

**HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION
AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**TRANSPORT PROJECT GROUP
SUMMARY OF PROGRESS 2005-2008**

Summary

1 This paper summarises the work of the Transport Project Group from 2005 to 2008.

Activities

2 The Group was set up in 2005 to raise awareness of current issues and encourage stakeholders to share information and work together. Occasional 'workshops' have been found to be the most effective means of achieving these objectives and four events have been held to date. Each workshop has involved representatives from organisations, willing to share and support our agenda.

3 AIAC considered and accepted a progress report on the Group's terms of reference, aims, objectives and activities, in May 2007 (see AIAC paper 070502 rev1). In October 2007, AIAC paper 071006 announced the agenda for the 4th Transport Workshop, on 15 November 2007. Run jointly with the Department for Transport (DfT), it focussed on the theme "Safe On-Road/Safe Off-Road".

4 This event followed the successful format of earlier workshops, including that held jointly with the Energy Network Association (ENA) in December 2006 which focused on the risks from overhead power lines, publicity and communications issues, and research needs. All involved recognised the importance of establishing common standards and messages, and of coordinating revisions to current guidance; traditionally produced by various agencies, electricity supply companies, etc.

5 The first two workshops (August 2005 and March 2006) concentrated mainly on sharing information on research, accident history and publicity campaigns, so as to raise awareness and promote better communications with the industry. Priority research needs identified at that time have since been implemented by HSE, DfT and members.

6 The main aim of the 4th Transport Workshop (held since the last AIAC meeting) was to review and update members on relevant accident statistics, recent research and developments in legislation relating to the on and off-road operation of agricultural vehicles and associated machinery. It was also an opportunity to share information on current activities and identify topics and opportunities for further cooperative work, e.g. guidance, publicity and research

7 Delegates discussed the findings of various research projects, including the study by BAGMA into the “Condition of Farm Vehicles” (sponsored by HSE and DfT) and the ongoing research on tractor/trailer braking systems (also sponsored jointly by HSE, DfT together with the Agricultural Engineers Association - with input from manufacturers of tractors, trailers and trailed equipment). Options for response and action by the industry and regulatory bodies were considered and the meeting received an update on a study of safety at user-operated level crossings, being carried out by HM Railway Inspectorate/Office of the Rail Regulator. The workshop was well-attended and led to some important outcomes. In particular, members are contributing to the development of guidance being coordinated and produced by the NFU, and by DfT. Key papers from this and the earlier meetings are available on HSE’s AIAC/Transport Group webpage at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/hsc/iacs/aiac/transport.htm>

8 AIAC members were previously informed about the conference organised and hosted by the Institution of Agricultural Engineers on 12 March 2008, “Agricultural Transport – Which Way Forward?” which will provide an opportunity to present the key information gathered from the various research projects and activities of the AIAC Transport Group members to a much wider audience. The conference has attracted a wide range of manufacturers, researchers, educational establishments and other regulatory agencies, as well as specialist media interest. A verbal report on this conference will be presented to members on 18 March.

9 Whilst some of the original ‘deliverables’ identified by the group have still to be delivered e.g. case studies and analyses of the cost of accidents for publicity purposes, it is clear the network established through the Group is encouraging liaison and joint-working. Delegates have asked that ad-hoc Workshops continue (at least annually).

Action / Recommendation

10 AIAC members are asked to note progress to date and consider the role of the Project Group in promoting discussion, sharing information and facilitating joint-working - within the industry and with/between regulatory bodies.

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