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HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)

Overview of the AFAG meeting held on 14 November 2017 and 16 May 2017

Future of AFAG

1. AFAG members considered the future role of AFAG. It had last been considered in 2013 when FISA was new and its role not fully understood. Since then a number of projects have been completed or closed, and new work, which may have been considered by AFAG, has been taken forward by FISA.
2. Membership of AFAG has remained constant although it has been difficult to maintain a balance between forestry and arboriculture. In particular arboriculture members have struggled to attend.
3. AFAG considered its role and whether or not changes were required to reflect the better understanding of FISA's contribution, and whether the group should become more targeted towards arboriculture. It concluded that it would continue in its current form and the Chair would write to non-attending members to encourage them to contribute.
4. A revised list of AFAG projects was considered to take forward learning points from the Alexander Kirkley fatality, safe tree work near OHPL's, small scale forestry machinery and occupational health.

Significant matters discussed

5. European Chainsaw Certificates – further updates have been provided. Progress has been made although recently legal proceedings regarding intellectual property rights have commenced which involve some of the members of EFESCE and ABA International Ltd which will have limited further discussion.
6. Reports back from FISA have been received, summary provided to AIAC.
7. A statement regarding HSE's position on the application of LOLER and PUWER to winching operations has been agreed and circulated.
8. AFAG members have considered representations from the Coroner (Regulation 28 letter) and the family of Alexander Kirkley, who received fatal injuries while working in a

tree using a top-handled chainsaw. The Arboriculture Association conducted a survey of members on issues regarding kickback and Stihl have offered to look at the technical challenges in developing neck protection. This is work in progress.

9. The Chainsaw Accidents working group has produced guidance which has been accepted by AFAG and will be offered to FISA for publication. The paper describes roles and responsibilities and a hierarchy for the control of risks from chainsaw operation.
10. Small-scale forestry machinery – AFAG has examined two research reports produced by the Forestry Commission and has concluded that operator guidance is still required. A proposal for the development of this guidance will be tabled at the next meeting.
11. Occupational health was a theme at APF. Opportunities have been identified for promoting OH using Healthy Working Lives in Scotland, along with a project being developed by Forestry Commission Scotland. .
12. A revised BS EN 609-1 Wedge type log splitters – was published in April 2017. This revised standard addressed the UK's concerns.
13. Work is in progress on a new woodchipper standard, following withdrawal of the existing standard in 2014.
14. AFAG received an update on the development of new a new UA contractor scheme and regulated UA qualifications.

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