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**AIAC 17/11/03**

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE**

### **AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)**

#### **Overview of the AFAG meeting held on 9 November 2017**

##### **Significant matters discussed**

1. Network Rail attended as observers, with a view to becoming members of AFAG, should it be agreed by AIAC. Network Rail membership would help with the forestry/arboriculture balance.
2. Process of encouraging attendance of non-attending members has begun. It will be challenging due to public sector finances and the large number of self-employed working in arboriculture.
3. The Small Scale Forestry Machinery project will be taken forward by FISA.
4. The First-Aid and Emergency Planning working group will be largely subsumed into the Driving Improvement Working Group (see below).
5. European Chainsaw Certificates – Legal proceedings regarding intellectual property rights have delayed any further progress.
6. Reports back from FISA have been received, summary provided to AIAC.
7. 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 which determined that it was not a common problem. Stihl looked at the technical challenges in developing neck protection. Effective protection is likely to be both prohibitively expensive and result in operator fatigue. AFAG have concluded that it is not viable.
8. FISA has accepted the Chainsaw Accidents working group guidance for publication. The guidance describes roles and responsibilities and a hierarchy for the control of risks from chainsaw operation.
9. Chainsaw accidents – Driving Improvement. There have been five fatal incidents involving chainsaws in the last 18 months. Investigations have highlighted issues in the treework industry regarding planning, competence and supervision, leading to a culture of evidence of training meaning evidence of competence and planning being divorced from the active management of risks on site. The work necessary to address these

issues is not covered within existing frameworks, particularly the role of the FWM and so it is proposed that this will be carried forward by AFAG. HSE are to draft proposals by the end of January 2018.

10. Work is in progress on a new woodchipper standard, following withdrawal of the existing standard in 2014. Comments have been received on a first draft
11. The new UA Approved contractor scheme is now in operation, via the Arboriculture Association.

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**November 2017**