



	<p>able to record the necessary information/performance indicators to provide base line information.</p> <p>3.6 Min 3.10 Updating of AIS 38 on guarding of wood chippers still to be completed.</p> <p>3.7 Min 3.11 - Healthy Working Lives in Scotland has been stopped due to moratorium on campaigns</p> <p>3.8 Min 3.13 it was agreed manual handling would be added to the NOS glossary on Health and Safety. This would ensure that it was covered in the qualification.</p> <p>3.9 Min 4.3 this issue is covered under Agenda item 4.</p> <p>3.10 Min 4.4 A number of AFAG Member organisations did sign the pledge supporting HSE's strategy.</p> <p>3.11 Min 5 this issue is covered under Agenda item 5</p> <p>3.12 Min 7.1 the APF had been a real success with all AFAG member organisations with a forestry interest involved. HSE was very grateful for the contributions which equated to in excess of £60000. Approximately 2000 people visited the site and over 200 people took part in the safety competition. There has been a great deal of positive feedback from attendees and in review articles. The workshops/seminars were not however well attended and these types of feature are probably not appropriate for this type of show.</p> <p>3.13 Min 7.2 the Skills and Learning Zone at Saltex worked well but its position was not ideal. As with the APF, the workshops were not well attended. The business case for HSE to attend Saltex next year has not been approved.</p> <p>3.14 Min 7.3 Forestry Summit this item is covered under Agenda item 7.</p> <p>3.15 Min 7.4 AFAG leaflets are covered under Agenda item 4.</p> <p>3.16 Min 8.15 action discharged.</p> <p>3.17 Min 8.24 issue covered under Agenda item 5</p> <p>3.18 Min 8.25 action discharged</p> <p>3.19 Min 9.1 new delegate still being sought.</p> <p>3.20 Min 9.4 a pragmatic approach will be taken on this issue, no further action at present.</p> <p>3.21 Min 11.1 action discharged.</p>	<p><b>Group</b></p> <p><b>HSE</b></p> <p><b>Ros Burnley/Lantra</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>New HSE's Strategy</b></p> <p>4.1 GW reported on a number of important developments which impact on HSE and its future role. These include the impact of the Coalition Government's Spending Review 2010, the revision of the Government's communications policy, the de-regulation agenda, and resultant health and safety reviews (Lord Young and Professor Loftstedt) and the Ministerial statement on health and safety published in March 2011.</p> <p>The key implications for AFAG are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of stringent new approvals procedures for all communications activities. All proposed activities need to be 'approved' internally and from June 2011 onwards will</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the decision to close down HSE Infoline, the HSE website is undergoing fundamental review and revision before October 2011. Simultaneously a comprehensive review of all published external guidance is taking place (see para 4.3)</li> <li>The Prof Lofstedt review of health and safety legislation. The review is taking place between March and October 2011. There will be a public consultation exercise and separately, an online public forum. AFAG Members will be alerted when these take place. JL is arranging a visit to a Scottish forestry site for Prof Lofstedt as part of his review.</li> </ul> <p><b>Review of AFAG leaflets</b></p> <p>4.2 HSE's Infoline is closing at the end of September. All HSE's websites have to be reviewed to take account of this. A set of FAQs will be put on the Treework Website.</p> <p>4.3 All HSE's external guidance is being reviewed with the expectation that the number of publications will be reduced. Any generic guidance e.g. on risk assessment, first aid etc. will be removed and referenced instead. The remaining guidance will only contain advice on compliance with the law and not extend to best practice.</p> <p>4.4 JL introduced AFAG 11/01 and there were preliminary discussions on the implications of HSE's review of guidance on the suite of AFAG leaflets. A number of options for the future of the AFAG leaflet series were discussed and members were asked to provide written comments on the paper summary by 3 June. JL to confirm in an email.</p> <p><b>Review of Industry Advisory Committees (IACs)</b></p> <p>4.5 GW reported that the role of IACs is currently under review. AFAG is a WG of the AIAC, whose main focus is farming. AFAG's links to the AIAC itself are not particularly strong but the work it does in terms of providing information on the views of the arb and forestry industries on e.g. how legislation should be applied and key issues affecting them is very important to HSE. The recommendation will be that AFAG be retained operating broadly within its existing remit. The recommendation is strengthened by the proposed new Ag Sector strategy which extends to Arb, Forestry, amenity, landscaping etc.</p>	<p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p>
5	<p><b>Review of AFAG projects</b></p> <p>5.1 AFAG/10/02 Progress report on AFAG projects 2010/11 was updated following the last meeting and is available on the HSE web site  <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/iacs/aiac/afag/060510/progress-report-060510.pdf">http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/iacs/aiac/afag/060510/progress-report-060510.pdf</a></p> <p><b>A2 Training and Certification</b></p> <p>5.2 The revised AFAG 805 <i>Training and certification</i> has been published and is available on HSE's website <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/afag805.pdf">http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/afag805.pdf</a></p> <p>5.3 JB introduced AFAG 11/02 which provided an update on progress with the European Chainsaw Certificate (ECC) and SH provided further background. The current standard for the ECC is below that of the City and Guilds NPTC Certificates of Competence. Fundamental are the arrangements in place to quality assure the scheme. Different countries have different systems. City and Guilds are intending to become the "National Agency" and will use this position to drive up standards within the scheme. The ECC project group have been alerted to the UK concerns. In the interim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members are asked to flag up to JB/SH any concerns they have on any deficiencies in the certificate; and</li> </ul>	<p>Members</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HSE will seek to clarify status. Although it is an EU certificate it is neither necessarily EU "approved" nor binding.</li> </ul> <p>The introduction of this scheme does not remove employers duties to ensure employees have received the appropriate training for the work they are required to do.</p> <p>5.4 SH to provide mapping information to show what exactly is covered by the ECC.</p> <p>5.5 RB updated Members of the current revision of the National Occupational Standards (NOS). The review began in January. The work is being co-ordinated by a Steering Group chaired by JB and there are separate WGs for Greenwood Trades, Arboriculture, and Chainsaws. This work is at peer review stage. Comments have to be back to WGs in June. The industry consultation will take place from 1 September to 8 November and there will be publicity events associated with this. The NOS on chainsaws in particular is being radically reviewed. Consolidation of training is also a key issue.</p> <p>5.6 Members were asked to contact RB if they wanted to be involved in the peer review groups or if they would like her to arrange for or attend specific events to publicise the review.</p> <p>5.6 Lantra are also carrying out research into numbers working in the industry</p> <p><b>B2 Improving Management of Work at Height</b></p> <p>5.7 Work on revising the AA Guide to Good Climbing Practice is ongoing.</p> <p><b>B5. Machine Assisted Takedown of Trees</b></p> <p>5.8 Graham Hodgson's report is now complete. This work is being taken forward by Lantra Awards as part of the development of an assisted takedown training package.</p> <p><b>B8. Safe Tree work near Overhead Power Lines</b></p> <p>5.9 The revision of AFAG 804 is almost complete and now covers exclusively safe takedown during forestry operations. A decision needs to be made on whether to reinstate some guidance for amenity arboriculture as it will now not be possible to produce separate guidance. Advice to be sought from project group.</p> <p>5.10 A request was also made to add advice on level crossings.</p> <p>5.11 The research into mechanised harvesting in the red zone is currently on going and the Energy Networks Association (ENA) is planning to publish guidance late next year. HSE and FC are part of the ENA working group developing the guidance. ER reminded members that this is still work in progress and no final decisions on safe working procedures have been made yet.</p> <p><b>B10. Felling of Large Trees</b></p> <p>5.12 DM reported that only in a limited number of cases was it necessary to have 2 people at the base of a tree. A small WG was needed to put the advice together.</p> <p><b>D3(a) Managing Health and Safety on Forestry Sites</b></p> <p>5.13 The draft document has been sent out for industry comment. There has been a broad range of opinion on the draft guidance. The project group will be meeting in June 2011 to discuss the comments received.</p>	<p>HSE</p> <p>Steve Hewitt</p> <p>Members</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE/Project Group</p> <p>HSE/Project Group</p> <p>Working Group</p> <p>Project Group</p>
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7	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p><b>Forestry Summit</b></p> <p>7.1 It has not been possible to take this forward yet but the event has been incorporated in the draft Sector strategy. It is proposed to hold the event in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this financial year, probably in November. The aim is to get CEO's and Board Members to discuss the industry record and to also run a conference for those working in safety in the industry. A WG will be needed to progress this. JL to email Members asking for volunteers for the WG and for contacts for the invite list.</p> <p><b>SHADs</b></p> <p>7.2 Four Engaging Arboricultural Contractor SHADs were held in the last financial and funding for a further 2 has been agreed for this year. It is proposed that one of these is held in Scotland, probably in September. The date and location for the second is TBC.</p> <p>7.3 Two Forestry SHADs are planned for this financial year.</p> <p>7.4 CONFOR are currently exploring the possibility of delivering an industry-led SHAD for timber haulage contractors.</p> <p><b>Training for HSE Inspectors</b></p> <p>7.5 The first Arboriculture Familiarisation course for FOD Inspectors is due to be run from the 19 - 20 May 2011 and the second from 4-5 October 2011.</p> <p>7.6 A suitable training provider for the Forestry Familiarisation course still needs to be found and there is to be a further tender exercise. It is hoped that the course will be run in September / October 2011.</p>	HSE
8	<p><b>Standards Work</b></p> <p>8.1 HF reported that since the last meeting a number of Standards have come up for revision and been voted on. AGE29 is currently meeting once a year.</p>	
9	<p><b>Members Issues</b></p> <p><b>Pesticides</b></p> <p>9.1 JB raised concerns about the affect of the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) on current requirements for training and certification. SH reported that the SUD impacts on the user and the actual pesticides themselves. The current wording is that Member states must make training available – i.e it is not compulsory to actually carry it out. The Minister is currently being lobbied to ensure that what the industry sees as a retrograde step doesn't happen. The Chemicals Regulations Directorate (CRD) currently have a consultation exercise underway.</p> <p><b>Gang Masters Licensing Authority</b></p> <p>9.2 JB reported that a "lighter touch" was under discussion for forestry. The exemption regulations are being tightened and the aim is to persuade the GLA to adopt a pragmatic approach.</p> <p><b>Guarding of Skidders</b></p> <p>9.3 ML raised the issue of rear guarding for skidders. Further guidance is required on the</p>	

	<p>appropriate protection required. There is some advice in guidance produced by Forest Research and the new standard on skidders may also help. JL to obtain more information.</p> <p><b>Application of LOLER to forestry</b></p> <p>9.4 ML asked that more definitive advice be made available on this issue, particularly on what should be recorded. Members agreed that the information is already available but perhaps needs pulling together. Members could share information on what their organisations already do. RB will liaise with DM over the content of the NOS and Lantra Awards workbooks.</p> <p><b>Footpath closures</b></p> <p>9.5 ML raised the issue of footpaths closures where the land owner won't give permission. Members agree that the existing FASTCo guidance was adequate. The public access laws do allow for limiting access/footpath closure if there is a risk. ER agreed to circulate the existing FASTCo guidance "Managing Public Safety on Harvesting Sites."</p> <p><b>Forwarders used to lift other equipment.</b></p> <p>9.6 Members agreed that this was not ideal but it may be the only practicable solution. GW recommended that a pragmatic approach needed to be adopted and that subject to a suitable and sufficient risk assessment the use of a forwarder might be deemed appropriate.</p>	<p>HSE</p> <p>Members/RB</p> <p>Emily Ramsay</p>
10	<p><b>Date &amp; venue for next meeting</b></p> <p>Agreed to be held on Wednesday 18 April 2012 at ASC, 54 Hagley Road, Birmingham, B16 8PE.</p>	
11	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Consultations</b></p> <p>11.1 ER volunteered to act as AFAG coordinator for industry consultations.</p> <p><b>APF 2012</b></p> <p>11.2 HSE agreement has been given to attend this event. JL will canvas members on their willingness to be involved and will set up a WG to take this forward.</p>	<p>Emily Ramsay</p> <p>HSE</p>