



**ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP (AFAG)  
NOTES of 31<sup>st</sup> MEETING**

<b>Date</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2017	<b>Location</b>	FCS Silvan House,	<b>Taken by</b>	Iain Sutherland	<b>Action</b>	
	<b>HSE</b>		<b>AFAG MEMBERS</b>				
	Rick Brunt (Chair) – RB Andrew Turner (Secretary) – AT Iain Sutherland – IS	Paolo Bavaresco (ICF) – PB Gillian Clark (FISA) – GC Stuart Phillips (Lantra) – SP Robin Jackson (City & Guilds) – RJ Phil Mostyn (NRW) – PM Graham Owen (NR) – GO Jonathan Callis (NR) – JC	Donald Maclean (FCA) – DM David Sulman (UKFPA) – DS Chris Cooper-Abs (AA) – CC-A Jason Liggins (FES) – JL Clare James (FCE) – CJ				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Key points and actions</b>						
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome/apologies for absence</b>						
	1.1 Rick Brunt, Head of the Agriculture, Waste & Recycling Sector welcomed members to the 31st AFAG meeting.						
	1.2 Apologies were received from Steve Dresser, Hans Fairley, Martin Lennon, Simon Richmond						
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting (May 2017)</b>						
	2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.						

3	<p>Matters Arising [Not covered in the Action Notes, or elsewhere on agenda.]</p> <p>3.1 Action 2 Item 4: Small-Scale Forestry Machinery to be removed from work plan. FISA to action Plant and Machinery Working Group to pick up the item. Suggestion for Nation Trust involvement in WG.</p> <p>3.2 Action3 Item 4 Felling Large Tree action to be picked up by FISA. No ongoing action.</p> <p>3.3 Action 4 Item 4. First aid and emergency actions: Ongoing action</p> <p>3.4 Action 5 Item 4:Improving supervision in treework: Action linked to chainsaw work and to be included in work scope</p> <p>3.5 Action 6 Item 4: AA Technical guides: Discard from actions.</p> <p>3.6 Action 7 Item 5: Report back to AIAC regarding contact of AFAG non-attendees</p> <p>3.7 Action 8 Item 6: Accident to Alexander Kirkley. Circulate HM Coroner’s report and accompanying information.</p> <p>3.8 Actions 9-11 Item 6: Considered in Agenda Item 4</p> <p>3.9 Action 12 Item 7: FISA Update Safety documents WG. Circulation of FISA draft safety guide updates to AFAG members still planned. Feedback requested.</p> <p>3.10 Action 13 Item 7. Input of HSE statistical data to FISA Behavioural Change WG. <b>AT</b> - Unless investigated, RIDDOR incident details are provided by reporting person so detail and accuracy are unreliable and have not been confirmed, so quality comes with provisos and may be of limited value. <b>GC</b> - Low return on stats request to FISA members. Work still to do. <b>RB</b> – The usefulness of incident statistics is limited because of the small number of reported incidents. Best estimate is the only 20% on reportable incident are reported. <b>AT</b> -Reporting for arboriculture likely to be worse and may be reported under other categories e.g. construction. Difficult to capture information accurately. <b>DC</b>. Larger forestry companies are not sharing information. <b>CC-A</b> Large arb companies the same, not sharing making it a learning and behaviour change issue.</p>	<p><b>GC</b></p> <p><b>HSE</b></p> <p><b>HSE</b></p> <p><b>RB</b></p> <p><b>AT</b></p> <p><b>AT</b></p>
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	<p><b>AT</b> to explore options for sharing the data HSE does have.</p> <p>3.11 Action 16 Item 13. Item discharged.</p> <p>3.12 Action 17 Item 13: AA Technical Guides - Scoping documents done for 5 guides. Note sure if circulated to AFAG. <b>CC-A</b> to check</p> <p>3.13 Action 18 Item 15: For Arb industry Accepted convention that for purposes of LOLER SWL can be specified as person, which includes personal equipment, rather than a specified weight, e.g. SWL = 1 Person = 100 kg</p> <p>Actions from the previous meeting not listed above are either discharged or appear on this agenda.</p>	<p><b>CC_A</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Accident to Alexander Kirkley update.</b></p> <p><b>AT</b> – Reporting back on Stihl investigation into suitability of PPE for top handle chainsaw operators. Not a large number of arboriculturalists reporting kickback. Tip guards are not solution. Stihl designed PPE to test principal. Guard was similar to that used in hockey. It could provide some but not full protection to make it useable. For the level of protection offered it was expensive, uncomfortable and likely to increase the risk of heat stress and fatigue. Development cost prohibitive for expected uptake.</p> <p>Whilst not directly related to the particular circumstances of the incident, there followed a general discussion around the investigation and enquiry process leading on to a discussion about planning and resourcing and contractual arrangements within arboriculture that may influence standards. There was also a general discussion about competence and the ability of those employing arboriculturalists to identify the required competence levels.</p>	

5	<p><b>FISA Update – GC</b></p> <p>5.1 Working Groups</p> <p>Managing Safety Documents - Update of chainsaw suit of guides are now at final draft for consideration at FISA Steering Group. Information Sheet to be produced for work on/by railways – Network Rail to be involved in WG. <b>CC-A</b> Arb. Association offering assistance for railways information sheet.</p> <p>Learning and Behavioural Change - Sub group set up to look at Landowner awareness considering planning and resourcing and improving general understanding of duties.</p> <p>Forest Haulage - Overhead power line early warning devices being developed and information to be gathered to help contractors to decide on what device is most suitable. Also looking at the timely provision of accurate site information to drivers</p> <p>Electricity/Utilities Protocol - Group now to cover utilities in general. Group to look at issues around the provision of forest roads and the planning and resourcing for traffic management generally.</p> <p>Machinery, Plant and Equipment - John Deere contributing to WG. Current focus on chain-shot and ROPS for older machines.</p> <p>5.2 FISA general update</p> <p>Prioritising work pulling out key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chainsaw project.</li> <li>- High voltage cable detection for forestry mobile plant.</li> <li>- Safety documents.</li> <li>- Review of safety training requirements.</li> </ul> <p>Provision of Safety alerts and bulletins from member companies encouraged so that lessons can be shared on the FISA website. There's been a drop off in submissions.</p>	
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6	<p><b>European Chainsaw Certificate (ECC) - update</b></p> <p>6.1 Robin Jackson – The dispute over property rights concerning competency standards continues so there has been no progress with the issue over the recognition of ECCs. NPTC are limited as to what they can discuss regarding the issue until the dispute is resolved. Both European organisations’ standards (Efesc &amp; ABA) have been assessed by as being broadly equivalent with NPTC’s but there are questions over the robustness of quality assurance procedures required to maintain equivalence over time. In addition NPTC and LANTRA are overseen by qualification authorities whereas European organisations aren’t.</p> <p>6.2 RB - Current choice is to maintain position as expressed in 2011 AFAG position paper – not accepting European certificates as equivalent – or accept currently accepted equivalence despite the uncertainty of future quality. No decision can be made until current dispute is resolved. As always it still remains the responsibility of those employing chainsaw operators to confirm their competence for the work they being required to undertake.</p> <p>6.3 Issue to be taken off agenda until legal dispute resolved. RJ to update the group as appropriate.</p>	RJ
7	<p><b>Chainsaw Project Update.</b></p> <p>7.1 Gillian Clark. FISA project picking up on AFAG paper on reducing chainsaw accidents and the issue it highlighted. Radical look at chainsaw work needed focusing on planning and resourcing. Linked to this is raising awareness with landowners.</p> <p>7.2 Regional meetings arranged for chainsaw operators to allow them to give their views and opinions and ideas. Information to feed into objectives of project. Listening to forestry management companies and others too. Range of items being put forward include planning, equipment, rates, permit systems, gang working,</p>	

	<p>methods of work - double manning, machine pull, fatigue.</p> <p>7.3 Network Rail offered to input their own systems and insights.</p> <p>7.4 GC will update group as project progresses.</p>	<b>GC</b>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Management of Chainsaw Operations - Driving Improvements</b></p> <p>8.1 Industry recognises that existing levels of competence do not always match the risk but those able to deal with it are not. Certificates are confused with competence. <b>PB</b> noted that the mechanism to move from competent to qualified does not exist and there is a lack of competent supervision on site. Not just for FISA/AA to deal with and <b>JL</b> felt HSE should have a role through inspection and increased inspector competence. Landowners have a key role but legal duties are confused. While they are not expected to become experts they need to do more, as do agents, to improve their understanding of where competence comes from. <b>DM</b> thinks the problem is with management contractors who do not discharge their duties but hide behind paper systems. <b>JL</b> remarked FWM has the most influence but do least. <b>HSE</b> is looking at proactive inspection in forestry but others have a role to play on their sites. <b>GC</b> industry would welcome a clear steer from HSE on what it expects. If this is to be an AFAG work item <b>IS</b> stated we need to concentrate on what makes a difference. <b>RB</b> suggested small working group to scope out the work by the end of February. HSE to develop concrete proposals for work to be done by AFAG to compliment that done by FISA.</p>	<b>IS</b>

<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>UAG Update</b></p> <p>9.1 AT provided update on behalf of Martin Lennon. Utility contractor scheme up and running covering rail, highway and waterway.</p> <p>9.2 Discussion over potential for forestry approved contractor scheme although industry was unlikely to be ready for it.</p> <p>9.3 GC - potentially interested as part of the chainsaw project but focus must be on wider industry, planning, resources rather than putting another thing on the contractor. Worth consideration but not at the moment.</p> <p>9.4 Discussion generally around construction schemes. Strength comes from not being a voluntary scheme.</p> <p>9.5 AT to circulate ML's update notes with minutes.</p>	
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Standards Work - Progress with AFAG projects and future work</b></p> <p>Safe Treework near overhead power lines. - Treework next to power lines end review put on hold.</p> <p>11.1 The revised BS EN 609-1: Agricultural and forestry machinery - Safety of log splitters - Part 1: Wedge splitters is currently out for public consultation. A link to the document had been sent out previously.</p> <p>11.2 A vote on whether BS EN 13525 Forestry machinery - Wood chippers - Safety should be withdrawn is currently underway following concerns by the French authorities that current standard does not give adequate protection to operators.</p>	

<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>11.1 <b>GC</b> - FISA. First batch of updated FISA 300 series concerning chainsaws near to finalisation. Guides being used with HSA who have also contributed to the review and update. Leaflets designed so they are easier to print. Some dual badged with Arb Association. Industry sponsorship obtained. Leaflets do look different.</p> <p>11.2 Guide for rhododendron clearance is on the list for consideration.</p> <p>11.3 <b>CC-A</b> – AA. 5 technical guides. Scope consulted on and finalised. Tender out to interested parties for authoring of guides. Expected publication for guides on Climbing and Tools end of 2018 other 3 by September 2019. Style and pictures still to be decided. The guides will contain technical information and will also include a supervisory section to assist supervisors to monitor work.</p> <p>11.4 Jeremy Lawton article concerning accidents in tree work, training certification and supervision in Winter edition of AA newsletter. Circulate to AFAG members if Simon Richmond agrees. <b>CC_A</b> to confirm and circulate.</p>	<p><b>CC-A</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Standards Work</b></p> <p>12.1 <b>IS</b> - A vote on BS EN 13525 Forestry machinery - Wood chippers, early next year. Likely to be accepted. Main changes include chute height only being 600mm or greater from the ground and 1500mm or greater in length. Infeed stopping devices must be located on outside edge of chute bottom and sides and an emergency stop on the top.</p> <p>12.2 New standard for firewood processors still under development.</p>	

<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Members Items</b></p> <p>13.1 <b>ML</b> LOLER SWL – addressed in 3.13 above.</p> <p>13.2 <b>ML</b> Fuel regulations -</p> <p>Do petroleum regulations apply to work stores and containers? Wouldn't apply if no dispensing but what if petrol is being decanted into smaller containers?</p> <p><b>CC-A</b> - Regs don't apply if in curtilages of private residence and not dispensing.</p> <p>HSE to Get answer to Martin</p>	<p><b>HSE</b></p>
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>13.1 DM raised concerns contractors not sure what is happening Forestry Machinery Operators Certification Scheme (FMOCS) registration. Accepted that the scheme needs to be kept but must be managed in a form that industry accepts. Needs to be a consistent system. <b>DM</b> questioning value of scheme as it's currently operated. Various versions in circulation. Reason it went underground is because Chris Hugh's concerned about potential liability of licence bought over telephone so provisional system stayed the same. Encourage record for non-qualified and recently qualified with clarity over what version is current. <b>GC</b> FISA seeking to get same form that can be badged by whoever so something is happening to address the situation.</p> <p>13.2 Paolo - What happens after chainsaw certification obtained? Diary with structure for developing competence is needed. <b>DS</b> There's a shortfall of ongoing courses for operators. Likely to be part of the AFAG chainsaw project.</p> <p>13.3 Network rail are interested in joining AFAG. Application to be confirmed by AIAC.</p> <p>13.4 <b>CC-A</b> Skid steers being used more in arboriculture. Issues identified with ROPS, training and lifting. 2 RIDDOR reportable accidents from turnovers. Flagging it up as a potential problem. Vehicles being bought supplied without any adaptation for treework use.</p>	

	13.5 <b>PM</b> asked AT if fatal notifications are being circulated for forestry arb RB happy to send to these out. AT to attach most recent fatal notification on minutes.	<b>AT</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Date &amp; Venue of next meeting</b> 8th May 2018 - HSE, Nottingham.	