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

FISA update May 2017

Significant matters

1. Since the last AIAC meeting the FISA Steering Group has met on 13 December 2016 and 7 March 2017. FISA also held its AGM on 6 May 2017. There are currently 8 working groups looking at specific forestry safety issues
<http://www.ukfisa.com/working-groups.html>
2. At the AGM FISA members voted to adopt revised Articles and Rules. It is hoped that FISA will now be able to focus on improving health and safety in the industry with a health and safety plan for the next three years being a priority. It is also hoped that previously strained relationships can be mended.
3. The Steering Group arranged for a Public Relations company to carry out a survey of FISA members to determine perceptions of FISA. The survey reported that FISA's voice should be louder and that it should focus its resources on progressing a smaller number of priorities more quickly, rather than a large number of priorities more slowly.
4. A new Chair has been elected, Alastair Sandels. Alastair's priorities are to engage with landowners; develop a standard form of contract and to develop ideas for the resourcing of harvesting during the planning stage.
5. Membership is again reported as increasing but a number was not given.
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** –Progress is being made in developing new style easier to print guides but none are yet ready for circulation.
8. **Communications WG** – This WG has merged with the Behaviour Change and Learning WG.
9. **Learning & Behaviour WG** – slow progress has been made in the development of safety alerts and the collection of statistics. HSE assistance is being sought to progress both matters.

10. **Skills & Development WG** – Now chaired by Simon Wallis (formerly Learning and Development Manager with the FC). Delivery of chainsaw refreshers, supervisor and Forestry Works Manager training is continuing. The group continues to be working in parallel with AFAG regarding difficult trees. Group also working on updated skyline guidance although this has been slow.
11. **Forest Haulage WG** – Overhead power line warning devices are being trialled. Methods of getting safety information direct to drivers electronically are being looked at.
12. **Electricity/ Utilities Protocols WG** – Reports of contact with OHPL continue and the group is looking at means of prevention.
13. **Worksite management WG** – New guidance for stack heights has been developed, as has new guidance for emergency Planning. An example risk assessment is now on the FISA website. A managing public access to sites risk assessment is being developed. Guidance on welfare facilities to be produced.
14. **Machinery Plant & Equipment WG** – A sub-group looking at small forestry machinery from a landowner's perspective has been established. A machinery checklist has been produced on the website, and paper copies have been supported by John Deere. Techniques for using machines to deal with difficult trees are being trialled with input from manufacturers.

Andrew Turner
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