group on 4 October
15. The Steering Group watched a video prepared by Tillhill following a fatal accident in the last work year. This accident involved the take down of a hung up tree and the Steering Group were invited to consider proposals from Tillhill for the management of hung up trees in future. This recommended a move away from the concept of dealing with hung up tress immediately, to a risk based approach to give contractors time to assess the work and call in additional resources if required.

Andrew Turner
November 2016