

Open Government Status:

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**HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION  
ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP**

**Review of Standards Committees**

**Information Paper for AFAG Meeting: 19 April 2007**

**ISSUES**

1. This paper is provided to:
  - i. Inform Members of the status of current standards work;
  - ii. Highlight new developments and issues relating to the Sector's standards work, and
  - iii. Inform Members of possible future developments in relation to the standards applied to forestry/arb work machinery

**BACKGROUND**

2. HSE, FC and other organisations associated with AFAG and the tree work sector have a long history of providing input into British Standards on Machinery and PPE, and in representing the UK on European and International Standards Committees. In many cases, for example the provision of operator protection on hand-fed mobile woodchippers, the UK has been at the forefront of developing new standards to address serious risks identified through accident data. This particular standard and others have been led by HSE Sector staff and research carried out by HSE, FC and other organisation has also been invaluable in the development and review of new and existing standards.

3. Standards work is considered a vital instrument in preventing accidents and ill health, by ensuring that equipment used in the UK is designed and engineered to be as safe as is reasonably practicable. Eliminating risks through engineering means provides substantial benefits to the purchasers and operators of work machinery. Furthermore, the production of relevant and reproducible test methods ensures a relative level of safety across the range of manufacturers who supply forestry and arboricultural machinery – from within UK and abroad.

4. AFAG has also recognised the importance of ensuring manufacturers provide the necessary information to allow purchasers to select lower risk equipment and to use manufacturers' data to inform risk assessments and devise adequate management controls.

5. AFAG has previously expressed concern that HSE might withdraw further from standards work and consider it essential that HSE continues to take an active role in both British and International Standards meetings, as this is considered vital to ensure balance and to help maintain and develop sensible standards, particularly in this industry where many machines are manufactured and imported from other countries, increasingly from the Far East.

6. The support of FC and the personal contribution of Jim Dewar over many years, representing UK on all of the relevant international committees, is also recognised world-wide. Due to a change in role within FC, Jim has recently had to stand down from this area of work, and has been replaced by Colin Saunders. However, this activity by Government Departments and Agencies is not funded by DTI and it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain financially. A business case has to be submitted for HSE attendance at any overseas meeting.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. AFAG Members are invited to:

- i. Note the current UK representation on BS, CEN and ISO Standards Committees relevant to the UK forest and arb industries, as detailed in Appendix I;
- ii. Comment on the current representation and to identify any gaps where representation from the forest/arboriculture industries or HSE/other Government Departments should be considered;
- iii. Comment on current or future developments and issues relating to standards work detailed in Appendix II, and
- iv. Comment on the value and impact of Standards work in ensuring that risks associated with work equipment are minimised at the design/engineering stage and in the provision of Health and Safety information relating to the use of such equipment.

**STANDARDS COMMITTEES RELEVANT TO AFAG AND SAFETY  
WITHIN THE FOREST AND ARBORICULTURE INDUSTRIES (Update 4/07)**

ITEM AND COMMITTEE INFORMATION	BSI	EUROPEAN	INTERNATIONAL
<b>Forestry Handtools</b> - UK input to National, European and International standardisation work and European technical committees related to the terminology, test procedures and safety of manually portable forestry machinery (such as chainsaws, clearing saws pole pruners)	AGE 29 Hans Fairley (AEA - Chair) Jason Liggins/ Alan Plom (HSE) Colin Saunders(FC)	Jason Liggins Colin Saunders	TC 23/SC 17/ Jason Liggins Colin Saunders
<b>Forest Machinery</b> – As above and related International technical committees, including: ISO/TC 23/SC 15 (Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry - Machinery for forestry); CEN/TC 144/WG 4 (Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry - Portable machines and pedestrian controlled machines); CEN/TC 144/WG 6 (Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry - Manually portable forestry machinery); CEN/TC 144/WG 8 (Tractors and machinery for agriculture and forestry – )	AGE 29 Hans Fairley (AEA - Chair) Jason Liggins/ Alan Plom Colin Saunders	Colin Saunders Jason Liggins	TC 23/SC 15 Jason Liggins Colin Saunders

**CURRENT AND FUTURE STANDARDS ISSUES (Update 4/07)**

**APPENDIX II - AFAG 0705**

<b>ISSUES AND COMMITTEE INFORMATION</b>	<b>BSI</b>	<b>EUROPEAN</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>
<p><b><u>Excavators - Roll over Protection</u></b>                      Working group set up between construction and forestry industry reps to determine the ROPS standards applicable to forestry and construction machinery based on 360° rotating platform excavators. Proposals put forward in relation to forthcoming ISO standard on ROPs for Hex Excavators to harmonise standards across the range of industries using these machines - including forestry. HSE specialists currently reviewing proposals. Voting by end of May 2007.</p>	N/A	N/A	TC 23/SC 15/WG 2 Jason Liggins Colin Saunders /Jim Dewar
<p><b><u>Forestry Machinery – Wood chippers</u></b>                      New work proposal for development of new part to BS EN 13525 to cover operator protection on crane or grab-fed chippers.</p>	Jason Liggins Colin Saunders Hans Fairley		
<p><b><u>Chainsaw PPE</u></b> - Safety aspects covering protective clothing. Specifically for forestry, gloves, jackets, trousers and boots.</p>	GME6 Jim Brown	Jim Brown	
<p><b><u>Noise</u></b> - relevant to wood chippers, chainsaws etc.                      SC17 Round robin tests in relation to noise and vibration exposure of a variety of forestry and arb machinery to examine consistency across test houses/manufacturers and to facilitate the development of ‘state of the art’ test procedures. Future meeting of WG2 (Noise) and WG3 (Vibration) planned for 18 June 2007. Funding application in progress.</p>	Jim Dewar Jason Liggins Colin Saunders	N/A	TC 23/SC 17WG 2 Jason Liggins Colin Saunders
<p><b><u>Vibration</u></b> - Technical committee ISO TC 23 SC17 - see comments above on noise</p>	N/A	N/A	TC 23/SC 17WG 3 Jason Liggins Colin Saunders

<p><b><u>Vibration</u></b> - Technical committee GME/21/6 - Human exposure to mechanical vibration and shock.</p>	<p>GME/21/6 Paul Brereton (HSE) Chris Nelson (HSE) Jim Dewar (FC) Hans Fairley (AEA/Stihl)</p>	<p>Paul Brereton (HSE)</p>	<p>Paul Brereton (HSE)</p>
<p><b><u>Knapsack Sprayers</u></b> The AGE 15 committee is responsible for all matters relating to National Standardisation of all equipment for crop protection, and equipment for application of liquid fertilisers. This working group (WG5) deals with safety and ergonomics of knapsack sprayers.</p>	<p>AGE/15 WG 5 Bill Jones (TDB) Bernardine Cooney (HSE)</p>		