



**ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP (AFAG)
NOTES of 22nd MEETING**

Date	Thursday 2 nd May 2013	Location	Tribunals Service, 54 Hagley Rd, Birmingham	Taken by	Anna Fenton	Action	
	HSE		AFAG MEMBERS				
	Andrew Turner (Chair) - AT Frances Hirst - FH Iain Sutherland - IS Anna Fenton		Ros Burnley (Lantra) - RB Tony Davies (City & Guilds) - TD Hans Fairley (AEA) – HF Reg Harris (Arb Assoc) -RH John Ireland (IOSH) - JI		Alex Laver (ISA) - AL Martin Lennon (JPM Tilhill) – ML Donald Maclean (FCA) - DM Emily Ramsay (FC) - ER		
Item	Key points and actions						
1	Welcome/apologies for absence						
	<p>1.1 Andrew Turner, HM Principal Inspector, Agriculture, Waste & Recycling Sector, Agriculture Safety, Forestry and Arboriculture Team welcomed members to the 22nd AFAG meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Apologies were received from Graeme Walker (HSE), James Brown (CONFOR), Bruce Hamilton (PCS), Des Campbell (DARDNI), John Price (LGE), Lesley Barr (Lantra Training), Neil McKay (ICF), Alex Murray (UKFPA), Simon Wallace (FC) & Robert Beaney (Unite).</p>						
2	Minutes of 21st Meeting (November 2012)						
	2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.						
3	Matters Arising <i>[Not covered in the Action Notes, or elsewhere on agenda.]</i>						
	3.1 Min 3.2 This item will discussed under agenda item 7.						
	3.2 Min 3.7 The review of ACOPs provides an opportunity to influence the content of the revised documents.. The PUWER ACOP has been reviewed internally by HSE and will shortly be out for public consultation. The LOLER ACOP is still undergoing internal review. AT will send out the draft guidance to Members for comment.						AT/ALL
	3.2.1 DM raised the possibility of including skylines in the revised LOLER ACOP. AT said this may have to be dealt with by industry guidance as the revised ACOPs are meant to provide generic guidance only. He asked DM to raise specific issues via email						DM
	3.3 Min 3.24 FC to share its own good practice guidance on Hand Arm Vibration. This actions stands. ER to send link to Members.						ER
	3.4 Min 3.28 This action has been discharged.						
	3.5 Min 5.2 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5.						
	3.6 Min 6.3.3 This item will be discussed under agenda item 7.						

7	<p>Review of AFAG Projects</p> <p>7.1 Development of European Chainsaw Certificate – TD explained that the Germans are taking this issue forward. The new European certificates will be based on C and Gs standards. TD will circulate information on this to members and will carry it forward.</p> <p>7.2 Reduce Accidents involving Chainsaws – ER explained that the work of this group had, to some extent, been overtaken by the FISA groups looking at incidence rates and refresher training in forestry. However AFAG needs to retain this group as it is relevant to both arb and forestry but its remit needed changing. One possible key role is to identify issues that need addressing. AT asked that members gave some thought as to what this group could do.</p> <p>7.3 Improving Management of Work at Height – The AA are still working towards producing an ICOP on work at height in arboriculture. There are however funding issues associated with its production and it may be another 2 years before this work is complete. This Group will continue to monitor this issue and report back to AFAG.</p> <p>7.4 Machine Assisted Takedown of Trees – FISA will need to revisit this issue when the AFAG guide is revised. The information that this group gathered is from a couple of years ago. IS to look if there were any outcomes from the information gathered and if there is any work left for this group to do</p> <p>7.5 Market Surveillance – The work of this group is ongoing.</p> <p>7.6 Safe Treework near overhead power lines – The FISA WG has met to review existing guidance. Consultation on revised guidance (AFAG 804) due shortly. This document will be in-line with revised ENA guidance and will be relevant to forestry Guidance is also needed for arboriculture. ML asked if the AA could produce this. Funding is currently an issue for this and other guidance. TD reported that C and G had offered help with funding but this had not been taken up .The AA should contact Jack Ward to discuss. RH to raise this with AA.</p> <p>7.7 Small scale self-propelled machinery in forestry - This group to be retained with new members. DM & IS both volunteered. RH is to ask SR if he would like to join and ER will ask Gordon Adam.</p> <p>7.8 Felling of Large Trees – Working Group consisting of IS (chair), RH, DM and Neil Gresswell or Dave Blakie of FC to re-look at the issue of double-manning at large trees, with the view to providing AFAG steer on safe systems of work.</p> <p>7.9 Promotion of Occupational Health Services – IS will contact Healthy Working Lives and discuss internally within HSE to find out what work other industries are doing in this area and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>7.10 Hand Arm Vibration – FH to check progress within HSE on this topic.</p> <p>7.11 Noise –FH to find out what is happening within HSE on this topic and send a link to ‘Buy Quiet’ to members.</p> <p>7.12 Managing Health & Safety on Sites – The draft of INDG 294 is completed and is to be presented at FISA next week.</p> <p>7.13 Lone Working – The draft guide is finished and will be on the HSE website soon. This will be sent out to members for comment.</p>	<p>TD</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>FH</p> <p>IS</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH/ER</p> <p>IS</p> <p>IS</p> <p>FH</p> <p>FH</p> <p>IS</p>
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8	<p>Communications</p> <p>8.1 Paper 13/04 AFAG Communities Websites - AT presented a paper on the future of the AFAG communities websites. Members agreed that there was currently no need to reinstate these websites. However HSE is to ensure that there is a clear link from the Treework website to the AFAG webpage where all minutes and papers are available. FH to arrange this and send link to Members.</p> <p>8.2 AFAG Leaflets – 36 leaflets have now been transferred to FISA. Of these</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 are solely relevant to forestry; • 13 are relevant to forestry and arboriculture; • 2 (AFAG 802 and 804) will need revising to provide industry specific guidance; and • 2 have been archived. <p>Live leaflets are available at http://www.ukfisa.com/safety-information/safety-library.html .</p> <p>The 5 leaflets, which are specifically relevant to arboriculture, are remaining on HSE's web site until the Arb Assoc is ready to take ownership. .</p> <p>8.3 APF 2014 – HSE are applying for funding to attend APF 2014. IS will be contacting Members and those organisations who shared stand space last year to see if they are willing to share again. The size of plot/ marquee will depend on the interest shown.</p> <p>8.4 Arb/Forestry SHADs – AT explained that HSE is hoping to run these events again this year but they are currently waiting for funding to be approved.</p>	<p>FH</p> <p>IS</p>
9	<p>Standards Work</p> <p>9.1 FH reported that the next CEN TC/144 WG8 meeting on the revision of BS EN 609/1 – wedge splitters is being held in Finland on 11/13 June. The revised standard is almost complete.</p> <p>9.2 Work is due to start later this year on the drafting of a new standard for firewood processors.</p> <p>9.3 The French have objected to the current standard on horizontal wood chippers BS EN 13525:2005 and work is underway to decide whether a revision is necessary.</p> <p>9.4 IS to check on position with 360° excavators.</p> <p>9.5 HF informed Members that the supply of top handled chainsaws to members of the public is currently being discussed in Europe. The UK is held up as a good example by controlling the supply to professionals only. It seems some manufacturers are currently misleading customers and a bulletin is to be sent out to all manufacturers reminding them of the terms of the agreement.</p>	<p>IS</p>
10	<p>Members Items – AL raised the issue of battery powered chainsaws which are getting smaller and finding there way into the domestic market.</p>	
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>10.1 None recorded.</p>	
12	<p>Date & Venue of next meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 12th November – Forestry Commission, Edinburgh or Glasgow</p>	