



**ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP (AFAG)
NOTES of 26th MEETING**

Date	Tuesday 12 th May 2015	Location	HSE, BGS, Kingsley Dunham Centre, Nicker Hill, Nottingham	Taken by	Iain Sutherland/Andrew Turner	Action	
		HSE	AFAG MEMBERS				
	Rick Brunt (Chair) - RB Andrew Turner (Secretary) - AT Iain Sutherland - IS		Simon Richmond (Arb Assoc) – SR Steve Dresser (FISA) Martin Lennon (BALI) – ML Stuart Phillips (Lantra) – SP Karl Lee (UAG) – KL Hans Fairley – (AEA) - HF Dave Beadle MTOA - DB		Donald Maclean (FCA) - DM Gordon Adam (FC) - GD Tony Davies (C&G) - TD Chris Jones (NRW) - CJ		
Item	Key points and actions						
1	Welcome/apologies for absence						
	<p>1.1 Rick Brunt, Head of the Agriculture, Waste & Recycling Sector welcomed members to the 26th AFAG meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Apologies were received from James Brown (CONFOR), Des Campbell (DARDNI), Gillian Clark (FISA), John Ireland (IOSH), Alex Laver (ISA), Simon Wallace (FC), Emily Ramsay (FC), Bruce Hamilton (PCS), Neil McKay (ICF), John Price (LGE), David Sulman (UKFPA) and Frances Hirst (HSE).</p>						

2	<p>Minutes of 25th Meeting (November 2014)</p> <p>2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising <i>[Not covered in the Action Notes, or elsewhere on agenda.]</i></p> <p>3.6 Min 4.2 There are no plans to revise DfT guidance.</p> <p>Actions from the previous meeting not listed above are either discharged or appear on this agenda.</p>	
4	<p>FISA Update</p> <p>Working Groups</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>WG2- Promotion. FISA to attend Highland Show, Royal Welsh Show, CONFOR Show, Black Isle Show.</p> <p>WG3 & 4– Statistics and behaviour change. Considering accident reporting and recording.</p> <p>WG5 –Skills & development. Training continues. Final Lantra/FISA statement agreed. FISA will accept Lantra training delivered by a +F trainer. Some candidates who did not need refresher training due to up-skilling are now in scope. All contractors expected to be registered for training by 31 October 2015. Training for wind blow course content being developed.</p> <p>WG7 – Electricity. Review of red zone working and FISA 804 underway.</p> <p>WG9 – Occupational health and welfare – example risk assessments on website for HAVS, Lyme’s disease. Landowner checklist and emergency checklist under development</p> <p>WG 10 – This group, looking at machinery safety, will now also include skylines.</p>	

5	<p>Progress with AFAG Projects and future work</p> <p>5.1 European Chainsaw Certificates. TD confirmed City & Guilds are satisfied that EFESC certificate content and assessment are consistent with UK standards. ABA content equivalent and TD will be considering technical assessment quality during the summer and will report back. Arrangements in place likely to ensure ongoing trainer competence. ML reminded all that a certificate does not always equate to competence, which employers must continue to assess. DM expressed concern that large employers see competence as a tick box exercise rather than genuinely assessing competence. Discussion regarding who has the gatekeeper role for European certificates and RB confirmed AFAG was an appropriate place to consider the matter.</p> <p>5.2 Reducing accidents involving chainsaws. A FISA working group is looking at the same issue. ER to confirm arboriculture input is being made into the group. KL confirmed that the UAG have two years of accident data which could be made available if wanted</p> <p>5.3 Improving management of work at height. SR reported that the ICOP has been published and is available as a free of charge download. It will be the starting point for detailed technical guides. Future work to be done by AA technical committees so project complete.</p> <p>5.4 Machine assisted take down of trees. Copies of report to be sent to DMc, KL and SW. HSE have had one meeting to discuss topic and will meet again</p> <p>5.5 Safe treework near overhead power lines. KL and ML have met. Challenge in condensing current guidance and views to be sought from other stakeholders, such as Network Rail. Report back at next meeting. UAG priorities over the next 12-18 months are improved reporting, including minor incidents, a behavioural safety workshop, work with Lantra and City & Guilds on new units, training on use of MEWPs near OHPL's, training in use of flails and hedge cutters around live conductors, LV switching guidance and a national career framework. KL to distribute details to AFAG, including guidance on MEWP's and flails.</p> <p>5.6 Small-scale self-propelled machinery. GA reported that FISA WG10 likely to take</p>	<p>TD</p> <p>AT</p> <p>ER</p> <p>IS/AT/RB</p> <p>KL/ML</p> <p>KL</p> <p>IS/CS</p>
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	<p>on issue but not yet confirmed. Report being finalised, and hoping that the issue will be picked up by BSI to establish European standards. IS and Colin Saunders (FC) to prepare report for consideration by AGE29. DM expressed concern that this matter had not been progressed by FC for many years, with manufacturers not having a standard to work too. Purchasers assume machines are made to a standard and so this matter must be progressed with some urgency. GA reported that FC guidance is nearing completion and will be consulting with HSE and AFAG members shortly. GA will send copy to AT for circulation to AFAG members. GA will also confirm deadline. SD urged rapid progress as also relevant to FISA guides.</p> <p>5.7 Felling of large trees. HSE was requested to put together a working group to progress this matter as the issue is that techniques used are not currently trained. A discussion is needed on what is actually allowed as this is relevant to the work of FISA WG5. FC position seems to be moving to accept two person techniques in certain circumstances. Debate and decision tree on felling jacks also relevant. This issue is best moved to a FISA working group and SD will circulate group membership.</p> <p>5.8 Occupational health. Although there is a FISA OH group it is not considering the same issues. To remain with FISA with IS to pursue</p>	<p>GA</p> <p>SD</p> <p>IS</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Future of training in treework – Awarding bodies update</p> <p>7.1 Proposed reforms to L2/L3 qualifications. There is a lot of reform in education provision underway leading to the redevelopment of college based provision at L2/L3. The Government wants more robust qualifications with a more obvious link to employment opportunities and what employers require. A range of qualifications are being developed, and there is a need for industry input. Assessment will also change, with an increased emphasis on practical requirements. New qualifications will be in place from 2017, with new teaching starting in September 2016. They will apply to England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Members were circulated proposed modular approach with indicative guided hours. KL was keen that qualifications enabled a range of career paths to be followed and ML welcomed opportunity for employer input as clarity over certificates is vital. Industry input is required over the summer and all those interested are to contact Susie Brennan (contact details Susie</p>	<p>AFAG members</p>

	<p>Brennan susie.brennan@cityandguilds.com or Ewa.Jurgielaniec-May@cityandguilds.com</p> <p>KL indicated that UAG would be happy to input, probably as a group rather than individual DNO's. All are encouraged to feedback to City & Guilds who would be happy to meet individual members.</p> <p>7.2 Revised Lantra Units. External verifying groups have been looking at standards to ensure they meet industry needs. FMO training deemed appropriate for independent assessment as most is done in-house, KL asked if manufacturer training could not be recognised and ML expressed concern about access to instructors and assessors. City & Guilds were of the view that FMO training is very specific and assessor's details can be found on their website. ML asked if FMO training could include maintenance. Concern also expressed that application of LOLER to forestry machinery was confused which makes consistent training difficult.</p> <p>7.3 Lantra is trying to encourage experienced operators to become trainers, and to do so the individual needs to show that they are credible as trainers and the industry needs to show that working as a trainer is a viable way to make a living.</p> <p>7.4 LM and SW expressed views (in writing and circulated to the group) that there was unlikely to be a shortage of chainsaw trainers, although the position with FMO training was less certain.</p>	KL
8	<p>Economics update</p> <p>8.1 The Literature review by HSE Economists has taken longer than expected and report has not yet been received. Will be an agenda item for next AFAG meeting</p>	AT
9	<p>Communications</p> <p>9.1 Chainsaw guides (300 series) will be reviewed this year. Concerns raised about access and use of guides. AA will be surveying members about use. FISA will be leading on revision of forestry guides. Concern was expressed about industry input to the revised guides. Discussions about industry specific combined guides concluded that combined guides rarely address the needs of all.</p> <p>9.2 Standards for top-handled chainsaws lack a definition of professional use.</p>	<p>SR/FISA</p> <p>FH</p>

	<p>Frances Hirst to be asked to consider.</p> <p>9.3 Arboriculture and Forestry SHADs. Two forestry SHADs held in March (Ae and the New Forest) which were highly rated by those attending. A pilot arboriculture SHAD aimed at contractors was held in March, which was also highly rated by delegates. HSE intends to bid for resources for a programme of SHAD's this year, although bids cannot be made until an evaluation exercise from last year's SHAD's is completed.</p>	FH/IS
10	<p>Standards work</p> <p>10.1 The revised BS EN 609-1: Agricultural and forestry machinery - Safety of log splitters - Part 1: Wedge splitters has been out for consultation and Frances Hirst is currently at a meeting considering the outcome. Report back at next meeting</p> <p>10.2 IS will be representing HSE on a revised standard for wood chippers following the withdrawal of BS EN 13525 Forestry machinery - Wood chippers. Meeting to be held in Paris in July 2015, Report back at next meeting</p>	<p>FH</p> <p>IS</p>
11	<p>Members items</p> <p>11.1. Chainsaw helmets. The question of appropriate standards for helmets continues to re-surface periodically. Current guidance is correct. Trade Associations and AFAG members are encouraged to draw the attention of the current guidance to members</p> <p>11.2 Chainsaw Jackets. There is currently no guidance on use of chainsaw jackets. Views had been sought on appropriate amendments to the HSE website. Concern raised by FCA that issue had been raised by one person and was not a concern in the wider industry. General consensus to include a reference to use of chainsaw jackets in specific circumstances (with examples).</p> <p>11.3 Age limits for use of wood chippers, brush cutters, etc. Students on work experience may be involved in ground work. It was agreed that guidance relating to</p>	<p>AFAG members</p> <p>FH</p>

	chain saw use contained in INDG 317 was relevant to wood chippers and similar machines.	
12	<p>AOB</p> <p>12.1 Review of the role of AFAG. RB indicated that with changes in stakeholders in the treework industry, it was an opportune time to consider the role of AFAG to ensure best value from member's time was achieved.</p> <p>12.2 DM commented that more contributions to FISA's mechanism for collecting and sharing accident data were required, particularly from larger players. Message to be taken back to FISA</p> <p>12.3 SP advised that Lantra awards certificates were not being accepted by some trainers. C & G confirmed they were acceptable.</p> <p>12.4 KL advised the UAG are looking at building a more defined career structure to attract good quality entrants and sought views on where UA1 would sit in any development programme. It was agreed that UA1 should be towards the bottom of any hierarchy</p> <p>12.5 SR asked that the Arboricultural Association's thanks to Stihl and City & Guilds for their help in developing the ICOP be minuted.</p>	<p>RB</p> <p>FISA members</p>
13	<p>Date & Venue of next meeting</p> <p>10 November 2015 Forestry Commission, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT</p>	