

Open Government Status:

FULLY OPEN

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION
ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP

Draft programme 2005-2008

Issue

1. A three-year programme for the Advisory Group.

Recommendation

2. Members are invited to consider this revision of AFAG/04/08. The revision has been made to incorporate the detailed discussions at the 7th AFAG meeting, held on 10 November 2004.

Background

3. Each Advisory Committee is required to prepare an overarching strategy and plan of work detailing the projects it will carry out. Normally a new work programme is prepared every three years and reviewed annually.

Discussion

4. The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) launched a “Strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain to 2010 and beyond” earlier this year. This recognises the value and importance of partnerships such as those forged through AFAG in improving health and safety. HSC has also identified hazards for particular attention. These are workplace transport, musculoskeletal disorders, falls from height, slips and trips, and stress. The AFAG work plan will need to address these cross sector hazards as well as industry specific problems.

5. The original paper AFAG/04/08 was discussed in detail at the 7th meeting. It was agreed that work items should be assigned priority, either A (high), B (intermediate), or C (low), and grouped under one of four broad headings:

- Examination of underlying and root causes of serious accidents to identify cultural and behavioural implications, and develop strategies for risk reduction.
- Operational best practice – Improving and maintaining standards
- Occupational Health – Improving and developing strategies for risk reduction
- Communication – Promoting best practice and maximising the potential for change.

Action

6. Members are invited to: -

- i. Agree the revised areas of work in Appendix 1 and the broad heading under which they have been placed;
- ii. Consider whether it is appropriate to have a ‘ Communication’ heading. There was general consensus on the first three bullets in paragraph 5 above, but not all members were convinced of the need for a stand alone communication heading.
- ii. Agree the priority assigned to each work item;
- iii. Agree the champions from within the Advisory Group identified for each work item (suggestions for those remaining unassigned will be gratefully received); and,
- iv. Agree that the plan be submitted to the AIAC;

Appendix 1

Examination of underlying and root causes of serious accidents, and develop strategies for risk reduction.

	Champion	Priority
Examination of underlying and root causes of serious accidents over the past 5 years to identify cultural and behavioural implications and strategies for reduction of risk.	Emily Ramsay - FC	A
Training and Certification	Bruce Hatton, Gerald Bonner	B

Operational best practice – Improving and maintaining standards

Identifying and promulgating precautions for steep slope working by forestry machines	Neil McKay	A
Improving management of work at height, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Work at Height Regulations. 	Paul Elcoat – arb’ Forestry Commission- forestry	A
Examination of feasibility of welfare provision on forestry work sites	Unassigned	C
Rigging and dismantling techniques in arb’	Frances Hirst	A
Forces encountered using winches to assist with felling, and development of systems of work	Jim Dewar	A
Chainsaw ppe	Simon Richmond	B
Market surveillance (product design)	Jim Brown	B

Occupational Health – Improving and developing strategies for risk reduction

Promotion of rehabilitation services	Garry Miller	A
Identifying the prevalence and causes of musculoskeletal disorders and develop strategies for risk reduction	Bruce Hatton Paul Elcoat – tree climbing	A

Communication – Promoting best practice and maximising the potential for change.

Promotion of arboricultural best practice amongst key client groups.	Bruce Hatton	A
Guidance production, review and maintenance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afag 401 AFAG 203 Dismantling guide 	Bruce Hatton Simon Richmond Simon Richmond Frances Hirst and Jim Dewar	A A B