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AIAC 18/06/04

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)

FISA update December 2017 and March 2018

Significant matters

1. Since the last AIAC meeting the FISA Steering Group has met on 12 December 2017 and 13 March 2018. There are currently 7 working groups looking at specific forestry safety issues

<http://www.ukfisa.com/working-groups.html>
2. The suspension of the Forestry Contractors Association (FCA) and its Chair from the Steering Group has been lifted following a vote of SG members. Contractor representation on the SG has also increased.
3. A significant part of each meeting is now spent discussing recent incidents and lessons learned. Member organisations are encouraged to produce safety bulletins or alerts for the more significant incidents which are shared on FISA's website. Incidents continue to draw attention to the need for effective planning, monitoring and supervision. Details of incidents are passed on to the relevant Working Group as necessary. Risks of Lyme disease were also discussed.
4. The FISA SG were updated on HSE's 2018 forestry inspection programme, the focus of which will be on chainsaw operations and particularly planning, competence and supervision, as well as site welfare provision. HSE also advised of the conclusions of the investigation into a recent (June 2017) chainshot incident in which a harvester operator was struck by a piece of chain that penetrated his cab's protective screen. The issues raised by the incident go beyond screen design (i.e. thickness) and include issues concerning factory set chain speeds, chain and saw maintenance and the importance of following operating practices that keep the saw pointing away from the cab. These other issues highlight that a cab's protective screen, like PPE, is the last line of defence when other mitigating measures fail.
5. Chair Alastair Sandels reminded SG members of FISA's role in showing leadership for the industry and the importance of leadership in achieving behaviour change. The Chair also highlighted the need to learn from recent incidents. .
6. Gillian Clarke (CEO) has continued to spend more time on site to promote the visibility of FISA and to gather first hand intelligence to help inform FISA priorities. .

7. The working groups continue to be active on a range of topics. New volunteers are always sought for the Working Groups.
8. **Safety Documents WG** –FISA Guide 802 (Emergency planning) is now published, sponsored by Trackplot. The new FISA 706 haulage guide has now been published, sponsored by Volvo. FISA 301, 302, 303 & 304 of the chainsaw guides have additional text relating to hung up trees. All new guides are sponsored and are in a new, easy to print style.
9. **Communications WG** – This WG has merged with the Behaviour Change and Learning WG.
10. **Learning & Behaviour WG** – slow progress continues to be made on statistics. A Landowner sub-group is to be formed to take forward issues relating to landowners.
11. **Skills & Development WG** –This group will be taking forward the chainsaw project group from AFAG.
12. **Forest Haulage WG** – Group will be speaking at the Timber Transport Forum. Wire Watcher trial results being considered. Articles are being published in Forestry and Timber News and the WG is considering the need for a low loader guide.
13. **Electricity/ Utilities Protocols WG** – FISA 804 has been reviewed and a revised draft is in preparation. Network Rail will contribute supplementary information for railways.
14. **Worksite management WG** – Working on revisions to managing health and safety in forestry. Approach will be a three tier structure to try to make the guidance relevant to all.
15. **Machinery Plant & Equipment WG** – A draft of a new safety guide on Traction Winches has been produced. Continuing to look at issues arising from some chain shot incidents.
16. **Safety before price** – The Chair believes this is a way forward for the industry but needs a mechanism for engaging landowners and their agents, particularly with regard to standing sales where the landowner may not have a direct relationship with the contractor. Industry workshops being considered as a way forward. Contractors continue to be concerned that contracts contain restrictions which make it difficult to work safely in the forest and that those that make adequate provision for health and safety are not getting contracts.
17. FISA AGM will be held in the CONFOR tent at APF on 20th September.

Andrew Turner/Iain Sutherland
May 2018