



**ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP (AFAG)
NOTES of 30th MEETING**

Date Tuesday 16th May 2017	Location Lantra House, Stoneleigh Park, Coventry, Warks, CV8 2LG	Taken by Andrew Turner
HSE	AFAG MEMBERS	
Rick Brunt (Chair) - RB Andrew Turner (Sec.) - AT	Stuart Phillips, Lantra - SP Simon Bowes (FCA) – SB Claire James (FCE) – CJ Jason Liggins (FCS) – JL Phil Mostyn NRW - PM Robin Jackson NPTC C&G - RJ	Simon Richmond (AA) -SR Martin Lennon (BALI) – ML Steve Dresser (FISA) – SD Hans Fairley (AEA) – HF Sean Duffy (Lantra) – (part meeting)
Item	Key points and actions	Action
1	<p>Welcome/apologies for absence</p> <p>1.1 Rick Brunt, Head of the Agriculture, Waste & Recycling Sector welcomed members to the 30th AFAG meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Apologies were received from Andrew Gardner (UAG), Bruce Hamilton (PCS) Des Campbell (DARDNI), Paolo Bavaresco (ICF), Keith Paterson (FC), David Sulman (UKFPA), Iain Sutherland (HSE), (Donald MacLean (Simon Bowes deputising) and Gillian Clarke (FISA) (Steve Dresser deputising).</p>	
2	<p>Action Notes of 29th Meeting (Nov 2016)</p> <p>Revised minutes were agreed.</p>	
3	<p>Matters arising not discharged or an agenda item</p> <p>Action Note 9 SW reported that guidance for contactors was being drafted in conjunction with Barony College. This will be circulated to members in due course and an update provided at the next meeting. If appropriate this may become a FISA safety guide. Not completed keep action on minutes.</p> <p><i>Retention of risk assessments</i> – There is no statutory requirements to retain operational risk assessments once the activity has been completed without incident.</p> <p><i>Chainsaw trousers in arboriculture.</i> - AFAG considered no need for further guidance at this time.</p>	KP

4	<p>AFAG Plan of Work</p> <p>The work of FISA requires the AFAG work plan to be revisited and renewed.</p> <p><i>European Chainsaw Certificates</i> – work to continue under AFAG umbrella</p> <p><i>Reducing accidents involving chainsaws</i> – work complete and passed to FISA> WG to keep an informal watching brief to see how ideas are taken forward by FISA.</p> <p><i>Small-scale forestry machinery</i> – current guidance reviewed by HSE. Group to continue under AFAG umbrella with new project proposal prepared by HSE.</p> <p><i>Felling large trees</i> – Agreed that FISA is best placed to take this work forward.</p> <p><i>Promotion of occupational health services</i> – to continue under AFAG umbrella</p> <p><i>First aid and emergency arrangements (proposed)</i> – HSE to prepare proposal for AFAG group to include aerial rescue as a subset of the work.</p> <p><i>Improving supervision in tree work (proposed)</i> – HSE to draft a project proposal reflecting the forestry chainsaw paper as it would be interpreted for arboriculture. Targeted at gaps between training and good practice and how this can be dealt with.</p> <p><i>Technical guides (proposed)</i> – Arboricultural Association work programme for its technical guides is an industry project, not an Arboriculture Association project.</p>	<p>AT & RJ</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>GC</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p>
5	<p>Future role of AFAG</p> <p>AFAG members acknowledged that FISA now leads on many forestry matters that AFAG used to lead and that working groups are resource intensive. Although the work of FISA created the opportunity for an arboriculture only group to be created, leaving FISA to deal with forestry issues, AFAG members determined that, providing steps were taken to ensure that FISA and AFAG were not working on the same subjects, there was a preference for AFAG to continue in its current format, although efforts needed to be made to ensure that arboriculture was adequately represented. RB to advise AIAC of preference and to contact non-attending members.</p>	<p>RB</p>
6	<p>Accident to Alexander Kirkley</p> <p>In February 2016 Alexander Kirkley (an arborist) died when he came into contact with a moving chainsaw blade while he was in a tree). Following the inquest HM Coroner wrote to RB as AFAG Chair (and also other AFAG members) raising a number of issues. RB replied (response previously circulated). The father of the deceased (Paul Kirkley) has also written to RB, SR and HF raising concerns and identifying potential solutions. Issues raised included: use of tip guards; engineering controls</p>	

	<p>on chainsaws, PPE and first aid provision. Work is underway to address the matters raised by both HM Coroner and Paul Kirkley. AT to circulate HM Coroner’s report and accompanying information.</p> <p>SR reported back on a survey conducted among arborists. Kickback was not commonly reported and many thought a tip guard would make certain types of compound cuts difficult. Poor work positioning was described as the main contributory factor in accidents, with the use of top handled chainsaws being the second. Other contributory factors included time pressure, fatigue, inexperience, lack of training and a machismo culture. Results have been reported back to Paul Kirkley.</p> <p>HF reported that Stihl have replied to HM Coroner and advised on chainsaw standards and how kickback is calculated. Stihl have also offered to undertake further work regarding tip guards and PPE providing protection for the neck.</p> <p>AFAG members reported that experience of tip guards was that they create as many problems as they solve. In parts of the world where their use is more common, members felt that if they were a solution, it would have been more widely reported. Carving bars are becoming more common, with a reduced risk of kickback, and it might be worth surveying user experience. Modern chainsaws operate on a kickback angle of 25°. It is currently impractical to get below this without affecting usability of the saw.</p> <p>RB to respond to Paul Kirkley regarding the use of tip guards and first aid provision.</p> <p>SR raised the issue of PPE and whether practical. HF suggested Stihl would be willing to look at performance and design parameters for neck protection to see if such protection was practical although SR raised concerns as to whether such PPE was proportionate, given the survey results. HF to look at performance and design parameters for PPE.</p> <p>AFAG members felt that training provision was adequate, although lack of consolidation and supervision were likely to be factors in accidents. SR felt that one handed use of top-handled chainsaws was also relevant and it was likely to be more common that they wording of AFAG guides suggest. The wording is 20 years old and may need revising. Compliance with the guidance and supervision are critical and the gap between current practice and good practice needs to be reduced. RB asked if this could be a future project for AFAG.</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>RB</p> <p>HF</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>FISA update (including Working Groups)</p> <p>SD – FISA held its AGM on 6th May and the Articles and Rules were adopted. Priorities for FISA included: improved communications with members; updating the safety guides; reducing numbers of chainsaw accidents and reviewing training.</p> <p><i>Safety documents WG</i> – draft documents will be circulated to AFG members when available.</p> <p><i>Learning and behaviour change (including Communications) WG</i> – A PR</p>	<p>GC</p>

	<p>company had been engaged to enable FISA to understand how it is perceived by members. Feedback was generally critical with FISA being seen as trying to do too much resulting in slow progress. The SG should be smaller with fewer WG's. More work should be delivered by time bound task and finish groups. Slow progress is being made on collating and understanding accidents statistics available from FISA members. Production of safety alerts is falling and discussions have been held with HSE regarding some of the challenges of statistics and safety alerts. JL asked for input from HSE's statisticians. AT to explore.</p> <p><i>Skills and competence WG</i> – Now chaired by Simon Wallis. Work is continuing with refreshers, supervisors and FWM training. Lantra refreshers now available. Working with Lantra as to how best capture competence. Skyline working has lost momentum.</p> <p><i>Haulage WG</i> – an OHPL warning system is being trialled as are methods of getting safety information to drivers electronically. A culture change is required in the industry if a step change in incident reduction is to be achieved.</p> <p><i>Electricity WG</i> – There are still problems with contact with OHPL. The group are exploring options for detection and warning devices.</p> <p><i>Worksite management WG</i> – Group very active. New guidance on stack heights agreed and being drafted. Emergency planning guidance has been revised but not yet published. An example risk assessment is on the FISA website. Working on a risk assessment for managing public access to worksite. Also working in guidance for minimum standards of site welfare.</p> <p><i>Plant and equipment WG</i> – T Winch guidance has been produced. A machinery checklist is on the website and John Deere has published it as a guide.</p> <p>SD reported that with the articles and rules adopted, FISA now needs to demonstrate that it is capable of improving health and safety on the forest floor. FISA messages are not currently reaching contractors or managers and this is not helped by HSE not inspecting forestry. RB felt it was a problem of people not taking ideas into the forest. ML asked for FISA to reconsider rejection of the IOSH managing safety Course as an alternative to the one day FWM course. SD did not agree and felt the IOSH course was in need of improvement.</p>	<p>AT</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>European Chainsaw Certificates</p> <p>AT/RJ reported that legal proceedings had been instigated by an ABA International Ltd member alleging theft of intellectual property rights relating to the original Leonardo project. Therefore the matter could not be progressed at the meeting.</p> <p>SR reported that the Arboriculture Association is now working with the International Society of Arborists to promote certified arborist qualifications and map these across to UK qualifications.</p>	<p>AT/RJ</p>

	on the circulation list.	SR
14	<p>Standards Work</p> <p><i>Verbal Update on Current work.</i> Wood Chipper standard. Next WG meeting on 3 – 5 July. Reminder that former standard BS EN 13525 has been withdrawn and can no longer be used to confer conformity with Machinery Directive.</p> <p><i>Vertical log-splitter</i> Standard was published in April 2017. Addresses UK concerns within the limitation provided by two-hand control.</p>	
15	<p>Members Items</p> <p><i>Safe working load references ML</i> –The one person SWL is believed to refer to a 100kg load. Examiners may be able to confirm. HSE to determine origin of the one person load.</p> <p><i>G55/3 ML</i> - ENA recommendations for tree work next to OHPL. This is likely to be revised and will refer to the ENA guidance on red zone working.</p> <p>ML – NHSS18 is currently considering work around the high speed road network and competence. Looking to map upskilling qualifications and refreshers.</p>	IS
15	<p>AOB</p> <p>SP – The SQA chainsaw qualifications are about to be published.</p>	
16	<p>Date & Venue of next meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 9th November 2017 11:00 – 16:00 (Coffee from 10:30) Forestry Commission Scotland, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT</p>	