



**ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP (AFAG)  
NOTES of 20<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

Date	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	Location	Tribunals Service, Hagley Rd, Birmingham	Taken by		Action	
	<b>HSE</b>		<b>AFAG MEMBERS</b>				
	Graeme Walker (Chair) – GW Andrew Turner - AT Frances Hirst - FH Iain Sutherland - IS Anna Fenton	James Brown (CONFOR) - JB Reg Harris (Arb Assoc) -RH Donald Maclean (FPA) - DM Hans Fairley (AEA) -HF Emily Ramsay (FC) - ER Neil McKay (ICF) - NM Stuart Phillips (Lantra Sector Skills) - SP Tony Davies (City & Guilds) - TD Peter Jackson (UAG) - PJ	Andrea Brocklebank (NATO) - AB Martin Lennon (UPM Tillhill) - ML Graham Munford (IOSH) - GM Alex Laver (ISA) - AL Simon Wallis (FC) – SW Michael Smith (Lantra) - MS Jack Ward (City and Guilds) - JW				
Item	Key points and actions						
1	<b>Welcome/apologies for absence</b>						
	1.1 Graeme Walker, Head of HSE's Agriculture & Food Sector welcomed members to the 20 <sup>th</sup> AFAG meeting, in particular Tony Davies who has replaced Steve Hewitt and Andrea Brocklebank who has replaced Imogen Mole						
	1.2 Apologies were received from Bruce Hamiton (IAgrE), Des Campbell (DARDNI) & John Price (LGE).						
2	<b>Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting ( May 2011)</b>						
	2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.						
3	<b>Matters Arising [Not covered in the Action Notes, or elsewhere on agenda.]</b>						
	3.1 Min 3.2 - HSE research Report RR688 - Forestry intervention appraisal and evaluation framework is now available on HSE's web site at <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr688.htm">http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr688.htm</a> . Hard copies of the report have been ordered. As the number of these is limited they will only be sent to AFAG members whose organisations represent forestry.					HSE	
	3.2 Min 3.5 - The working group on Incidence Rates has still to meet. Pete Jackson is to progress this.					PJ	
	3.3 Min 3.6 - The updating of AIS38 will be discussed under agenda item 9.						
	3.4 Min 3.8 - Manual handling has been added to the NOS glossary on Health & Safety to ensure it will be included in the qualification.					HSE	
	3.5 Min 4.1 Members were alerted to the public consultation exercises on the Lofstedt recommendations in respect of Approved Codes of Practice (ACoPs) and exempting the self employed (in low risk activities) from health and safety legislation – see:						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd241.htm">http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd241.htm</a> and</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd242.htm">http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd242.htm</a></li> </ul> <p>3.6 - Min 4.4 email sent re review of AFAG leaflets</p> <p>3.7 - Request for comments on AFAG11/01 sent..</p> <p>3.8 Min 5.3 - A report back on progress with the European Chainsaw Certificate is proposed at the next AFAG meeting.</p> <p>3.9 Min 5.4 - NPTC/C&amp;G to request mapping information from Steve Hewitt.</p> <p>3.10 Min 5.9 - This subject will be covered under Agenda item 9.</p> <p>3.11 Min 5.11 The research into mechanised harvesting in the red zone is currently ongoing. HSE &amp; FC are part of the ENA working group developing the guidance.</p> <p>3.12 Min 5.12 - This issue will be covered under agenda item 6.</p> <p>3.13 Min 5.13 - This action has been discharged.</p> <p>3.14 Min 7.1 - This action will be discussed under agenda item 5.</p> <p>3.15 Min 9.3 - This action will be discussed under agenda item 9.</p> <p>3.16 Min 9.4 - The review of ACOPs provides an opportunity to influence the content of PUWER and LOLER ACOPS. Guidance to be pulled together on the application of LOLER to forestry. ML to liaise with IS &amp; GM .</p> <p>3.17 Min 9.5 - This action has been discharged.</p> <p>3.18 Min 11.1 - ER to act as AFAG coordinator for industry consultations. This action stands.</p> <p>3.19 Min 11.2 - This action will be discussed under agenda item 9.</p>	<p>HSE/City &amp; Guilds</p> <p>City and Guilds</p> <p>HSE/Project Group</p> <p>ML/GM /HSE</p>
4	<p><b>Fee for Intervention</b></p> <p>4.1 - It has been confirmed that the introduction of Fee For Intervention will take effect from 1 October 2012. For further information see <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/fee-for-intervention/index.htm">http://www.hse.gov.uk/fee-for-intervention/index.htm</a></p> <p><b>ACOP Review – Lofstedt</b></p> <p>4.2 - HSE will inform Members of the dates of the consultations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The application of the HSWAct to the self employed; and</li> <li>• The review of ACOPs .</li> </ul>	HSE
5	<p><b>Forestry Summit</b></p> <p>5.1The Forestry Safety Summit took place on 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012. It was agreed that the industry should take collective ownership of and demonstrate leadership in tackling health &amp; safety issues in forestry by signing up to an Industry Safety Accord (ISA), with the aim that the necessary work would be</p>	HSE

	<p>taken forward by an Industry Safety Group (ISG). HSE agreed to convene and chair the first meeting of ISG but it will be for the industry to convene and chair further meeting (subsequently held on 15 June).</p> <p>Membership of the ISG has still to be confirmed but this will be key in ensuring its success.</p> <p>5.2 - A summary of the meeting, a copy of the draft accord and links to the presentations are to be sent to Members.</p> <p>5.3 - The Summit identified the following as potentially being “quick wins” although there may also be other, longer term elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing best practice;</li> <li>• Site welfare;</li> <li>• Improving information exchange on stats;</li> <li>• Managing occupational health;</li> <li>• Haulier safety;</li> <li>• The gap between training and ability to deliver quality work;</li> <li>• Work near OHPLs; and</li> <li>• Edge trees.</li> </ul> <p>5.4 - It is critical that the momentum created by the Summit is not lost.</p>	HSE
6	<p><b>Review of AFAG projects</b></p> <p>6.1 <b>1 European chainsaw certificate</b> – work ongoing – update at next meeting.</p> <p>6.2 <b>2 Reduce accidents involving chainsaws</b> – WG comprising ER, NM and PJ to meet. PJ to draft accident report template. Work of this group will inform ISG.</p> <p>6.3 <b>3 Improving management of work at height</b> - the Arb Assoc revision of the Guide to Good Climbing Practice requires more work than first thought. A structure and budget have been mapped out but funds are needed to progress the work. This may be available from Europe</p> <p>6.3.1 The aim is to provide an industry code of practice with technical guides that will also cover rigging and use of cranes in arboriculture. It was therefore decide to include the separate projects on rigging and cranes in this one.</p> <p>6.3.2 AL to liaise with the Arb Assoc on progress and report back at next meeting</p> <p>6.4 <b>Rigging &amp; dismantling techniques in arboriculture</b> - this project has been amalgamated with project 3.</p> <p>6.5 <b>4. Machine assisted take down of trees</b> - IS to look at this research project and to come to the next meeting with ideas on how to take it forward.</p> <p>6.6 <b>5. Market Surveillance.</b> IS to check position with regard to 360-degree excavators (used on steep ground in forestry for harvesting, etc) – New ROPS standard proposed by ISO lower than UK standard and inadequate for UK operations.</p> <p>6.7 <b>6. Safe Tree work near overhead power lines</b> – ENA project at first draft stage. Conclusions will need to tie in with the guidance in AFAG 804. Although someone working inside a machine is safer than someone using a chainsaw the electrical issues still have to managed and the first principle should be that work be carried out with the line de-energised.</p> <p>6.7.1 There is increasing pressure on amenity arborists to work with lines live. There is minimal specific</p>	<p>City and Guilds</p> <p>PJ</p> <p>AL</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p>

	<p>guidance for this group. Better use needs to be made of GS6. HSE to confirm position with the revision of GS6 and to ensure there is a link to the revised document on the treework web site.</p> <p>6.7.2 HSE to cover the of work near OHPLs at Engaging Arboricultural Contractors SHADs</p> <p>6.8 <b>7. Small scale self-propelled machinery in forestry</b> - SW to ask Duncan Ireland if he has the resources to progress the work..</p> <p>6.9 <b>8. Felling of large trees</b> – there are 2 issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training following loss of large tree unit; and</li> <li>• The use of 2 people at the base of a tree during the felling operation. DM to redraft paper to clarify what is deemed to be exceptional circumstances. HSE will the circulate to Members for comment .</li> </ul> <p>6.10 <b>9. Promotion of occupational health services.</b> IS to check current position.</p> <p>6.11 <b>Whole body vibration</b> - FH to check status and close this project if there are no outstanding issues.</p> <p>6.12 <b>10. Hand Arm vibration</b> - FC to find out the issues surrounding the FC funding research on trigger times &amp; producing good practice guidance and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>6.13 <b>11. Noise</b> - FH to follow up on HSE's 'Buy Quiet' initiative and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>6.14 <b>12. Managing health and safety on sites (INDG 294)</b> – work on this currently suspended. If HSE is to retain ownership and to continue publication it will require fundamental revision if it is to meet the principles underpinning HSE's current review of guidance.</p> <p>6.15 <b>13. Lone Working</b> – IS to find out where Jason Liggins got to on this project and consult if ready.</p>	<p>HSE</p> <p>FC</p> <p>DM/HSE</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>FC</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>HSE</p>
8	<p><b>Development of Chainsaw Qualification (AFAG 12/02)</b></p> <p>8.1 A paper was delivered by Lantra on the development of the chainsaw qualification. Discussion centred around</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the issue of independent assessment and how it was defined; and</li> <li>• which activities were deemed to be high risk and would require independent assessment.</li> </ul> <p>GW asked for Lantra to revisit the paper and include a definition of independent assessment and a list of high risk activities.</p>	<p>Lantra</p>
9	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p><b>AFAG Leaflets</b></p> <p>9.1 HSE has been undertaking a guidance review. Obsolete material will be deleted and what remains will cover the legal minimum, good <b>not</b> best practice.</p> <p>9.2 AFAG leaflets are being grouped together to remove duplication. However many of the existing recommendations may be seen as going beyond the legal minimum and may have to be removed.</p> <p>N.B. There is scope for the industry to take on ownership and responsibility for publication of the documents in their current format. One possibility is the Forestry Industry Safety Group. However, this would not include the arb specific related guidance. PJ asked whether the Arb Assoc would reconsider</p>	<p>PJ</p>

	<p>doing this.</p> <p><b>APF</b></p> <p>9.3 HSE has booked a 40m x 40m plot. There will be marquee and space for outside "demos". FH asked Members for ideas/help in making the stand as interesting as possible. UAG offered to put up an electric line and run a safety competition. UPM suggested that C&amp;G could ask its verifiers to do demonstrations. The AA will ask their members if there is anything they can do. ISA could provide vertical trees on wheels. Members were asked to liaise with FH.</p> <p><b>Arb/Forestry SHADS</b></p> <p>9.4 Approval has been gained for HSE to run 4 Forestry SHADs and 2 Engaging Arboricultural Contractors SHADs in 2012/13.</p> <p><b>FOD Training Programme</b></p> <p>9.5 More courses for HSE inspectors shall be running this work year. FC has said that HSE inspectors are welcome to attend FC courses. These courses are published on the FC website.</p> <p>9.6 The HSE Treework website has been updated to include all the latest stats on accidents and fatalities.</p>	Members
10	<p><b>Standards Work</b></p> <p>10.1 HF reported that no standards have recently been revised .</p> <p>10.2 Europe is currently doing work on "kick back" measurement.</p>	
11	<p><b>Members Items</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications</b></p> <p>11.1 PJ informed Members that the Utility Arboriculture Units have been updated to provide a professional qualification based on the NOS. The UAG are currently looking for an Awarding Body to deliver the qualification. The qualification includes CPD and provides progression from entry level to a diploma for managers.</p> <p><b>Machinery</b></p> <p>11.2 HF informed members that concerns have been expressed by the Outdoor Power Equipment Association on the safety of chainsaws being imported from China, without appropriate CE marking. These machines have defective front hand guard and unsatisfactory exhaust emissions.</p> <p><b>National Tree Safety Group</b></p> <p>11.3 The National Tree Safety Group has published its guidance. FH will circulate the link to members.</p>	HSE
12	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>12.1 None recorded</p>	
13	<p><b>Date &amp; Venue of next meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 venue TBC.</p>	