

Open Government
Status:

OPEN

AIAC 16/06/02

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)

FISA update June 2016

Significant matters

1. Since the last AIAC meeting/ the FISA Steering group has met in December 2015 and April 2016 and held an AGM in March 2016. There are now also 8 working groups looking at specific forestry safety issues
<http://www.ukfisa.com/working-groups.html>
2. Work to complete the Articles and Rules was finished shortly before the AGM on 20 March 2016. However, the Articles and Rules were not adopted as the AGM failed to secure the necessary 75% of votes required. FISA continues to operate according to its existing Articles while negotiations are undertaken to produce Articles and Rules that will win the support of the bulk of the membership.
3. Membership is increasing and currently stands at 700
4. The FISA Strategic Plan continues to be delayed although a revised version has been circulated to Steering Group members for comment. It is hoped to consult more widely on the proposed Plan before the autumn.
5. The FISA Steering Group will visit a Steep Ground site in Wales on the 7th June. Two new contractor Steering Group places will be filled from contractors who have put themselves forward. This list of volunteer contractors will be put to the contractor member email vote, to pick the two members to fill the SG places.
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** – a new WG Chair will take over this group, the new haulage safety guide is ready to add to the website, the chainsaw guides, emergency guides and stack height detail are all complete. New style easier to print guides will be produced after this WG's next meeting.
8. **Communications WG** – FISA will attend APF, we will have an indoor stand area in the large marquee with the HSE, and an outdoor demo plot. Topics will be in keeping with the Occupational Health theme, with the felling demo looking at ergonomics – saving your back; the indoor area looking at managing lone working. FISA will also have a presence at the Royal Welsh, and Highland Shows.

9. **Learning & Behaviour WG** – encouraging more people to submit safety bulletins, template for completing on line. This group are still getting to grips with statistics, and how best to collate these.
10. **Skills & Development WG** - ongoing liaising with other training providers. Lantra and FISA now run comparable Chainsaw Refresher courses. FISA Supervisor and FWM courses continue to run. This group are involved with the joint AFAG chainsaw project. This group are also working on techniques for assisted fell and difficult trees and the review of skyline set ups and skyline working methods.
11. **Forest Haulage WG** - the driver safety booklet will be issued in June. The Safety Guide is now complete and ready to be added to the safety guides. And the group plans to work more closely with the Timber Transport Forum.
12. **Electricity/ Utilities Protocols WG** - the group is due to meet shortly and will look at other service issues, gas pipes, underground electrics, highways and rail (topics will be spread over the next three years).
13. **Worksite management WG** – this group aim to put practical information on the FISA website. Currently there is the example risk assessment, FWM check sheet, example site signage, lone worker case study, Lyme disease information. Easy to follow HAVS information will shortly be added to the website. For the future a safety guide covering key occupational health issues will be considered, along with information on managing public access.
14. **Machinery Plant & Equipment WG** – this group have met with the machinery group, the aim is to raise awareness on harvesting sites of considering all the ‘ghost ‘ visitors to site = fitters, deliveries, fuel vehicles etc.. This WG is just getting going, and more members are needed.
15. A number of Safety alerts have been issued including those covering Lyme disease, workplace transport, felling of trees, contact with underground services and vehicle near misses.

Andrew Turner
June 2016