



NOTES OF MEETING

Date: 28 November 2012	Location: Tribunals Service, 54 Hagley Road, Birmingham	Taken by: Jackie Jones
Subject: AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC) MEETING		
Present:		
HSE	AIAC Members	
Graeme Walker (Chair)	Marcus Themans (NFU)	
Andrew Turner	James Brown (AFAG)	
David Coackley	Madge Moore (Lantra)	
Rachel Corbridge	Susan Murray (Unite)	
Jackie Jones (Committee Secretary)	Charlie Clutterbuck (Unite)	
	Ian Beeby (Unite)	
	Gillian Littlewood (British Retail Consortium)	
	Jennifer Bowler (NAAC)	
	Tim Englefield (Landex)	
	Ben Ellis (NFU)	
	David Leavesley (NFU Mutual)	

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1	Welcome and Opening Remarks
	<p>(1.1) Graeme Walker, AIAC Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Jennifer Bowler (NAAC) and Susan Murray (Unite) who were substituting for Jill Hewitt (NAAC) and Julia Long (Unite). David Leavesley was representing both NFU Mutual and the IOSH Rural Group; the latter in substitution for David Knowles.</p> <p>(1.2) Apologies had been received from David Knowles (IOSH) and James Eckley (NFYC),</p>
2	Matters arising and actions outstanding from previous meeting
	<p>(2.1) Actions from the previous meeting were either discharged, ongoing, covered below or listed as an agenda item.</p> <p>(2.2) Farm Safety Partnership (FSP) membership – Unite (Julia Long) will be invited to attend the next meeting which will take place in January 2013.</p> <p>(2.3) NFU Cymru is an associate member of the NFU. They are also members of the Farm Safety Partnership (which has an essentially English focus) and are active members of the Welsh On Farm Safety Charter (the Welsh counterpart of the FSP). NFU Scotland are an entirely separate, stand alone organisation.</p> <p>(2.4) Child safety - NFU have now produced their Child Safety leaflet available accessible at: http://www.nfuonline.com/Our-work/Farm-safety/Farm-safety/ (in the related documents tab).</p> <p>(2.5) Gypsum bedding - NFU Mutual reported that they have no information relating to increased livestock deaths associated with the use of gypsum based bedding.</p>

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	<p>(2.6) AFAG membership – Adrian Rowlands (Unite) will join the AFAG.</p> <p>(2.7) Members to forward information on what they have done to tackle occupational health – NFU response received. Others to respond please.</p> <p>(2.8) Occupational health project – group will be meeting in January 2013. David Coackley to forward the current ill health information to group members in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>(2.9) Large Employers project will meet in December 2012.</p>
3.	<p>Agriculture Sector Strategy</p> <p>(3.1) The Chair reminded members of the strategic context of the Agriculture Strategy, which includes other land based industries and occupational health, explaining that it is one of sixteen sector based strategies which have been developed to take forward the wider GB health and safety strategy - see http://www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/document.htm. Previous strategies focussed on safety as the available data on fatalities is more reliable because of gross under reporting of non-fatal injuries and cases of occupational health within the industry. In the past, the analysis of fatal injury data had largely driven the strategy.</p> <p>(3.2) HSE is committed to the current strategic approach so it is therefore unlikely the Sector Strategy will change radically but it is intended that it should be flexible and be capable of being adapted as/where necessary. The future development of the Sector strategy will in future be a core agenda item for the AIAC.</p> <p>(3.3) Latest revisions - the Chair and Rachel Corbridge had met with a sub-group of the AIAC in August 2012 to consider the Sector Strategy. Members' views and comments have been included in the document tabled at the meeting and appear in red text.</p> <p>(3.4) Future development - servicing and supporting the various industry safety groups (FSP, OFSC and the forestry group) has a significant impact upon Sector resources. It is clear that we cannot deliver everything that is contained within the Strategy simultaneously. We must develop programmes of work which are realistic and can be delivered within the short to medium term.</p> <p>(3.5) Mechanisms for consultation - the Chair explained that whilst the overarching structure is fixed, the content and detail is organic in order to better reflect progress and future developments. Future revisions will be flagged up electronically via email.</p> <p>(3.6) Madge Moore advised members of a new Defra tool which is currently under development. The NFU are helping them with the development of the website. HSE to follow this up as it is important to get involved during the development phase. It is believed that Defra intend to allow other Regulators access to the data gathered via this new tool.</p> <p>(3. Landscaping and amenity - the Chair stated that he is less comfortable about this element of the Strategy which requires further development. The Chair asked for named contacts that could be approached to help with this. HSE has already identified BALI but would welcome other suggestions.</p> <p>(3.6) The Chair asked members for their views on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what, given our limited resources, could realistically be delivered in the short to medium term (3 to 5 years) and; • what should be deferred <p>(3.7) Inspection - the Chair advised members that HSE's Agriculture, Waste & Recycling Sector has been asked to develop proposals for a robust, targeted programme of proactive inspection in agriculture. Any future proactive inspection would need to be based on evidence of poor performance and/or intelligence. Any inspection might as currently be led by other topic based activities such as in the case of the cross industry programme of inspections targeted at LPG pipework. Efforts will be made to separate the self-employed from the employed and to focus any inspection on the latter. The Sector is also working</p>

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	<p>to find sources of information that will help HSE to identify those risks which could form the basis of any targeted inspections. HSE will consult with the NFU and other interested industry stakeholders and keep members apprised of developments..</p> <p>(3.8) The Chair advised that if a programme of proactive inspection were developed for the industry, HSE would be required to seek to recover its costs under Fee for Intervention as it is required to do in all other industries.</p> <p>(3. 9) Avoiding catastrophe - Charlie Clutterbuck asked about the likely future increase in the spread of zoonotic infections. The Chair explained that the HSE does not lead on this, but feeds into the Government's Contingency Planning and Resilience Forums which support Cobra and the Public Health bodies in England, Wales and Scotland. HSE supports these groups/forums but do not have the lead..</p> <p>(3.10) Marcus Themans suggested that the burden of proof in cases of zoonotic infection should shift i.e. should be required to provide proof of safety.</p> <p>(3. 11) David Leavesley stated there may be some indirect effects on humans from diseases such as Ash Die back brought about by the increased use of chemicals and chainsaws and tree felling.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All to take away the Agriculture Sector Strategy and forward views on what is achievable and what should be held in abeyance to the Committee Secretary by 1 February 2013. ➤ Madge Moore to forward list of named contacts within the land based industries. ➤ Jennifer Bowler to consult with Jill Hewitt on what information she had intended to present to the AIAC. Once available, this information to be forwarded to Andrew Turner, via the Committee Secretary. ➤ Committee members to consider how the land based industries element of the Strategy could be developed. Suggestions to be forwarded to the Committee Secretary by 1 February 2013. ➤ David Coackley to contact Olivia Howgate (Stakeholders) and Jason King (IT) at Defra regarding their new tool for businesses.
4	<p>Update on key topics</p> <p>(4.1) Latest statistics – The Chair talked members through a PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>There has been little change over the past six years in the main causes of fatal and non-fatal injuries. The main causes of fatal injuries remain largely the same:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport related • Struck by a moving/falling object • Falls • Injured by an animal • Contact with machinery <p>though the ranking varies from year-to-year.</p> <p>(4.2) Ben Ellis stated that the NFU had found the Hands-On tool on the HSE website difficult to use and confusing.</p>

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	<p>(4.3) Copies of the Sector report 'Agriculture Work related injuries and ill health' published to coincide with publication of the final statistics for 2011/12 at the end of October 2012, were circulated for information and future discussion.</p> <p>(4.4) HSE has carried out period research on the costs of accidents. The Chair will check whether the NFU may use the financial figures quoted in the presentation. He also agreed to check whether HSE can provide the in-year figure on fatalities for the FSP to use on their website.</p> <p>(4.5) Ian Beeby asked whether it would be possible to have more detail of the causation of fatal incidents. It was explained that many of these incidents may still be under investigation but that the information would be published in due course in the annual Fatal injuries in farming, forestry and horticulture report accessible at: http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/resources/fatal.htm.</p> <p>(4.6) Marcus Themans stated that it is important that the farming media continue to report on incidents.</p> <p>(4.7) HSE guidance – Rachel Corbridge explained that HSE is currently reviewing all our guidance. This is a huge task taking two years to complete. The Sector has a large portfolio of publications to review but will have completed the task by the end of March 2013.</p> <p>(4.8) The purpose of the review is to ensure that HSE guidance is simplified, updated and more user friendly, telling the duty holder what they have to do to comply. All guidance deemed essential, core and in demand has been updated and retained. The Sector will shortly be reviewing Farmwise to ensure that changes to all the other leaflets/publications are reflected and hypertext linked in the document.</p> <p>(4.9) Where publications have been withdrawn, visitors to the website will be re-directed to improved generic guidance.</p> <p>(4.10) HSE has succeeded in the bid to keep the HSE website. The majority of Government Departments will migrate to one central website – Gov.uk. This is welcome news as the HSE website is placed consistently in the top 5 for key searches on health and safety.</p> <p>(4.11) Lofstedt Review – The Chair explained that as part of the review, HSE has been consulting on ACOPs including that on The prevention of accidents to children on farms. There is no decision as yet on the outcome of the consultation; however any agreed action must be completed by 31 March 2013. Members were alerted to the consultation exercise at the end of June 2012.</p> <p>(4.12) The Chair also explained that at the beginning of August, members were alerted to separate consultation exercises stemming from the Lofstedt Review on the self-employed and changes to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR). Both consultations closed on 28 October. The HSE Board is expected to consider the outcomes and the way forward in the new year.</p> <p>(4.13) Virtual Farm – David Coackley advised members that HSE has been developing an interactive online training and information tool featuring a 'virtual farm'. 3D images will highlight potential issues/hotspots and provide appropriate links to relevant guidance and case studies. It will appear on the HSE website, however the intention is to also provide it in CD format. There has been no decision yet on whether there will be a charge for the CD. It is currently being functionality tested. HSE hope to be able to provide a demonstration of the tool at the next meeting.</p> <p>(4.14) Hand washing – David Coackley explained that HSE is currently carrying out a review of available literature on a range of issues including the efficacy of bacterial gels. The issue is relevant to the construction and waste and recycling industries in addition to agriculture. The review may be extended to further research into the effectiveness of hand washing versus bacterial gels. On completion of the research, HSE will engage with the industry to seek help in disseminating the information. The Sector will also liaise with ACOP authors to future proof guidance to reflect the emerging position.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rachel Corbridge to provide a list of withdrawn publications for members' information. ➤ The Chair to check whether the NFU may use the financial figures quoted in the presentation.

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	<p>[Discharged]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Chair to check whether HSE can provide the in year figures on fatalities for FSP to use on their website. ➤ The Chair to notify AIAC members (providing a link) when the Sector report on fatalities is released online.
5	<p>Reports on :</p> <p>(5.1) Farm Safety Partnership - Ben Ellis informed members that the FSP is reviewing membership as there is some concern that the group might grow too big and unwieldy. The FSP wants to be outputs driven and operate at a strategic level. It is important to consider the structure – should it be informal or have a more formal company structure limited by guarantee?</p> <p>(5.2) Members are about to agree a logo and there is work underway to develop a website which will be a 'one stop shop' for industry guidance.</p> <p>(5.3) At their last meeting the group set up some sub-groups who are tasked with developing a number of topic related products including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle handling • Safe stop • Safe deliveries on farms <p>(5.4) NFU are to meet with HSE to discuss slurry related issues and are keen to follow this up with some action.</p> <p>(5.5) The FSP, which now has 25 partners, is looking to the future and the development of its strategy. Once the structure and strategy has been agreed, they will consider extending membership.</p> <p>(5.6) On Farm Safety Charter – Rachel Corbridge advised members that the Welsh approach has been to select three themes (falls, transport and machinery) and to base their attendance at a number of local shows around these themes. Lantra and Farming Connect had joined together to carry out various demonstrations using Make the promise materials where appropriate. NFU Mutual and Farming Connect have run a number of successful training events in Wales. The group are now interested in taking the HSE case studies and trying to establish the cost of those accidents.</p> <p>(5.7) NFU Scotland – The Chair and Rachel Corbridge met with NFUS in the summer to talk to them about the industry partnerships in England and Wales. It was hoped they might be encouraged to take the lead in establishing a similar industry group in Scotland. However, NFUS does not feel it has the necessary infrastructure to fulfil this role. They are concentrating their limited resources instead on delivering a campaign to celebrate their centenary in 2013. This might include a health and safety related theme. An alternative approach might be to ask SEARS to take the lead in adopting the Welsh model.</p> <p>(5.8) Forestry Industry Safety Accord (FISA) – Andrew Turner stated that the group had met 3 times since June 2012. The launch took place at APF in September with Professor Dick Taylor, HSE Board member, in attendance. FISA is funded by a levy on members. The group expect to raise £100k through a membership levy scheme but have already spent £40k on branding and communications. The group has a diverse membership, representing a large proportion of the industry, and has a steering group of 27 members (and growing). So far, they have established 9 working groups. They have looked at the construction industry to see if there are any lessons to be learned, but have discounted that as the comparatively low number of fatalities dictates a difference in approach.</p> <p>(5.9) FISA are looking at how they might affect a change in behaviour within the industry and have invited a specialist in the field, the Chair of Worksafe British Columbia, to tour the UK and meet key stakeholders/players. The next meeting is scheduled for January 2013.</p> <p>(5.10) APF 2012 – Andrew Turner reported that HSE attendance had proved to be very worthwhile with lots of public and private sector support for the 'safety village' contained within the HSE marquee. HSE</p>

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	hopes to build on this for APF 2014.
6	<p>Current issues:</p> <p>(6.1) Slurry – David Coackley referred to the triple fatality in Northern Ireland explaining that it was as a result of a ‘chain reaction’ when a succession of rescuers were overcome by fumes. Research is underway to look at the effects of adding gypsum to slurry in the cattle and poultry industry. This is thought to exacerbate the generation of gas emissions which can prove fatal to humans. This is an emerging but high profile issue.</p> <p>(6.2) HSE is looking at guidance and is aware of the meeting on 7 December of the FSP sub-group and is liaising with the NFU. HSE will share relevant data and information with the FSP.</p> <p>(6.3) ATVs – Andrew Turner advised that there is a lively, ongoing debate between the USA and Australia about the risks in riding ATVs and the value of ROPs as a protective measure; with conflicting reports being cited and argued. There are more ATV deaths in Australia, the USA and other parts of the world than in GB, though many (possibly the majority) are not work-related. Members were advised that there are currently 2 to 3 fatalities a year in GB. HSE’s current position is based upon MIRA research carried out in the late 1990s which looked at the effect of ROPs in cases involving overturned vehicles. As a result, HSE promotes active riding, operator training, risk assessment, route planning and the use of appropriate ppe.</p> <p>(6.4) He advised that HSE and other UK bodies are keeping a watching brief on the subject and that other EU countries are adopting a similar stance. Because it is foreseeable that HSE’s position could be challenged in future, it has commissioned research (in the form of a peer review) to examine the emerging ‘evidence/findings’ so as to better understand the nature of any likely challenge. In the meantime, HSE will consider any sound emerging evidence and review its position (and guidance) if appropriate.</p> <p>(6.5) NFU support HSE’s cautious approach stating that any changes should be evidence based.</p> <p>(6.6) Industry Code of Practice on animal attractions – David Coackley advised that the Industry Code of Practice (which replaces AIS 23 ‘Preventing Ill-Health from Animal Contact at Visitor Attractions’) was published in the summer. He had delivered 15 half day training sessions to regulators including Environmental Health Officers & HSE inspectors. This had been complemented by industry led training events for their members.</p> <p>(6.7) Safety and Health Awareness Days – Jackie Jones informed the Committee that HSE would be running 27 events during 2012 – 2013. Despite getting off to a late start due to delays in budget allocation, the programme has made encouraging progress. Attendance figures have been increasing year on year, with 99% of farmers who have attended an event stating that they would recommend them to others. The HSE Board is committed to running a programme of SHADs next year; however this will be subject to the availability of funding. The Sector will shortly submit a bid for funding for the programme.</p> <p>(6.8) Professor Dick Taylor (HSE Board) will be attending a SHAD as an observer in February 2013.</p> <p>(6.9) Ian Beeby stated that Unite members are keen to help out at SHADs by acting as stewards, however they did not know when or where the events are being held. Jackie Jones advised that there is a calendar of events on the Agriculture web pages which is updated on a regular basis. http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/diary.htm Jackie invited Unite to contact her if they wished to volunteer.</p> <p>(6.10) Charlie Clutterbuck asked whether it would be possible to include a discussion session to talk to farmers and seek their views and feedback. Jackie Jones explained that SHADs are of necessity, run to a very tight timetable and to accommodate this HSE would have to drop one of the demonstrations. However the Chair advised that HSE would look at the feasibility of including a ‘discussion’ session at future events.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Andrew Turner to provide an update at the next meeting on the latest developments on the use of ROPs on ATVs. ➤ Jackie Jones to forward link to the webpage containing the SHAD calendar to Ian Beeby

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	<p>[Discharged]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HSE to consider Charlie Clutterbuck's suggestion of a discussion group at SHADs. ➤ Professor Dick Taylor (HSE Board member) to be invited to the next Committee meeting.
7	<p>Any other business</p> <p>(7.1) Mobile phone coverage – Marcus Themans asked whether it would be possible to encourage mobile phone network providers to re-visit the issue of poor coverage in rural areas. This is a real safety issue. The NFU have already raised this issue.</p> <p>(7.2) David Leavesley advised that it is possible to contact the emergency services in areas of no/poor signal by dialling 112 or 999. HSE agreed to publicise this in the next agriculture e:bulletin and to consult the construction sector to determine whether this is a wider issue.</p> <p>(7.3) RDPE Skills Framework – Marcus Themans flagged up that there is a gap in the provision of health and safety training. In some areas there is a lack of training providers to deliver this training. Tim Englefield stated that colleges are reluctant to work on proposals without guaranteed funding, however he disagreed that there was insufficient coverage in terms of provision. The Chair asked David Coackley to look into this further outside the meeting.</p> <p>(7.4) David Leavesley informed the Committee that IOSH were unable to attend the meeting as they were hosting a visit by a group of Turkish inspectors whose main interest appeared to be health issues.</p> <p>(7.5) Reduction in 'taught hours' - Tim Englefield advised the Committee that with effect from September 2013 there will be a drop in the number of 'taught hours' from 700 to 600 per annum. As a consequence of this, there is unlikely to be any room for health and training qualifications. Under 18s would not be funded for ATV and tractor driving, hedge cutting or muck spreading.</p> <p>Action points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ David Coackley to discuss the availability of suitable training providers with Marcus Themans and Tim Englefield ➤ David Coackley to ask Alan Plom (IOSH) for information following the Turkish visit.
8	<p>Time and date of next meeting:</p> <p>The next meeting will be on 12 June 2013, at NFU Stoneleigh. Venue to be confirmed.</p>