

## ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP (AFAG) NOTES of 24<sup>th</sup> MEETING

Date	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	Location	City & Guilds, Bldg 500, Abbey Park, Stareton, Warwickshire CV8 2LY	Taken by	Anna Fenton	Action	
HSE		AFAG MEMBERS					
	Rick Brunt (Chair) - RB Andrew Turner (Secretary) - AT Frances Hirst – FH Iain Sutherland - IS Anna Fenton		Simon Wallace (FC) Hans Fairley (AEA) – HF Simon Richmond (Arb Assoc) -SR James Brown (CONFOR) – JB Lesley Barr (Lantra Training) – LB Simon Cox (AA) – SC Gillian Clark (FISA) Tim Wetherill (MTOA)		Alex Laver (ISA) - AL Martin Lennon (UPM Tilhill) – ML Donald Maclean (FCA) - DM Emily Ramsay (FC) - ER Karl Lee (UAG) – KL Sally Green (C&G NPTC) - SG		
Item	Key points and actions						
1	<p><b>Welcome/apologies for absence</b></p> <p>1.1 Rick Brunt, Head of the Agriculture, Waste &amp; Recycling Sector welcomed members to the 24<sup>th</sup> AFAG meeting. He also welcomed two new members, Gillian Clark representing FISA and Tim Wetherill representing MTOA ,to the group.</p> <p>1.2 Apologies were received from Ros Burnley (Lantra), Tony Davies (City &amp; Guilds), Bruce Hamilton (PCS), David Sulman (UKFPA), Hans Fairley (AEA) , John Ireland (IOSH), Des Campbell (DARDNI), Neil McKay (ICF), John Price (LGE).</p>						
2	<p><b>Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting (November 2013)</b></p> <p>2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p>						
3	<p><b>Matters Arising</b> <i>[Not covered in the Action Notes, or elsewhere on agenda.]</i></p> <p>3.1 Min 3.1 The PUWER ACOP is still open to external consultation, which closes on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. There is a minor change regarding chainsaw training in the revised ACOP. This has been moved from the ACOP to guidance. The LOLER ACOP is being circulated within HSE and is not out for public consultation yet. This action stands.</p> <p>3.2 Min 3.2. This item will be discussed under agenda item 11.</p> <p>3.3 Min 3.3 This item has been discharged.</p> <p>3.4 Min 3.23 IS was not able to give an update on 360 degree excavators. This action stands.</p> <p>3.5 Min 4 This item will be discussed under agenda item 4</p> <p>3.6 Min 4.2 This item has been discharged.</p>						<p><b>AT/ALL</b></p> <p><b>IS</b></p>

	<p>3.7 Min 4.3. Revised article, which includes matrix of revised Utility Arboriculture Units, to be circulated. Revised units will shortly be out for consultation. KL to send documents to FH who will circulate to Members.</p> <p>3.8 Min 4.5 Addition of feedback from AFAG to FISA Steering Group still to be actioned</p> <p>3.9 Min 5.2.2. This item will be discussed under agenda item 8.</p> <p>3.10 Min 5.2.5. The AA &amp; FISA will pool resources to obtain chainsaw accident data.</p> <p>3.11 Min 5.4 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5.</p> <p>3.12 Min 5.6 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5.</p> <p>3.13 Min 5.7 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5.</p> <p>3.14 Min 5.8 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.15 Min 5.9 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.16 Min 5.10 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.17 Min 5.11 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.18 Min 5.13 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.19 Min 7 This item has been discharged.</p> <p>3.20 Min 7.4 This item was discussed at Min 3.1.</p> <p>3.21 Min 8.1 This work of into the revision of BS EN 609-1 is still ongoing. FH will inform members when the document becomes available for public consultation. This action stands.</p> <p>3.22 Min 9.1 AT has spoken to Natural Resource Wales and has resolved this issue. This item has been discharged.</p> <p>3.23 Min 10.1 This item has been discharged.</p>	<p>KL/FH</p> <p>GC</p> <p>FH</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>FISA Update</b></p> <p>4.1 GC gave an update on refresher training. There are currently 23 FISA instructors and 274 chainsaw operators have had the refresher training. 641 applications have been received and accepted. 51 people have attended the supervisor training and 204 were on the waiting list. FISA now have admin provision, which has helped to deal with the backlog. FISA are meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May. The Agenda includes looking at ways of making the website more user friendly and will produce a flow chart to post on the website to help clarify the training structure. GC will send any outcomes from this meeting to Members.</p> <p>4.1.2. DM raised concerns that as the training is not accredited there is a concern from industry regarding the quality of the refresher training. GC asked if DM would send her specific examples of this.</p> <p>4.1.3 Members requested that FISA clarify what if any other refresher training, other than that provided by FISA, is acceptable.</p>	<p>GC</p> <p>DM</p> <p>GC</p>

	<p>4.1.4 Several Members also expressed concern that FISA's current guidance on the requirement for refresher training is not sufficiently clear, which is leading clients to interpret it differently. Its original application was for harvesting/commercial forestry but it is now being required outside this eg for fencing contracts. FISA to clarify.</p> <p><b>Timber Haulage</b> 4.2 FISA have developed a booklet for timber haulage drivers to help raise awareness of the safety issues associated with this, especially for where timber haulage is not the main activity. The booklet is in its final draft and will be available as a free download. AT agreed to send members a copy of the HSE agriculture haulage guidance.</p> <p><b>Managing Health &amp; Safety in Forestry</b> 4.3 Managing Health &amp; Safety in Forestry document is in its final draft and is being circulated around the FISA steering group. As soon as it is available, it will go on the FISA website as a free download.</p> <p><b>Update of FISA 805</b> 4.4 ML gave an update on FISA 805. Work has started on re-drafting the document and ML is leading on this. GC will send out a draft to Members for comment.</p> <p>4.4.1 The proposal is that two separate documents will be drafted one for forestry and one for arboriculture. AFAG will need to consider the position of estate and agricultural workers.</p> <p><b>Tree Jacks</b> 4.5 ML raised the issue of tree jacks being sold, as tree moving equipment, without any guidance on how to use them safely. There is some FC guidance available but this is not sufficient. A WG of ML/DM/SW is to draft something suitable</p>	<p>GC</p> <p>AT</p> <p>GC</p> <p>ML/DM/SW</p>
5	<p><b>Review of AFAG Projects</b></p> <p>5.1 <b>Development of European Chainsaw Certificate</b> – JB gave an update that there are currently 300 people registered who hold the ECC. A pilot International Chainsaw Certificate is being run in Canada. An Aerial Use of a Chainsaw Certificate is also being developed.</p> <p>5.2 <b>Reduce Accidents involving Chainsaws</b> – FISA and the Arb Assoc intend to pool resources and share accident data. The Arb Assoc will also join the FISA working group on this topic.</p> <p>5.3 <b>Improving Management of Work at Height</b> – The AA are producing a consultation document on the ICOP on work at height in arboriculture. HSE has been asked to give its support to this document and to be part of the peer review group. The draft document is due to go out for consultation in June and the final version to be available in September.</p> <p>5.4 <b>Machine Assisted Takedown of Trees</b> – A report was produced by HSE in 2008 regarding takedown of edge trees. IS suggested that this report could be taken forward and added to. Since the report was published the FC have developed a training course on the use of skidders in take down. Also the soon to be published ENA guidance on red zone harvesting may also overlap with the original findings of the report. IS/AT/RB to re-examine the findings and to report back with a suggested actions. IS will send a copy of the report to SW, DM and KL.</p> <p>5.5 <b>Market Surveillance</b> – There are still issues with log splitters and firewood processors.</p> <p>5.6 <b>Safe Treework near overhead power lines</b> – FH is revising the overhead power line guidance on the treework website.</p> <p>5.7 <b>Small scale self-propelled machinery in forestry</b> – SW reported that the FC have a WG looking</p>	<p>FH</p> <p>IS/AT/RB</p> <p>FH</p> <p>SW/IS</p>

	<p>at these m/cs and where they fit in terms of compliance. SW agreed to feedback information from the FC working group and HSE will decide how to take this forward.</p> <p><b>5.8 Felling of Large Trees</b> – This project has not progressed. There is currently a difference of opinion between industry and the FC which needs to be resolved.</p> <p><b>5.9 Promotion of Occupational Health Services</b> – IS has discussed this with Robert Aitken from Healthy Working Lives. IS will contact him again to decide how to take this issue forward.</p> <p><b>5.10 Hand Arm Vibration</b> – HSE will send out its revised guidance when available.</p> <p><b>5.11 Noise</b> – HSE will send out its revised guidance when available.</p> <p><b>5.12 Managing Health &amp; Safety on Sites</b> – This issue will be covered by Managing Health &amp; Safety in Forestry. Work on the revised document is almost complete.</p> <p><b>5.13 Lone Working</b> – FISA has a working group covering this issue and guidance will be produced by them.</p>	<p><b>IS</b></p> <p><b>FH</b></p> <p><b>FH</b></p>
7	<p><b>Chainsaw Helmets for use on the ground</b></p> <p>7.1 An issue has been raised a number of times with HSE concerning trainers on some courses not permitting trainees to use a mountaineering style helmet (BS EN 12492) when using a chainsaw on the ground. They have expressed concern that 2 two major suppliers have put a disclaimer on their websites stating that the mountaineering style helmet is purely for aerial work and not suitable for work on the ground. Lyon, the main importer of Petzl helmets, has asked the manufacturer for clarification. Petzl have confirmed that this style of helmet is suitable for ground as well as aerial use. HSE has also sought advice from HSL’s head protection specialists who have confirmed that in their opinion Petzl’s comments on their EN 12492 helmet, being quite suitable for ground work, where there is nothing in the task risk assessment to disqualify it seems perfectly reasonable.</p> <p>7.2 FH will take this issue forward and liaise with SR &amp; AL.</p>	<p><b>FH/SR/AL</b></p>
8	<p><b>Effect of timber purchasing policies on health &amp; safety performance</b></p> <p>8.1 AT discussed the anecdotal evidence that the way timber is sold has an effect on health &amp; safety performance. Due to the way HSE records accidents, this data cannot be use to confirm this. AT asked Members if they would support a research project on the effect of timber purchasing on health &amp; safety performance. For this to be taken forward their co-operation in the sharing of anonymised commercial data will be needed.</p> <p>8.2 Members agreed that the project was worthwhile. JB agreed to data sharing and will speak to DS at UKFPA about this. AT will send an email to GC regarding this project and she will to speak to FISA members.</p>	<p><b>JB/AT/GC</b></p>

9	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>9.1 <b>FISA/AFAG/AA leaflets update</b> – Responsibility for each leaflet has been agreed between FISA and the Arb Assoc. Forestry and joint leaflets are currently available from the FISA website. Arboricultural leaflets are currently available on the HSE website pending transfer to the Arb Assoc. Arrangements are being made for joint badging where appropriate. Managing Health &amp; Safety in Forestry will be available as a free download from the FISA web site.</p> <p>9.2 <b>APF2014</b> - HSE has secured the same large plot as previously. There will be an OHPL demo, a stump forensics competition and a vehicle fault finding competition. Confirmation from some organisations who have been invited to share the marquee is still required. ER suggested that emergency procedures and the revised FISA 804 would be suitable to highlight at the event.</p> <p>9.3 <b>Arb/Forestry SHADS</b> – HSE has not yet approved funding for forestry SHADs for this year. Funding for further Engaging Arboricultural Contractors SHADs has not been approved. The Agriculture Sector is to re-submit a bid for an Arboriculture SHAD aimed at contractors rather than clients.</p> <p>9.4 <b>LOLER/PUWER/ACOPs</b> - This was discussed at Min 3.1.</p>	IS
10	<p><b>Standards Work</b></p> <p>10.1 This issue was covered at agenda item 3.20.</p>	
11	<p><b>Members Items</b></p> <p><b>Skylines</b></p> <p>11.1 DM raised the issue of the application of LOLER to skylines. In particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marking of components</li> <li>• Examination after initial installation</li> </ul> <p>The FC has recognised that it may have a potential problem with regard to compliance with LOLER and is looking at revising the existing guidance. IS and DM to work with them on this.</p> <p><b>Revised UA units</b></p> <p>11.2 SG raised some concerns that City and Guilds NPTC had with the article that was recently sent to Members. A revised version was handed out at the meeting and arrangements made to send out an electronic version. City and Guilds NPTC have decided to produce their own UA qualifications although these will be comparable in content to those being developed by the UAG/Lantra</p>	IS/FC/DM       FH
12	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>12.1 No AOB was recorded.</p>	
13	<p><b>Date &amp; Venue of next meeting</b></p> <p>November 2014 – Forestry Commission, Corstorphine Rd, Edinburgh</p>	