

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

Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs)

Objective

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide AIAC members with background to the development and current programme of farming, forestry and arboriculture SHADs and details on the delivery of SHADs in the 2006/07 work year.

Background

2. SHADs for the agriculture sector are being delivered as part of 3 separate projects, respectively targeting farming, forestry and arboriculture. 2006/07 is the second-year of these 3-year projects. AIAC members showed great interest in the plans for SHADs for 2006/07 in February and March 2006, having received copies of correspondence exchanged between an AIAC member and Bill Callaghan, Chair of the Health and Safety Commission (HSC). The role that SHADs played was subsequently discussed in relation to the paper on communications presented to AIAC at the meeting in March 2006 (AIAC paper 210501).

3. Farming SHADs involve the demonstration of a number of scenarios to an invited audience of self-employed/small farmers. 'Main' SHADs comprise two half-day sessions, each lasting some two and a half hours and having a complement of up to 200 farmers. 'Mini' SHADs are also used in areas where access is more difficult and/or the potential audience is smaller (e.g. Scottish Isles). These are typically a half-day event with fewer scenarios. The farmers targeted are small in the sense that they are single person farm businesses, with some support coming from spouses, other family members and, on occasion, farming friends.

4. The scenarios focus mainly on 'Fit3' topics, such as transport and working at height and identify and demonstrate the hazards and preventive measures associated with those farming activities known to be the principal cause of fatalities and major injuries, the latter including those resulting in acute trauma, e.g. amputations, and those causing chronic disability, e.g. musculo-skeletal disorders. The topics covered are tailored to the type of farming and equipment used in the area, e.g. use of telehandlers, ATVs and

livestock handling varies. There continues to be a demand from farmers to also include power-take-off shaft (pto) guarding and pesticides, but it is difficult to cover all of these topics as the number of scenarios presented has now been reduced to 6 to allow more time for questions.

5. The scenarios are generally presented by instructors registered with Lantra Awards, who are usually small farmers themselves. They are all professional trainers to the industry and can talk to the audience in their own language. HSE's Health and Safety Awareness Officers lead on the organisation of events locally and they accompany groups of farmers at each scenario to give an HSE view or further advice, where this is needed.

6. The SHAD format has also been developed for use in the forestry and arboriculture sectors. The first series of forestry SHADs targeted Forest Works Managers, with the second tranche aimed at forestry contractors and those carrying out the role of Forest Site Safety Co-ordinator. Both series of forestry SHADs are intended to improve the management of health and safety on forestry sites by presenting practical scenarios based in a forest situation and highlighting typical accidents. The arboriculture SHADs are primarily intended for 'clients', i.e. those placing contracts, as well as for those managing and supervising arboriculture work. Arboriculture SHADs include lecture-based presentations as well as practical (climbing) demonstrations. Again, the scenarios and lectures at these SHADs are presented by professional trainers, working in the industry, but with Sector staff more closely involved in their running and presentation.

7. The main aim of the forestry and arboriculture SHADs is to improve attendees:

- understanding of the legal framework within which forestry and arboricultural contractors work;
- recognition of industry best practice and current guidance;
- understanding of the principles of risk assessment systems;
- selection of appropriate competent contractors, by referring to relevant training and certification schemes, and
- ability to monitor and review contractors activities.

8. Arboriculture 'clients' are mainly invited from local authorities (LAs). They have been selected as a discrete audience because they are in an ideal position to improve standards of contractor performance by setting standards and monitoring the quality of the work carried out. In addition it has been reported by Sector stakeholders (including AIAC members) that they believe that many LAs are poor at checking and ensuring the competence of their contractors and are still primarily influenced by cost. It is estimated that nearly 200 Authorities have been represented at arboriculture SHADs. Other 'clients' who have attended arboriculture SHADs include utility and construction companies, those involved in highways maintenance, charities, Government Departments and other organisations that run premises open to the public (e.g. National Trust), etc.

Programme of SHADs

9. In 2005/2006, 17 farming SHADs (of a planned 23, reduced from 24 following a merger of 2 mini-SHADs) were delivered across Britain as well as 4 arboricultural SHADs. The 3 forestry SHADs were delayed to the beginning of 2006/07 due to organisational difficulties.

10. A total of 24 farming SHADs were originally planned for 2006/07, allocated to Divisions (excluding London) as follows: E&SE – 3; Mids – 3; NW – 3; Y&NE – 3; W&SW – 6 (inc 3 mini SHADs); Scotland – 6 (inc 3 mini SHADs), together with 4 arboriculture and 3 forestry SHADs. To date, 2 main farming SHADs have been held, one main event cancelled and a further 14 notified (11 main and 3 mini - see attached table). The 3 forestry SHADs are planned for October 2006, 2 of the 4 arboriculture SHADs have been delivered and 1 more is organised. The date and venue for the remaining arboriculture event is yet to be finalised.

11. Unfortunately, the SHAD scheduled at Builth Wells on 5 September had to be cancelled due to poor response to the invitation. The reasons for this have not yet been explored fully and a report has been requested from the Division. The Sector will explore with colleagues in FOD whether acceptance was poor due to the date and venue not being optimal. The date was arranged during harvest and, according to an evaluation of the Royal Welsh Show, a large percentage of the farming population in the vicinity of the Showground at Builth Wells had already been exposed to HSE's messages and some of the scenarios had already been presented on the HSE stand at the Show by Lantra instructors. In addition, the wording of the invitation letter will be reviewed. The financial implications of this cancellation are as yet uncertain.

12. Some FOD Divisions have not yet arranged for the expected quota of SHADs (even though they were **asked** to notify the Sector of their plans by end of Q1 i.e. end June.) There could be a variety of reasons for this, e.g:

- difficulties organising venues and avoiding clashes with other events already arranged;
- other priorities using HSE staff resource;
- reduction in concentration of agricultural experience in the FOD Divisions, many of which have restructured as more general "multigroups", sometimes with **limited experience** of supporting agriculture SHADs;
- it is expected that Divisions deliberately reserve and plan SHAD events for the second half of the year (when farmers are most likely to have the time to attend).

13. Nevertheless, HSE is on target to deliver the same number of SHADs in 06/07 as were delivered in 05/06. However the Sector now propose to ask FOD Divisions to notify the remaining 6 SHADs by the end of October, thus seeking to support delivery of the full programme of 24, originally planned.

Cost of SHADs

14. In 2005/06 the average cost of a farming SHAD was £8k (excluding HSE staff costs). The arboriculture and forestry SHADs cost ~£5k each. The 2 SHADs held so far in 2006/07 were arranged and run jointly by Midlands and Y&NE Divisions, combined at one venue (Market Rasen on 27-28 June), with consequent cost-savings. The current estimate for these 2 SHADs is £14,750 i.e. £7,375 per SHAD, a saving of approx 10% due to economies in set up costs and reduced provision of food (very expensive at this venue).

15. If the SHADs notified so far by Divisions are delivered as planned, this will give a total of 16 farming SHADs, which at an estimated cost of £8k each, the total cost will be ~£130k (nb. The cancelled event in Wales may also result in a financial penalty.) The cost of the four arboriculture events is budgeted at £20,000 (+VAT). The 3 forestry SHADs currently planned for October were paid for in 2005/06. However, these may incur some additional costs for machinery hire, dependant on local circumstances (estimated at £3-4k). It is emphasised that the biggest cost and in fact the greatest limiter to HSE producing SHADs is staff time (Sector and FOD staff). For example, in 2006/07, 5 staff years FOD Health and Safety Awareness Officer (HSAO) time is allocated to farming SHADs (for organisation and running these events and for follow-up visits to a proportion of non-attenders), plus the Sector's inspectorial and administration time supporting their delivery.

Evaluation

16. At the last AIAC meeting, Bomel presented their positive findings on the impact of farming SHADs, including a cost/benefit analysis. They conclude that the intervention method is still effective and viable. The cost benefit analysis projected a £28,000 saving in accident etc costs, against a SHAD management cost of ~£7k. The results of their study of the forestry SHADs is awaited, but response from the trade journals and comments made to AFAG members at the APF Show indicate these have been exceptionally well-received. Local feedback from evaluation forms completed by attendees to farming, forestry and arboriculture SHADs also continues to be very positive. Lord Hunt has also expressed an interest and wishes to attend a SHAD as soon as possible.

Future of SHADs

17. A contract has been agreed with Lantra Awards to facilitate delivery of farming SHADs and to ensure quality. A 'workshop' was held for lead instructors on 27 September to update them on current and emerging topics, new themes and messages and recent accidents. These will be incorporated in scenarios this year as far as possible and it is hoped to develop the SHAD scenarios further in 2007/08, to include a greater focus on health issues, e.g. including respiratory sensitisers, pesticides, noise and vibration.

18. Funds have been allocated to cover a programme of SHADs and other communication in Agriculture for 2007/08. Although details have still to be

confirmed it is hoped that the funds will be sufficient to cover a full programme of SHADs around the country.

19. The Sector calculate that approx 32,000 farmers have attended farming SHADs since the initial pilots in 2000/01 and their wider introduction in 2001/02. This represents approx 10% of the target population of self-employed and family farmers in GB, based on Defra's figures. This estimate is based on the assumption that an average of approx 300 people attend main SHADs. However, this total figure is close to the 30,000 estimated by the independent LANTRA instructors.

20. The above information and the evidence presented to members by independent contractors (Bomel) at the last AIAC meeting in June clearly indicate that properly planned and executed SHADs are both viable and cost effective in terms of cost benefit (see para 16 above). However, what is clear is that we need to identify other drivers to increase take up of invitations to attend farming SHADs (the forestry and arboriculture SHADs are over-subscribed). This could include:

- more extensive local publicity;
- NFU Branch Secretaries, Lantra Awards, Lantra-affiliated Training Groups and others promoting events through their local networks, and
- publicity emphasising the benefits recognised by former attendees.

21. It is hoped that we will secure the support and promotion of SHADs through insurers. Discussions have also taken place with other companies and organisations that are interested in the concept and supporting SHADs for the benefit of their members and clients, etc. In Scotland, external sponsorship is being secured (during 2006/07), e.g. from local business development bodies to part-fund delivery of farming SHADs in their areas, establishing a useful precedent.

Action/Recommendation

22. AIAC members are invited to:

- note and consider this update/information about the SHAD programme and venues thus far arranged for 2006/7;
- note the Sector's plans to deliver as full a programme as possible;
- support events where possible in their local areas;
- comment and offer their perspective on the impact and value of SHADS;
- offer any further suggestions as to how further sponsorship might be achieved in England and Wales, and
- suggest how uptake of invitations to attend could be improved.

<u>Farming Safety and Health Awareness Days</u> <u>Current Programme for 2006/07 (as at 29/9/06)</u>				
Division	Date	Venue	Main or Mini SHAD	Scenarios
Midlands/Yorkshire & North East	27/28-Jun	Market Rasen Racecourse	2x Main (Delivered)	Manual Handling, ATV's, Roofwork, Chemicals, Livestock Handling, Ladders/Falls, Lift Trucks/ Workplace Transport
Wales & SW	05-Sep-06 (Cancelled)	Builth Wells Showground	Main (Cancelled)	Maintenance/Hydraulics: Manual Handling: Lift trucks/workplace transport: ATV's/Quads: Roofwork: Ladders/falls
Yorks & NE	05-Oct-06	Hexham & Northern Mart	Main	Maintenance/Hydraulics: Manual Handling: Lift trucks/workplace transport: ATV's/Quads: Roofwork: Ladders/falls
North West	19-Oct-06	Boarderway Mart, Carlisle	Main	ATV's, Lift Trucks/workplace transport, PTO's, Manual Handling, Roofwork, Ladders/falls
Scotland	25-Oct-06	Stornoway Mart, Isle of Lewis	Mini/evening	Manual Handling, Livestock Handling, ATV's, Tractor/vehicle use/child safety, PTO's
Midlands	07-Nov-06	Welbeck Estates Co Ltd	Main	ATV's/Quads: Roofwork: Chemicals: Manual Handling: Livestock Handling: Ladders
Scotland	14-Nov-06	Livestock Centre, Oban	Main	Manual Handling, Livestock Handling, ATV's, Tractor/vehicle use/child safety, PTO's
Scotland	16-Nov-06	Livestock Centre, Oban	Mini	Manual Handling, Livestock Handling, ATV's, Tractor/vehicle use/child safety, PTO's
Wales & SW	21-Nov-06	Wigborough Manor	Main	Livestock Handling, Maintenance/Hydraulics, Manual Handling, ATV's, Roofwork, Ladders/Falls
Scotland	28-Nov-06	Glenmore Centre, Aviemore	Mini (am)	Manual Handling, Livestock Handling, ATV's, Tractor/vehicle use/child safety.
Scotland	30-Nov-06	Thainestone Centre, Inverurie	Main	Manual Handling, Livestock Handling, ATV's, Tractor/vehicle use/child safety, PTO's
East & SE	13-Feb-07	Trinity Park, Ipswich	Main	Manual Handling, Roofwork, Maintenance/Hydraulics, Ladders/falls, Lift Trucks/workplace Transport

Midlands	16-Feb-07	Harper Adams	Main	Roofwork, Maintenance, Manual Handling, Lift Trucks/workplace Transport, ATV's, Ladders
Wales & SW	22-Feb-07	Duchy College	Main	Maintenance/Hydraulics: Manual Handling: Lift trucks/workplace transport: ATV's/Quads: Roofwork: Ladders/falls
Yorks & NE (TBC)	26-Feb-07	Longfield Equestrian Centre	Main	Roofwork, Ladders, Maintenance/hydraulics, Manual Handling, PTO's, ATV's, Livestock Handling
North West	8-Mar-07	Lancaster Auction Mart	Main	ATV's, Manual Handling, Lift Trucks/workplace transport, PTO's, Roofwork, Ladders