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**AIAC 18/11/03**

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE**

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

#### **Overview of the AFAG meeting held on 7 November 2018**

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

1. Industry representations on the format of new FISA leaflets were considered although it was agreed that the revised formats do not prohibit using the leaflets as a checklist.
2. Chainsaw accidents – Driving Improvement. A paper was presented summarising concerns following recent chainsaw incidents. Common factors included inadequate arrangements to ensure operators were competent, monitored and supervised. The paper proposed setting up of a working group to take these issues forward and this was agreed by AFAG members.
3. RIDDOR incidents - A paper was presented summarising a number of recent RIDDOR reportable incidents reported to HSE. The paper highlighted the extent to which it is difficult to capture arboriculture incidents through RIDDOR coding. The paper was welcomed by AFAG members as useful. Forestry statistics will be provided within the next few weeks.
4. European Chainsaw Certificates – An update was provided on recent discussions with relevant parties regarding intellectual property rights of training and assessment materials.
5. Reports back from FISA have been received, summary provided to AIAC.
6. Role of the insurance industry – images of unsafe practice are common in advertising material produced by the insurance industry. Insurers could be a route for driving improvements as relatively few operate in forestry and arboriculture. It was agreed to collect information to determine whether insurers provide an opportunity to influence behaviours.
7. HM Coroner for Nottingham has written to BEIS regarding the potential lack of knowledge of persons using chainsaws for work and that provision of information to those purchasing chainsaws regarding training and qualifications was relevant. The consensus was that, in a professional environment, sharing tools was commonplace and the characteristics of chainsaws so similar that this was unlikely to be an issue.
8. Discussion was held regarding modified machinery used in construction and the need for those carrying out the modifications to comply with the Supply of Machinery Safety Regulations and the Essential Health and Safety Requirements set out in those regulations.

9. The UAG has been discussing using single or two ropes for tree access and the need for PPE components to be CE marked and compatible with each other took place. These topics will be considered by HSE in the period up to the next AFAG meeting.

**Andrew Turner**  
**15 November 2018**