

AFAG PAPER 09/05 - for 17th meeting 1 December 2009
PROGRESS REPORT ON AFAG PROJECTS 2009-10
[nb Updates from AFAG 09/02 in italics, new/outstanding actions in bold]

AFAG Project (+ Leader)	Priority/ Status	Outcomes/Deliverables	Risks to delivery	Comments	Proposed Action
A. EXAMINATION OF THE UNDERLYING AND ROOT CAUSES OF SERIOUS ACCIDENTS AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR RISK REDUCTION					
A1. Examination of the underlying and root causes of serious accidents to identify cultural and behavioural implications and develop strategies for risk reduction (E Ramsay)	A Completed	<p>Research/multi-factor analysis of accident causation in tree work completed. Summary presented to AFAG April 08 (ppt on members website).</p> <p>Research confirmed high risk areas and key influences, endorsing current and future AFAG projects and proposed AFAG/industry guidance.</p> <p>Chainsaw activities highlighted as a key issue for future AFAG work to reduce accidents. Also to produce an 'emergency procedure list' and guidance on lone working (See new Project D3).</p> <p>Information to be used for articles in trade journals, training materials, podcasts, etc.</p> <p>Ten interventions were identified from the industry workshops, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting a six-month forestry chainsaw apprenticeship scheme; • raising the profile of '<i>Managing Health and Safety in Forestry</i>' HSE document; • communicating accident investigations more widely; • inspection activity; 	None	<p>Research unable to identify accidents related to inadequate training.</p> <p><i>FC/industry employment stats differ to Bomel's.</i> AFAG requested clarification/ analysis of incidence rates, to identify target groups (eg employed vs self-emp, chainsaw operators, etc).</p> <p>The research also suggested two interventions which could be progressed "immediately", ie promoting a "6-month forestry chainsaw apprenticeship" scheme and</p>	<p>Lantra to supply latest stats to determine incident rates. <i>[nb. N/A yet]</i></p> <p>Research report to be published on HSE's website following approval by AFAG and HSE/SCC asap. Executive Summary to be amended and made available separately on HSE's Treework webpage.</p> <p>New Project Gps A3 + D3 to consider the findings and how to take forward highlighted issues, identify key messages, communication approaches + target audiences for future</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working with machine manufacturers and dealers towards sponsorship and greater involvement in training; • developing an occupational health model for forestry based on work completed in the construction sector. 		communicating info on accident investigations more widely.	<p>articles, podcasts, etc.</p> <p>Inform trade bodies and others in the industry <i>of report and latest accidents/stats.</i></p> <p><i>Proposed 'Apprenticeship' to be considered by T&C Gp (A2(a)).</i></p> <p><i>AFAG to consider proposal to produce an 'emergency procedure list' - referred to AFAG Project D3.</i></p>
<p>A2. Training and Certification:</p> <p>A2(a). Review of Training Schemes and Certificates</p>	A/Green	<p>A review of current systems of training and certification in the tree work sector has been carried out. Procedures / certification systems used in other industries also considered.</p> <p>Proposal for a (voluntary) 'Register of Tree Work Operators' (RTwo') discussed. Lantra's 'On-line Competency Framework' could provide a suitable basis for a database.</p>	<p>Compromise not possible because of conflicting requirements between sectors of the industry.</p> <p>Relevant organisations cannot support</p>	T&C Project group unable to determine one solution (centralised 'RTwo' database) because of the wide range of views and opinions held by group members and within industry.	<p><i>Members to provide information on cost and benefits of training to business.</i></p> <p><i>J Brown discussing with forestry industry</i></p>

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(J Brown)		training/certification schemes and standards - <i>Based on structure of UK CoC's.</i>	influence.	AFAG/HSE/industry - funded jointly by Lantra SSC, Confor & HSE.] S Hewitt coordinating review based on NPTC CoC's.	AFAG to consider latest developments, implications and future input.
A3. Reduce accidents involving chain saws <i>(E Ramsay)</i>	A Green	To identify key issues and implement relevant recommendations from 'interventions' proposed by Bomel research (Project A1), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training needs (eg promoting a six-month forestry chainsaw apprenticeship scheme); • raising the profile of 'Managing Health and Safety in Forestry' (being revised under Project D3); • communicating accident investigations more widely – review/revise 'Tree Work Accidents' booklet <i>(HSE INDG278;</i> • <i>inspection activity (a matter for HSE);</i> • <i>working with machine manufacturers and dealers towards sponsorship and greater involvement in training;</i> • <i>produce an 'emergency procedure list'.</i> 	<i>Compromise not possible because of conflicting requirements between sectors of the industry.</i> <i>Relevant organisations cannot support proposed framework.</i>	Project originally proposed under A2, but topic needed immediate effort. Also overlaps with other projects. Project initiated - discussions held between E Ramsay and HSE re content and recommendations of Bomel report. Summaries of relevant fatal accidents listed on new Treework webpage. <i>Some work to be progressed through</i>	E Ramsay to convene Project group and confirm draft aims and objectives, project plan and produce communication plan, asap. Recommendations to be made to AFAG to discuss/agree allocation of work items to relevant Project groups.

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				<i>other Groups eg T&C (A2); Guidance on Site Management (D3) and development of new media (D1).</i>	

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B. OPERATIONAL GOOD PRACTICE – IMPROVING AND MAINTAINING STANDARDS					
B1. Steep Ground Working (N McKay)	A Complete	<p>Precautions for machines working on steep slopes identified, guidance produced and promulgated.</p> <p>New AFAG leaflet 705 launched at APF 9/06 and available from HSE Books and on HSE website.</p> <p>Guidance already being incorporated into industry practice and training.</p>		<p>Requests to define role and legal responsibilities of Forestry Works Managers (FWMs) to be incorporated in new project D3 on site management & lone working.</p> <p><i>Possible new AFAG project needed to review guidance on operation of sky-lines (increasing in use).</i></p>	<p>(See D3: 'Managing Health and Safety)</p> <p><i>AFAG to advise re need for new 'Sky-lines' project. Members invited to join discussion group.</i></p>
B2. Improving Management of Work at Height (Alex Laver)	A Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEWPs study carried out through AA's Working Gp – AA guidance published 9/08. • AA Guide to Good Climbing Practice (GGCP) to be revised. • AFAG 401 <i>Tree climbing operations</i> to be revised - Now available on HSE website. • Articles produced and published in relevant journals, HSE Arb/Tree Work News, etc 		<p>GGCP to be revised (interim reprint 6/08)</p> <p>– <i>Awaiting revision of NOS and CoCs.</i></p> <p>- Articles published eg in AA Newsletter.</p> <p>- AFAG 401 redrafted by contractor, finalised by Gp.</p>	<p>Revised 401 to be publicised, then: <i>Editorial Group for revision of GGCP to be convened by AA.</i></p> <p><i>AFAG to advise if further articles needed.</i></p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>NEW WORK ITEM on Use of Cranes? To consider guidance from other countries (eg USA and Germany)</i> 		Article recently printed in AA Newsletter on use of cranes.	<p><i>AL to provide feedback on use of cranes from USA conference at next meeting.</i></p> <p><i>AFAG to consider need for any further guidance or research on use of cranes.</i></p>
B3. Examination of feasibility of welfare provision on forestry work sites. (E Ramsay)	C Green	Proposed to amalgamate this project with project C4: 'Reduce exposure to pesticides' (eg during tree planting).		Initially given low priority but concerns raised re exposure to pesticides (alphacypermetherin) and by GLA's requirements have increased pressure to resolve this and produce guidance.	To compare 'remote' facilities provided by MoD + construction sector & GLA specs.
B4. Rigging and dismantling techniques in arboriculture (F Hirst)	A Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSE & FC joint-sponsored research completed – Report published on HSE Research webpage: http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr668.htm New AFAG leaflet and detailed industry (AA) guidance proposed (2010-11). Proposed dissemination through articles/ industry workshop(s) - (Q3-4 2009/10) 	<p>Delay in publication of final report.</p> <p>Lack of funding for workshop(s) would restrict roll-out to industry.</p>	<p>FH to produce Executive Summary, when publication approved by HSE/SCC.</p> <p>AFAG/ Project Group considered findings -</p>	<i>HSE funding agreed for articles and demos/ workshops – Dates/location TBC.</i>

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				proposed guidance and strategy for roll-out.	
B5. Machine Assisted Takedown of Trees (J Burns)	A Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current practices and guidance reviewed. • Phase I funded by FC, Phase 2 by HSE/FC - completed Q2 08/09. • Research report received and recommendations discussed by Gp. • Determine if any new guidance and summary/publicity articles to be produced. 	<p><i>If research not fully funded or completed, would be unable to produce practical guidance or roll-out new technique(s) to the industry.</i></p> <p><i>Report to be in appropriate format for publication</i></p> <p><i>If effective techniques and demos/workshops not identified roll-out to industry will be delayed.</i></p> <p>Approval not given to produce guidance in suitable format - would devalue use</p>	Editorial team formed from members of project group - discussing draft research report. - Report to be in appropriate format for publication [HSE's Project officer in liaison with author]. - Final draft to be put before working group for approval.	<p>Report on research to be placed on HSE website asap. AFAG guides 310 & 603 currently being redrafted and re written to incorporate research findings.</p> <p>[HSE Business Case needed (SP)]</p>

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			and affect take-up by the industry.		
B6. Chainsaw PPE – To improve and promote standards and related issues. (J Brown)	B Ongoing	Ongoing review and resolution of issues arising, eg <i>revision of AFAG 308 Top-handled chainsaws and AFAG 401 re climbers trousers and IND(G)317 Chainsaws at work</i> re gloves. Guidance issued to inspectors. <i>Emerging issue = increasing chain speed exceeding protection / test standards</i>		<i>AFAG 308 and 401 revised re changes in advice on standard/ type of chainsaw trousers for climbers.</i> <i>AFAG 301 revised and reprinted.</i> <i>Recent (critical) article in trade press on current advice given in revised Chainsaws at Work leaflet.</i>	<i>Emerging issue = increasing chain speed exceeding protection / test standards</i> <i>HSE to liaise with AFAG members to determine appropriate response – [To refer to appropriate BSI/EN Standards cttees]</i>
B7. Market surveillance (product design) (J Brown)	B Ongoing	Ongoing – to report/resolve issues as they arise, eg through relevant standards committees BSI-AGE/CEN/ISO). Issues dealt with incl: (i) Combined chain saw/ATV operators helmet - Guidance issued for HSE and LA inspectors. (ii) Standard for plastic-toe chain saw boots – referred to DTI/Trading Standards. <i>New issues raised in 2008-09 still awaiting resolution:</i> (iii) <i>Noise from Woodchippers</i> - HSL Research report identified hearing protection on common	Lack of resources/funding to attend relevant Standards Committees. <i>If follow-up action/enforcement not resourced, unsuitable products will remain in use/on</i>	<i>Issues/Defects to be raised at AGE 29 and other relevant (ISO/CEN) Standards Committees</i>	<i>AFAG members to advise on emerging issues, eg biomass, wood as fuel (storage issues?) etc. [Ongoing]</i> <i>Existing items: (iii) Chipper Noise/ PPE issue to be d/w under Project C3.3</i>

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		forestry helmets not adequate. (iv) <u>Gravity-fed Woodchippers</u> (Arb/amenity)– Feed chute length on specific m/cs inadequate – non-compliance with current standards. Application of CEN Standard challenged. (v) <u>Crane-fed Woodchippers</u> (Forestry) – Guarding inadequate to prevent access – non compliance with SMSRegs/CEN standard. (vi) <u>360-degree excavators</u> (used on steep ground in forestry for harvesting, etc) – New ROPS standard proposed by ISO lower than UK standard and inadequate for UK operations.	<i>market and (international) standards will not be improved.</i>		(iv) Awaiting update from HSE/FOD. (v) New work item proposed via BSI AGE 29 and being raised at ISO Finland. ISO challenged and being redrafted – being followed up in ISO Finland 2.09.
B8. Safe Tree work near Overhead Power Lines (S Parry)	A Green	To review and devise safe methods of harvesting timber and other tree work in forestry and arboricultural operations close to overhead power lines (OHPLs). <i>Standards and definitions in all relevant guidance to be consistent.</i> - ENA's G55 (Utility arb guidelines) - Revised and published. - HSE's GS6 - Revision nearly completed. - 'Harvesting' - Project group awaiting ADAS method statements to be sent to power company for perusal and commencement of phase 2. Suitable location currently being identified. - <i>AFAG 404 to be withdrawn and 804 to be reviewed/revi</i> sed.	<i>Inconsistent definition of 'Danger Zones' and safe working distances in various organisations' guidance may lead to dangerous practice.</i>	Increasing pressure from electricity distributors/network operators to work adjacent/close to live lines. Implications for training/FMOCs. Guidance to be based on in-field site trials Phase 1 completed, Phase 2 to be completed asap – <i>Suitable site still to be indentified..</i>	New project on harvesting near live power lines in forestry devised. Phase 2 is yet to start – suitable site needed. J Brown suggested additional rep from Scottish Power to join Project Gp. HSE/SP to follow up.

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C. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH – IMPROVING AND DEVELOPING STRATEGIES FOR RISK REDUCTION					
C1. Promotion of Occupational Health Services <i>(J Liggins)</i>	A Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and raise awareness of available occupational health services (to enable rehabilitation) in a pilot area (Scotland) 2007-2010. • Joint work with PHASS [Partnership for Health and Safety in Scotland] through Project Group (2007-08); • Survey of OH providers and treework industry through trade bodies proposed (2007-08) - delayed due to staff moves. 	Lack of local support, poor planning and co-ordination are likely to lead to a reduction in the potential impact of this Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Project Group formed with key stakeholders in Scotland in 07-08, incl HSE, NHS Scotland, Scottish Government, Healthy Working Lives (Scotland). • Scope/aim of project amended to “Promotion of Occupational Health Services (in Scotland)”. This will be broadened out after the initial pilot project is complete. <p>Nb. Project downgraded to priority B by AFAG 9/11/05, but re-assessed to A in 4/08. However, HSE unable to progress survey and project due to loss of Sector staff member and lack of input from FOD Scotland due to other operational pressures, - <i>Now resolved with return of J Liggins and support of FOD Scotland.</i></p>	Sector securing support/ resource from FOD Scotland for 2009-10 and beyond. JL to update at meeting.

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C2. Identifying the prevalence and causes of musculoskeletal disorders and develop strategies for risk reduction. (P Jackson)	A Green	Project Gp met 12/07 – Plan produced and survey questionnaire currently on AFAG Community website for comment by industry.		<i>A decision needs to be made on whether the scope of this project should be extended beyond providing web-only material.</i> <i>Also to decide if research need to scope problem and identify solutions – Awaiting feedback from Alex Laver attending ISA Conference in USA, summer 2009</i>	<i>A Laver attending conference in USA</i> <i>AFAG / MSD Gp members to discuss at next Group meeting.</i>
C3. Reduce operator exposure to whole body vibration, hand-arm vibration and noise.		Appropriate guidance to be developed separately, through 3 Working Groups (WBV, HAV, Noise).		Set up meeting held at HSL in 2006-07.	
C3.1 Whole Body Vibration (Colin Saunders)	A Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group formed and workshop held at HSL 1/06 - identified priorities for research and guidance, format and target audience. • WBV/Back Pain articles placed in trade journals. • Results of research promoted at APF [Done 9/06 and 9/08]. • Draft guidance prepared and 	Failure to secure funding for publication.	To continue to promote awareness at industry events (eg APF Show, Royal Highland Show, Saltex, etc. Articles placed on Treework webpage.	<i>Members were asked to comment on next steps.</i> <i>FC guidance to be adapted and made available via HSE Treework site, rather than</i>

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		awaiting agreement for publication.			produce new AFAG Guide or HSE Info Sheet
C 3.2 Hand Arm Vibration (Colin Saunders)	A Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified opportunities for publicity – Journal articles written by HSE/Sector. (Ongoing). FC agreed to fund further research on trigger times for a range of forestry/arb equipment that will be of use across a range of other industries - Supported and encouraged by HSE national Noise and Vibration team. FC produced 'good practice' guidance (in collaboration with HSE N&V Specialists) – to be shared with others.	Failure to secure funding for publication.	<i>Good practice guidance on management of HAV in forestry developed by FC and HSE to be shared with industry.</i> <i>Increasing cases of HAVS being reported by LAs/amenity sector.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSE Specialist N&V Team propose a project targeting manfrs/importers/suppliers to encourage provision of adequate information for users. 	<i>FC to make info available – via web-link? [Same as above?]</i> Members asked to comment on next steps.
C3.3 Noise (Colin Saunders)	A Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify/carry out research Guidance to be produced [By end of Dec 08] – <i>Delayed due to other work/priorities.</i> Identify and use opportunities for publicity – HSL research on wood chippers completed - <i>Report published on HSE Research webpage.</i> Issues resulting from the research have been identified	Unable to share industry good practice guidance (eg through websites.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articles written by HSE/Sector for trade journals. HSE Specialist N&V Team propose a project targeting manfrs/importers/suppliers to encourage provision of adequate information for users. 	AFAG to consider scope for new/revised guidance and raising awareness of findings 10/08. Members are asked to comment on next steps.

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		(eg inadequacy of hearing protection, lack of info for users). Action plan produced.			
C4. Reduce Exposure to Pesticides (eg during tree planting) (E Ramsay)	B Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review findings of research and produce/amend guidance - Initial findings of HSE study on exposure to alphacypermethrin (ACP) presented to AFAG 8/06, but release of HSE's final report delayed as subject to Fol enquiry. - Initial HSE/FC meetings held in Q3 05/06. AFAG Project Group not immediately convened due to ongoing discussions and formal review by the Advisory Cttee on Pesticides (ACP). - HSE, FC and Product Approval Holders worked with PSD (Pesticide Safety Directorate) on review of ACP - Approval endorsed by ACP 9/08 – subject to review of welfare arrangements, ppe, etc 	Insufficient Resource. Withdrawal of approval for ACP	Comments/recommendations following the review of the approval of ACP by the Advisory Committee on Pesticides considered by AFAG Project Group. <i>Approval for ACP not withdrawn but guidance on use to be considered (by AFAG W Gp), re provision of welfare facilities, etc.</i>	<i>AFAG guide to be revised by Gp.</i>

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D. COMMUNICATION – PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE AND MAXIMISING THE POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE					
D1 Promotion of best practice in arboriculture and forestry (J Liggins)	A Green/ Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication ‘Strategy’ / plan devised and agreed by AFAG and endorsed by AIAC - Printed leaflets are vital to industry but should explore new IT/web-based methods. - 2 x AFAG Community websites launched (for members + open public site). - HSE Tree Work Website to be developed. - Funds to be obtained to film forestry SHAD for ‘podcasts’ and DVD training materials. [Proposed topic for first podcasts = lone working, tying up with new guidance proposed on ‘Site Management’.] ‘Safety Alerts’, eg to PDA/Mobile phones also proposed 	HSE reduces publication resource/limit imposed on supply of ‘hard copies’ of AFAG leaflets will reduce penetration and uptake of good practice.	<p><i>AFAG Members agreed that new guidance on lone working and the role of site safety supervisor is needed.</i></p> <p>Clearer access needed to relevant HSE webpage</p> <p>HSL produced DVD of the 3 scenarios at the SHAD - further edited to produce effective short ‘films’ for series of podcasts. ‘Editing’ meetings held to review format/content of podcasts and DVD eg at HSL on 16.2.09 et seq.</p> <p>Website technical issues and way forward agreed with HSE Comms Div/ Webteam (between Feb-May.09).</p> <p>FC Apprentices offered as trial group.</p>	<p>Communication plans for ALL Projects to be agreed.</p> <p><i>New guidance to be identified by Project Group Members /Project Leaders.</i></p> <p>New HSE Treework website launched Sept 09.</p> <p>Need to determine most effective format/content of podcasts and DVD – User surveys proposed.</p> <p>Pilot podcast (on use of chippers) to be finalised and evaluated in Q4 2009-10.</p> <p>Members are</p>

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					<i>asked to comment on next steps.</i>
D2 Production, review and maintenance of AFAG, HSE and industry guidance (J Liggins)	A Green/ Ongoing	AFAG leaflets reviewed – value and status in industry confirmed, eg essential for use as training and management aid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper detailing progress on above + providing a full review of publications produced by HSE and industry bodies presented to AFAG 4/07. • AFAG leaflets reviewed/ updated at routine requests for reprints and considered by Sector in HSE’s Review of Publications (8/08). Notable new titles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steep Ground Working leaflet - launched at APF 9/06. • Translations of AFAG Guides (by external funding) into Polish and made available from migrant workers website. Also into Chinese after hurricane damage. New Titles proposed incl: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on role of Site Safety Co-ordinators and Lone Working to be included in update of HSE IND(G)294 (Managing H&S in Forestry) ; 	Insufficient resources provided or HSE refuse permission to print/ publish new guidance.	A number of outstanding issues are being progressed by HSE/Ag Sector, eg review/ amendment of AFAG 804 & withdrawal of 404 (Electricity at Work: Forestry & Arboriculture) to bring in line with revision of ENA’s G55 and HSE’s Guidance Note GS6 . Nb. Industry expects/requires production of most AFAG guides in hard copy for use in training and as on-site check lists.	Action plan to be developed to co-ordinate communication of AFAG Project Work in the future. Editorial Group formed to revise INDG294 Managing H&S in Forestry (see new project D3)

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFAG leaflet or AIS on Managing Risks Associated with WBV in Forestry • AFAG leaflet on rigging and dismantling subject to research report – see Project B4). 			
D3. Improving Management of H&S, & the role of SSC at Forestry Sites (incl Lone Working)	A New work item			<i>AFAG 5/09 agreed to progress Lone Working separately, as Project D3(2) .</i>	
<i>D3(a)</i> Managing Health and Safety on Sites (Project Leader – Phil Higginbotham UKFPA)	Green	To revise/produce new guidance, clarifying the roles and legal responsibilities of Forestry Works Managers (FWMs) and Site Safety Coordinators. Scope of Project to include review of extant FASTCo guide on 'Managing Public Safety on Harvesting Sites'.	<i>Lack of resources or HSE permission to print/ publish new guidance.</i> <i>Industry agreement needed</i>	AFAG agreed HSE guidance INDG 294 'Managing Health and Safety in Forestry' should be revised and expanded to clarify roles, responsibilities and selection – in particular, Site Safety Coordinators. - Project group initiated and Editorial team formed. - Landowner, contractor & sub contractor guidance already reviewed. Advice for FWMs & SSCs drafted >4/09, still under	<i>Disagreement over role and appointment of SSCs (to be described in INDG 294 'Managing Health and Safety in Forestry') to be resolved.</i> <i>Scope of Project to include review of extant FASTCo guide on 'Managing Public Safety on Harvesting Sites'.</i>

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				<i>discussion.</i> <i>This work to be linked with development of podcast(s).</i> .	<i>Relevant podcast (listed under D1) based on lone working/chain saw accident is in production and will be used to promote this new guidance.</i>
<i>D3(b)</i> <i>Lone Working</i> <i>(Project Leader</i> <i>TBC)</i>	Green	<i>To review and promote methods for maintaining contact with individuals working remotely/alone.</i>		<i>Possible new AFAG Guide or other routes of communication to be proposed.</i> <i>This work to be linked with development of podcast(s).</i>	<i>Podcast (listed under D1) based on lone working/chain saw accident is in production and will be used to promote this new guidance.</i> <i>Project Group to be convened.</i>