

**ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP (AFAG)
NOTES of 28th MEETING**

Date	Tuesday 17th May 2016	Location	HSE, Kingsley Dunham Centre, Nicker Hill, Nottingham	Taken by	Alison Fry	Action	
	HSE		AFAG MEMBERS				
	Rick Brunt (Chair) - RB Andrew Turner (Secretary) - AT Iain Sutherland - IS Alison Fry - AF	Stuart Phillips, Lantra - SP Donald MacLean (FCA) – DM Emily Ramsay (FC) – ER Phil Mostyn (NRW) - PM Robin Jackson (NPTC C&G) - RJ Paul Smith (Arb Assoc) – PS	Nicky Jackson (Lantra) – NJ Keith Paterson (FC) - KP				
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 27th AFAG meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Apologies were received from Des Campbell (DARDNI), Martin Lennon (BALI), Gillian Clarke (FISA), Steve Dresser (FISA), John Price (NATO), Rob Shaw (ICF), Bruce Hamilton (PCS), David Sulman (UKFPA), James Brown (CONFOR) and Simon Richmond (AA)</p>						
2	Action Notes of 27th Meeting (November 2015)					AT	
	<p>Minor amendments were suggested by Simon Richmond and Stuart Philips to sections 5.3, 6.1, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.9. Amendments to be made before posting on the website</p>						
3	Matters Arising						
	<p>Action Note 3 complete.</p> <p>Action Note 4.3 will be done.</p> <p>Action Note 4.4 will be included in item 8 today.</p> <p>Action Note 6.1 & 6.2 Agenda item 5 today.</p> <p>Action Note 6.5 Agenda item 7.</p>						

	<p>Action Note 6.6 Gillian circulated by email, now completed.</p> <p>Action Note 6.11 this was circulated, now completed.</p> <p>Action Note 6.12 Draft to be circulated in due course – carry forward by KP.</p> <p>Action Note 6.13 IS completed – raised with Healthy Working Lives.</p> <p>Action Note 6.17 Agenda item 8.</p> <p>Action Note 8.3 Agenda item 8.</p> <p>Action Note 9.3 not completed, to keep as an action on minutes.</p> <p>Action Note 9.4 not completed, to keep as an action on minutes.</p> <p>Action Note 10.2 to report back.</p> <p>Action Note 10.3 – no update from Hans – carry forward.</p> <p>Action Note 11.1 not yet done carry forward chase Martin.</p> <p>Action Note 11.2 on going, discharge from agenda.</p> <p>Action Note 11.3 – discussion around COSHH training for planters applying pesticides.</p> <p>Action - SP will look at Lantra training on planting forest trees and talk to ER; DM; Steve Dresser - FISA to devise practical training content.</p>	<p>KP</p> <p>GC</p> <p>ML</p> <p>IS</p> <p>HF</p> <p>ML</p> <p>SP/ER/DM</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>FISA Update</p> <p>Attached summary provided by GC. Note FWM – Forestry Worker Managers Course.</p> <p>Action – AT to thank GC and circulate note with minutes.</p>	<p>RB/ AT</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>European Chainsaw Certificates</p> <p>5.1 Discussion around the paper AFAG2801 “European Chainsaw Certification – position paper.”</p> <p>Further to the previous minutes at 6.1 TD was to look at EFESC & ABA training Quality Control standards and maintenance of the training over time and provide details although he did not attend today.</p> <p>It was agreed that it is likely that:</p> <p>a) AFAG recognises the equivalence between UK and European systems subject to commencement clarifying dates.</p> <p>b) Employers continue to need reminding that certification is the starting point and should check competence of chainsaw operators.</p> <p>A query was raised about requirement for refresher training – the same standards to be applied as to certificates issued by existing UK awarding bodies.</p> <p>Action: To confirm outcomes and relevant certification dates with NPTC/City & Guilds prior to concluding paper..</p>	<p>AT</p>

6	<p>Application of LOLER & PUWER To Winching Operations</p> <p>6.1 IS outlined there has been some misunderstanding about LOLER & PUWER requirements for winches. The LOLER ACOP L113 sets out that equipment and operations not covered by LOLER include winching a load where the load does not leave the ground. HSE differentiates pulling a load on near horizontal compared to a steeper slope where LOLER may apply. Industry guidance follows this. FC guidance outlines that LOLER will not apply to winching and debagging. Further work will be undertaken to decide how to get the message across.</p> <p>Action - IS to circulate Draft Paper to AFAG for comment to discuss at next meeting</p>	IS
7	<p>Reducing Accidents involving chainsaws</p> <p>ER explained that the Working Group has considered incidents involving chainsaws and the hierarchy of control measures in place. The Group considers that key factors should involve the hierarchy of control measures to think about elimination first and planning the job, including considering whether a chainsaw is necessary.</p> <p>RB observed that industry guidance is available and the WG should consider who the audience is and make a proposal with a compelling argument. RB suggested developing some case studies including the hierarchy of control measure and costs, linked to the System Strategy Helping GB Work Well. RB thanked ER for her work.</p> <p>Action - Emily to complete work on roles & responsibilities regarding chainsaws in advance of Nov meeting.</p>	ER
8	<p>AFAG Projects</p> <p>8.1 <i>Safe tree work near overhead power lines</i> – update expected at the next meeting.</p> <p>8.2 <i>Small scale self-propelled machinery</i> – Action ER to confirm FC guide was circulated. SP mentioned equipment is available which can hold tree trunk whilst being cut which changes the centre of gravity. Concern was expressed that this could amount to misuse.</p> <p>8.3 <i>Felling large trees</i> – IS suggested this is part of FISA work looking at large difficult trees and includes the issue of double manning and FC position on double manning. Action – handover to FISA.</p> <p>8.4 <i>Promotion of Occupational Health Services</i> – IS has looked at this, including opportunities to link with Scottish Government priorities. IS has spoken to HSL to devise a questionnaire asking provision of occupational health services in forestry. IS will collect information first and may need some assistance from AFAG members. Scale of project to be kept manageable to maintain momentum. Action: IS will take this forwards to collect information.</p> <p>8.5 <i>AFAG Workplan</i> The Chair was reassured that progress has been made with some projects by working groups. RB summarised that the “Be Part of the Solution” themes of leadership worker involvement and competence</p>	<p>KL/ML</p> <p>ER</p> <p>IS</p> <p>IS</p>

	<p>are still current which has been added to by the new System Strategy Helping GB Work Well (the “System Strategy”). This includes 6 additional key themes:</p> <p>Acting together: Promoting broader ownership of health and safety in Great Britain. Tackling ill health: Highlighting and tackling the costs of work-related ill health. Managing risk well: Simplifying risk management and helping business to grow. Supporting small employers: Giving SMEs simple advice so they know what they have to do. Keeping pace with change: Anticipating and tackling new health and safety challenges. Sharing our success: Promoting the benefits of Great Britain’s world-class health and safety system</p> <p>http://www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/strategy-document.htm</p> <p>The group was asked to review the previous draft “AFAG Workplan for 2013 and Beyond – Discussion Paper” and provide comments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include the work currently being done • revise the plan in line with the “System Strategy” • further suggestions to add to the plan <p>AT outlined that HSE will revise the HSE Agriculture Sector Strategy. He suggested that one area could be looking at new technology developments</p> <p>Action – continuation of the action from previous meeting to think about the Draft Workplan and the new “System Strategy” and provide comments and suggestions</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Communications</p> <p>a) Updates are being considered jointly between Arboriculture Association & FISA</p> <p>b) Arboriculture & Forestry SHAD –</p> <p>Forestry - IS said since the last meeting 2 Forestry SHAD’s have taken place – Battleby & Kielder. The SHAD’s were part industry funded. Industry funding will be necessary for future SHAD’s. RB stated that a benefit of industry funded is a greater opportunity to have an input to the content.</p> <p>Arboriculture – part funded by HSE & Arboriculture Association – well attended. The bulk of the audience were contractors who were not members of the Arboriculture Association in an effort to make contact with hard to reach contractors.</p> <p>RB suggested that targeting these events could become an AFAG piece of work e.g. to target landowners or forest managers as a different way of influencing. If other commercial parties are involved there is scope for advertising. HSE are looking at the evidence base of what we need to tackle.</p> <p>IS is organising the APF event 15th -17th September with a focus on Occupational Health issues.</p>	<p>AF/AT/RB</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Standards Work</p> <p>IS summarised that BSEN 13525 -2005 – wood chippers is no longer current Changes have been made regarding the dimensions of the</p>	

	<p>chute and height off the ground. Work is on-going to finalise the new standard.</p> <p>BS EN 609-1 Wedge type log splitters –work on the standard is completed which is now available for public consultation on BSI website. It will be published during 2016</p>	
11	<p>Members items</p> <p>None</p>	
12	<p>AOB</p> <p>HSE – Institute of Powered Access federation – IPAF published guidance using MEWP to cut trees is now available.</p> <p>Action – circulate the internet link</p> <p>Arboriculture industry representatives – AT raised an item that we are struggling to get representatives. We would ideally like someone who has a “constituency” and is not an individual. We could invite the local LA representative (e.g. Tree Officer) to the meeting which then provides an issue about continuity at future meetings.</p> <p>Action – the group to consider suggestions</p>	<p>AT</p> <p>All</p>
13	<p>Date & Venue of next meeting</p> <p>14th Nov 2016 11:00 – 16:00 (Coffee from 10:30) Forestry Commission, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT</p>	