



**ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP (AFAG)  
NOTES of 23rd MEETING**

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	<b>Location</b>	Forestry Commission, Corstorphine Rd, Edinburgh	<b>Taken by</b>	Anna Fenton	<b>Action</b>	
	<b>HSE</b>	<b>AFAG MEMBERS</b>					
	Andrew Turner (Chair) - AT Frances Hirst - FH Anna Fenton	Ros Burnley (Lantra) - RB Tony Davies (City & Guilds) - TD Hans Fairley (AEA) – HF Simon Richmond (Arb Assoc) -SR James Brown (CONFOR) – JB Neil McKay (ICF) – NM David Sulman (UKFPA) - DS	Alex Laver (ISA) - AL Martin Lennon (UPM Tilhill) – ML Donald Maclean (FCA) - DM Emily Ramsay (FC) - ER Karl Lee (UAG) - KL				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Key points and actions</b>						
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome/apologies for absence</b>						
	<p>1.1 Andrew Turner, HM Principal Inspector, Agriculture, Waste &amp; Recycling Sector, Agriculture Safety, Forestry and Arboriculture Team welcomed members to the 23<sup>rd</sup> AFAG meeting. He also welcomed two new Members, David Sulman representing UKFPA and Karl Lee representing UAG, to the group.</p> <p>1.2 Apologies were received from Graeme Walker (HSE), Iain Sutherland (HSE), Reg Harris (Arb Assoc), Bruce Hamilton (PCS), John Ireland (IOSH), Des Campbell (DARDNI), John Price (LGE), Lesley Barr (Lantra Training), and Simon Wallace (FC).</p>						
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting (May 2013)</b>						
	2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.						
<b>3</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> <i>[Not covered in the Action Notes, or elsewhere on agenda.]</i>						
	3.1 Min 3.2 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 documents for comment once they are available. This action stands.					<b>AT/ALL</b>	
	3.2 Min 3.2.1 DM had previously raised the possibility of including skylines in the revised LOLER ACOP. AT said confirmed that there was still time for him to request this and asked him to raise specific issues via email. This action stands.					<b>DM</b>	
	3.3 Min 3.3 FC to share its own good practice guidance on Hand Arm Vibration. This actions stands. ER to send link to Members.					<b>ER</b>	
	3.4 Min 3.13 This action has been discharged.						
	3.5 Min 4.3 This item will be discussed under agenda item 4.						

	<p>3.6 Min 5.2.1 Paper amended as requested</p> <p>3.7 Min 5.3 No comments received. This item has been discharged.</p> <p>3.8 Min 7.1 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5.</p> <p>3.9 Min 7.2. This item will be discussed under agenda item 5.</p> <p>3.10 Min 7.3 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5.</p> <p>3.11 Min 7.4 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5.</p> <p>3.12 Min 7.5. This item will be discussed under agenda item 5.</p> <p>3.13 Min 7.6 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.14 Min 7.7 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.15 Min 7.8 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.16 Min 7.9 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.17 Min 7.10 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.18 Min 7.11 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.19 Min 7.12 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.20 Min 7.13 This item will be discussed under agenda item 5</p> <p>3.21 Min 8.1 This item has been discharged.</p> <p>3.22 Min 8.3 This item will be discussed under agenda item 7</p> <p>3.23 Min 9.4 IS to check on position with 360<sup>0</sup> excavators. This action stands.</p>	IS
4	<p><b>FISA Update</b></p> <p><b>Refresher Training</b></p> <p>4.1 ML gave an update on the operator refresher training required for timber harvesting operations. FISA had asked that operators who did not have evidence of recent refresher training register for training by the 1st October 2013. Those that had not registered were asked by FISA to stop working until they could attend a refresher training course. Only a small number of contractors had not met the deadline. Feedback on the FISA courses, which have already taken place, has been positive. There are currently 12 registered FISA instructors which will increase to 15 by January 2014. ML was asked to provide information on the number of courses that have been run to date ML was also asked to take back to the FISA Steering Group AFAG Members concerns about the lack of clarity about the scheme on the FISA web site including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• its application to sites where income from timber sales is small (eg nature reserves on FC land);</li> <li>• what other qualifications other than those provided by FISA will be accepted; and</li> <li>• whether the scheme is applicable to arborists carrying out roadside /emergency clearance on FISA members sites.</li> </ul>	ML

	<p><b>Formal Communications</b></p> <p>4.2 FISA will be formally invited to attend AFAG and AT will write to the new Chief Executive once their appointment has been confirmed. Action will also be taken to fill the current arboricultural industry vacancies.</p> <p>4.3 KL and RB offered to draw up a matrix of existing units</p> <p>4.4 SR confirmed that the Register of Treework Operators (RTWO), which is currently being developed, could also be relevant to FISA if they are interested.</p> <p>4.5 The FISA Steering Group will be asked to include AFAG as an agenda item to enable regular feedback.</p> <p><b>Work Load Allocation between FISA and AFAG</b></p> <p>4.6 Good liaison between AFAG and FISA will be necessary to ensure that work is either not delivered or duplicated. The Arb industry may need to be represented on FISA Working Groups (or vice versa) depending on the emphasis of the issue.</p> <p>4.7 It is important that farmers (both as users of chainsaws themselves and employers of contractors) are not forgotten.</p>	<p><b>AT</b></p> <p><b>KL/RB</b></p> <p><b>ML</b></p>
5	<p><b>Review of AFAG Projects</b></p> <p>5.1 <b>Development of European Chainsaw Certificate</b> – JB &amp; TD gave an update on this. This was being taking forward in Germany by the European Forestry and Environmental Skills Council (EFESC) but funding became an issue and C and G has stepped away from this organisation. Work on the certificate is now being taken forward by ABA International <a href="http://www.aba-skills.com/index.php">http://www.aba-skills.com/index.php</a></p> <p>5.1.1 The ECCs are based on C and G standards. Employers can check their validity via the web site.</p> <p>5.1.2. There is no FISA equivalent to this group and it will remain an AFAG project.</p> <p>5.2 <b>Reduce Accidents involving Chainsaws</b> – FISA also have a group looking at chainsaw accidents and chainsaw accident statistics. This group is currently not particularly active, apart from the issue of refresher training.</p> <p>5.2.1. AFAG needs to retain this project as FISA will not consider issues related to arboriculture.</p> <p>5.2.2 The group needs to concentrate on issues that are not currently being considered by FISA eg the impact on health and safety of the way in which the timber is purchased. It was suggested that this could form the basis of a research project.</p> <p>5.2.3 There is still a need to develop a bench mark so that improvements can monitored. However, the problems in obtaining the information, on statistics, on accidents with chainsaws still remain.</p> <p>5.2.4 Evidence of poor practice is needed to influence clients to take on competent contractors</p> <p>5.2.2. The WG Group of ER, NM, HF, KL and RH will take this forward.</p> <p>5.3 <b>Improving Management of Work at Height</b> – The AA now has funding to progress the development of an Industry Code of Practice and associated Technical Guides.</p> <p>5.4 <b>Machine Assisted Takedown of Trees</b> – IS is to circulate an update on this project by email.</p>	<p><b>AT</b></p> <p><b>ER/NM/KL/RH</b></p> <p><b>IS</b></p>

	<p>City &amp; Guilds are looking at building a qualification around this issue and TD asked for any feedback to be forwarded to him.</p> <p><b>5.5 Market Surveillance</b></p> <p>5.5.1 – The HSE Safety Alert on flail-type attachments for brush cutters has been reissued to take into account the European Commission’s decision to prohibit their sale  <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/brush-cutters.htm">http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/brush-cutters.htm</a></p> <p>5.5.2 The AEA has reissued the advice to its Members concerning the supply of top handled chainsaws (THCS) to professional users only. Similar advice will now be provided by other European member states to their suppliers.</p> <p><b>5.6 Safe Treework near overhead power lines</b> – HSE is to seek permission to update the information on the treework website to include more advice for amenity arboriculture.</p> <p><b>5.7 Small scale self-propelled machinery in forestry</b> – The work of this group is to remain an AFAG project, as it has not being raised as an issue with FISA. IS will chair this group, which will include DM and Gordon Adam. IS will contact WG members and move the project forward.</p> <p><b>5.8 Felling of Large Trees</b> – IS is to circulate an update on this project by email.</p> <p><b>5.9 Promotion of Occupational Health Services</b> – IS is to circulate an update on this project by email.</p> <p><b>5.10 Hand Arm Vibration</b> – HSE guidance on this is being rewritten and FH will forward to all by email as soon as it is available.</p> <p><b>5.11 Noise</b> – HSE guidance on this is being rewritten and FH will forward to all by email as soon as it is available.</p> <p><b>5.12 Managing Health &amp; Safety on Sites</b> – INDG 294 is currently being revised but this will be a FISA publication.</p> <p><b>5.13 Lone Working</b> –. IS is to circulate an update on this project by email</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>FH</b></p> <p><b>IS</b></p> <p><b>IS</b></p> <p><b>IS</b></p> <p><b>FH</b></p> <p><b>FH</b></p> <p><b>IS</b></p>
7	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p><b>7.1 FISA/AFAG/AA leaflets update</b> – SR reported that the AA and FISA had met to discuss the allocation and updating of the leaflets. It had been agreed that, as there was considerable overlap of interest in the 300 series of leaflets on chainsaws, it was not necessary for the arb industry to produce its own suite of leaflets. However they would be involved in the revision of the existing leaflets when this occurs. Some of the other leaflets eg those on firewood processors and wood chippers were also relevant to both industries. Joint badging would be used where appropriate.</p> <p>For emergency planning, training and certification and work near overhead power lines separate industry leaflets would be produced.</p> <p>The leaflets on aerial treework (including top handled chainsaws) and stump grinders would be the responsibility of the AA.</p> <p>A decision now needs to be made on which leaflets will be revised first.</p> <p>A copy of ER/SR’s agreement on the allocation leaflets will be circulated to members</p>	<p><b>ER/SR</b></p>

	<p>7.1.2 SR reported that funding for the Treework at height ICOP has been provided by City &amp; Guilds NPTC and Stihl.</p> <p>7.2 <b>APF2014</b> - HSE plan to run a safety village again as they did at APF 2012 and are awaiting approval for funding to attend, from DWP.</p> <p>7.3 <b>Arb/Forestry SHADS</b> - There will be 2 forestry SHADs this work year, one in Fort William and one in Cannock. The Arboriculture SHAD held in October attracted lower numbers than normal but was very well received and there will be another one in March, possibly in Scotland. HSE is not sure whether these events will go ahead next year, as funding has not yet been approved.</p> <p>7.4 <b>LOLER/PUWER/ACOPs</b> - These are currently being revised and AT will circulate then for comment as soon as they become available. See Min 3.1</p> <p>7.5 <b>Agriculture Information Sheets</b> – AIS 30 LOLER – How the Regulations apply to arboriculture has been converted to a web page <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/treework/safety-topics/arboriculture.htm">http://www.hse.gov.uk/treework/safety-topics/arboriculture.htm</a> . Permission is being sought also to convert AIS 27PUWER 98 – How the regulations apply to agriculture and forestry and AIS 29 LOLER - How the regulations apply to forestry to web pages.</p>	<p><b>AT</b></p> <p><b>FH</b></p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Standards Work</b></p> <p>8.1 The revised BS EN 609-1 - Wedge splitters is now in its sixth draft. The CEN TC144 WG8 meeting is in Bologna in February 2014. FH will inform Members when the document becomes available for public consultation.</p> <p>8.2 HF informed Members that France has raised a formal objection to BS EN 13525 following an accident where an operator lost an arm. They are concerned that the current design means that it is not possible to operate the stop bar and that the advice in the user's manual to stand at the side of the machine is un-ergonomic.</p> <p>8.3 HF informed Members that a "round robin" test is underway on the kick back test for chainsaws. The laboratories involved are currently producing a variety of results.</p> <p>8.4 HF reported that the chain brake performance test is being improved.</p>	<b>FH</b>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Members Items</b></p> <p>9.1 ML raised the issue that Natural Resources Wales are making it mandatory to use chainsaw gloves for all chainsaw operations. The current AFAG advice that the need to wear gloves is subject to risk assessment was confirmed. AT to pursue with NRW</p> <p>9.2 ML sought the views of members regarding a chainsaw operator using forestry machinery that was a wheelchair user. TD stated that City &amp; Guilds has a document on this subject. AT stated that HSE's view is that this needs to be taken on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<b>AT</b>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>10. SR informed Members that the Arb Show will take place on 6/7<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in Cirencester.</p> <p>10.1 AT informed members that Graeme Walker was due to retire in December and would be being replaced by Rick Brunt. Members asked that Graeme be thanked for his work on behalf of AFAG and for him to be sent their best wishes.</p>	<b>AT</b>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Date &amp; Venue of next meeting</b> Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – City &amp; Guilds NPTC, Stareton, Warwickshire</p>	

