

AFAG PAPER 09/02 (rev1) – Updated at 16th meeting 21 May 2009
PROGRESS REPORT ON AFAG PROJECTS FOR 2008/09 & BEYOND
[nb Updates from AFAG 08/04 in italics, key new actions in bold]

AFAG Project (+ Leader)	Priority/ Status	Outcomes/Deliverables	Risks to delivery	Comments	Proposed Action
A. EXAMINATION OF THE UNDERLYING AND ROOT CAUSES OF SERIOUS ACCIDENTS AND DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR RISK REDUCTION					
A1. Examination of the underlying and root causes of serious accidents to identify cultural and behavioural implications and develop strategies for risk reduction (E Ramsay)	A Completed	<p>Research/multi-factor analysis of accident causation in tree work completed. Summary presented to AFAG April 08 (ppt on members website).</p> <p>Research confirmed high risk areas and key influences, endorsing current and future AFAG projects and proposed AFAG/industry guidance.</p> <p>Chainsaw activities highlighted as a key issue for future AFAG work to reduce accidents. Also to produce an 'emergency procedure list' and guidance on lone working (See new Project D3).</p> <p>Information to be used for articles in trade journals, training materials, podcasts, etc.</p> <p>Ten interventions were identified from the industry workshops, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting a six-month forestry chainsaw apprenticeship scheme; • raising the profile of 'Managing Health and Safety in Forestry' HSE document; • communicating accident investigations more widely; • inspection activity; • working with machine manufacturers 	None	<p>Research unable to identify accidents related to inadequate training.</p> <p><i>FC/industry employment stats differ to Bomel's.</i> AFAG requested clarification/ analysis of incidence rates, to identify target groups (eg employed vs self-emp, chainsaw operators, etc).</p> <p>The research also suggested two interventions which could be progressed "immediately", ie promoting a "6-month forestry chainsaw apprenticeship" scheme and communicating info on accident investigations more widely.</p>	<p>Lantra to supply latest stats to determine incident rates. <i>[nb N/A yet]</i></p> <p>Research report to be published on HSE's website following approval by AFAG and HSE/SCC asap. Executive Summary to be made amended and made available separately on HSE's Treework webpage.</p> <p>New Project Gps A3 + D3 to consider the findings and how to take forward highlighted issues, identify key messages, communication approaches + target audiences for future articles, podcasts, etc.</p> <p>Inform trade bodies</p>

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		<p>and dealers towards sponsorship and greater involvement in training;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing an occupational health model for forestry based on work completed in the construction sector. 			<p>and others in the industry <i>of report and latest accidents/stats.</i></p> <p>Proposed ‘Apprenticeship’ to be considered by T&C Gp (A2(a)).</p> <p>Proposal to produce an ‘emergency procedure list’ referred to AFAG Project D3.</p>

<p>A2. Training and Certification:</p> <p>A2(a). Review of Training Schemes and Certificates of Competence (incl Refresher Training & Competence)</p>	A/Green	<p>A review of current systems of training and certification in the tree work sector has been carried out. Procedures / certification systems used in other industries also considered.</p> <p>Proposal for a (voluntary) ‘Register of Tree Work Operators’ (RTwo’) discussed. Lantra’s ‘On-line Competency Framework’ could provide a suitable basis for a database.</p> <p>6 Project Gp meetings held + consultation with industry directly</p>	<p>Compromise not possible because of conflicting requirements eg between sectors of the industry.</p> <p>Relevant organisations cannot support proposed framework.</p> <p>Practical</p>	<p><i>T&C Project group unable to determine one solution (centralised ‘RTwo’ database) because of the wide range of views and opinions held by group members and within industry.</i></p> <p><i>Arb Focus Gp broadly supportive, but further consultation/support needed before this can be progressed. Forestry Focus Group not convened yet and discussions ongoing within Lantra Trees &</i></p>	<p>Members to provide information on cost and benefits of training to business.</p> <p>J Brown engaging with forestry industry in lieu of Focus Gp.</p>
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<p>A3. Reduce accidents involving chain saws <i>(E Ramsay)</i></p>	<p>A – Work to start asap.</p>	<p><i>To identify key issues and implement relevant recommendations from ‘interventions’ proposed by Bomel research (Project A1), including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>training needs (eg promoting a six-month forestry chainsaw apprenticeship scheme);</i> • <i>raising the profile of ‘Managing Health and Safety in Forestry’ (being revised under Project D3);</i> • <i>communicating accident investigations more widely – review/revise ‘Tree Work Accidents’ booklet (HSE INDG278);</i> • <i>inspection activity (a matter for HSE);</i> • <i>working with machine manufacturers and dealers towards sponsorship and greater involvement in training;</i> • <i>produce an ‘emergency procedure list’.</i> 		<p>Project originally proposed under A2, but topic needs immediate effort. Also overlaps with other projects.</p> <p>Project Group to be formed to progress this urgently.</p> <p><i>Discussions held between E Ramsay and HSE re content and recommendations of Bomel report.</i></p> <p><i>Summaries of relevant fatal accidents to be listed on new Treework webpage.</i></p> <p><i>Some work to be progressed through other Groups eg T&C (A2); Guidance on Site Management (D3) and development of new media (D1).</i></p>	<p><i>E Ramsay to convene Project group and confirm draft aims and objectives, project plan and produce communication plan, asap.</i></p> <p><i>Recommendations to be made to AFAG to discuss/agree allocation of work items to relevant Project groups.</i></p>

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B. OPERATIONAL GOOD PRACTICE – IMPROVING AND MAINTAINING STANDARDS					
B1. Steep Ground Working (N McKay)	A Complete	<p>Precautions for machines working on steep slopes identified, guidance produced and promulgated.</p> <p>New AFAG leaflet 705 launched at APF 9/06 and available from HSE Books and on HSE website.</p> <p>Guidance already being incorporated into industry practice and training.</p>		<p>Requests to define role and legal responsibilities of Forestry Works Managers (FWMs) to be incorporated in new project D3 on site management & lone working.</p> <p>Possible new AFAG project needed to review guidance on operation of sky-lines (increasing in use).</p>	<p><i>(See D3: ‘Managing Health and Safety in Forestry’ - Project Leader : S Parry)</i></p> <p>AFAG to advise re need for new ‘Sky-lines’ project. Members invited to join discussion group.</p>
B2. Improving Management of Work at Height (Alex Laver)	A Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEWPs study carried out through AA’s Working Gp – AA guidance published 9/08. • AA Guide to Good Climbing Practice (GGCP) to be revised. • AFAG 401 <i>Tree climbing operations</i> revised, new edition available on HSE website http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/afag401.pdf (awaiting comment from HSE WAH Team. • Articles produced and published in relevant journals, HSE Arb/Tree Work News, etc • NEW WORK ITEM? - Use of cranes – To consider guidance from other countries (eg USA and Germany) 		<p>GGCP to be revised - interim reprint published 6/08 – awaiting revision of NOS and CoC Possible joint work with B4 – Rigging & Dismantling. <i>Articles published, eg in AA Newsletter.</i> AFAG 401 redrafted by external contractor finalised by AFAG Gp. Article in AA</p>	<p>Revised 401 to be publicised, then: Editorial Group for revision of GGCP to be convened by AA. AFAG to advise if further articles needed.</p> <p>AFAG to consider further info needs and research on use of cranes.</p>

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				Newsletter on use of cranes	
B3. Examination of feasibility of welfare provision on forestry work sites. (E Ramsay)	C Green	Proposed to amalgamate this project with project C4: 'Reduce exposure to pesticides' (eg during tree planting).		Initially given low priority but concerns raised re exposure to pesticides (alphacypermetherin) and by GLA's requirements have increased pressure to resolve this and produce guidance.	To compare 'remote' facilities provided by MoD + construction sector & GLA specs.
B4. Rigging and dismantling techniques in arboriculture (F Hirst)	A Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE & FC joint-sponsored research completed – <i>Report published on HSE web site http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr668.htm</i> • New AFAG leaflet and detailed industry (AA) guidance (2010-11). • Proposed dissemination through articles/ industry workshop(s) <i>in 2009/10</i> 	<p>Delay in publication of final report.</p> <p>Lack of funding for workshop(s) would restrict roll-out to industry.</p>	<p>FH to produce Executive Summary, when publication approved by HSE/SCC.</p> <p><i>AFAG/ Project Group met 29.1.09 to consider findings - proposed guidance and strategy for roll-out.</i></p>	HSE to seek funding for articles and demos/workshop(s).
B5. Machine Assisted Takedown of Trees (J Burns)	A Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current practices and guidance reviewed. • Phase I funded by FC, Phase 2 by HSE/FC - completed Q2 08/09. • Research report received and recommendations discussed by Gp 1/10/08. • <i>Gp has met since to review report – Agreed new guidance and summary/publicity articles to be produced.</i> 	<p>If research not funded/completed, would be unable to produce practical guidance.</p> <p>Approval not given to produce</p>	<p>Editorial team formed - includes members of project working group.</p> <p><i>- FC&HSE currently discussing draft research report.</i></p> <p><i>- HSE's Project officer in liaison with</i></p>	<p>Report on research to be placed on HSE web site asap.</p> <p><i>AFAG guides 310 & 603 currently being redrafted and re written to incorporate research findings.</i></p>

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			guidance in suitable format would devalue use and affect take-up by the industry.	<i>author.</i> - Gp's proposal to revise AFAG 310 + 603 agreed - both being redrafted (by JB, SP & ER). - Final draft to be put before working group for approval.	[HSE Business Case needed]
B6. Chainsaw PPE – To improve and promote standards and related issues. (J Brown)	B Ongoing	Ongoing review and resolution of issues arising, eg <i>revision of AFAG 308 Top-handled chainsaws and AFAG 401 re climbers trousers and IND(G)317 Chainsaws at work re gloves.</i> Guidance issued to inspectors. <i>Emerging issue = increasing chain speed exceeding protection / test standards</i>		AFAG 308 and 401 revised re changes in advice on standard/ type of chainsaw trousers for climbers. AFAG 301 revised and reprinted. <i>Recent (critical) article in trade press on current advice given in revised Chainsaws at Work leaflet.</i>	HSE to liaise with AFAG members to determine appropriate response – [To refer to appropriate BSI/EN Standards ctees]
B7. Market surveillance (product design) (J Brown)	B Ongoing	Ongoing – to report/resolve issues as they arise, eg through relevant standards committees BSI-AGE/CEN/ISO). Issues dealt with incl: (i) Combined chain saw/ATV operators helmet - Guidance issued for HSE and LA inspectors. (ii) Standard for plastic-toe chain saw boots – referred to DTI/Trading Standards. <i>New issues raised (08-09) awaiting resolution:</i>	<i>Lack of resources/funding to attend relevant Standards Committees</i>	Issues/Defects to be raised at AGE 29 and other relevant (ISO/CEN) Standards Committees	AFAG to advise on emerging issues, eg biomass, wood as fuel (storage issues? etc. Existing items: <i>(iii) Chipper Noise/ PPE issue to be d/w</i>

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		<p><i>(iii) <u>Noise from Woodchippers</u> - HSL Research report noted hearing protection on common forestry helmets not adequate.</i></p> <p><i>(iv) <u>Gravity-fed Woodchippers (Arb/amenity)</u>– Feed chute length on specific m/cs inadequate – non-compliance with current standards. Application of CEN Standard challenged.</i></p> <p><i>(v) <u>Crane-fed Woodchippers (Forestry)</u> – Guarding inadequate to prevent access – non compliance with SMSRegs/CEN standard.</i></p> <p><i>(vi) <u>360-degree excavators</u> (used on steep ground in forestry for harvesting, etc) – New ROPS standard proposed by ISO lower than UK standard and inadequate for UK operations.</i></p>			<p>under Project C3.3</p> <p>(iv) Awaiting update from HSE/FOD.</p> <p>(v) New work item proposed via BSI AGE 29 and being raised at ISO Finland.</p> <p>(vi) ISO challenged and being redrafted – being followed up in ISO Finland 2.09.</p>
<p>B8. Safe Tree work near Overhead Power Lines (S Parry)</p>	<p>A Green</p>	<p>To review and devise safe methods of harvesting timber and other tree work in forestry and arboricultural operations in close to overhead power lines (OHPLs).</p> <p><i>ENA's G55 on utility arb work now revised and published.</i></p> <p><i>Revision of HSE's GS6 nearing completion – standards and definitions to be consistent. 'Harvesting' Project group awaiting ADAS method statements to be sent to power company for perusal and commencement of phase 2. Suitable location currently being identified.</i></p> <p><i>AFAG 404 to be withdrawn and 804 to be reviewed/revise.</i></p>	<p><i>Inconsistent definition of 'Danger Zones' and safe working distances in various organisations' guidance.</i></p>	<p>Increasing pressure from electricity distributors/network operators to work adjacent/close to live lines.</p> <p>Implications for training/FMOCs</p>	<p>New project on harvesting near live power lines in forestry devised -</p> <p><i>Site trials already commenced.in phase 1.</i></p> <p>Phase 2 is yet to start – suitable site needed.</p> <p>J Brown suggested additional rep from Scottish Power to join Project Gp. HSE to follow up.</p>

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C. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH – IMPROVING AND DEVELOPING STRATEGIES FOR RISK REDUCTION					
C1. Promotion of Occupational Health Services (A Plom)	A <i>Red</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to identify and raise awareness of available occupational health services (to enable rehabilitation) in a pilot area (Scotland). • Downgraded to priority B by AFAG 9/11/05, but re-assessed to A in 4/08. • Joint work with PHASS [Partnership for Health and Safety in Scotland] through Project Group established in 07-08; • Survey of OH providers and treework industry through trade bodies proposed but delayed due to staff moves. 	Lack of local support, poor planning and co-ordination are likely to lead to a reduction in the potential impact of this Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Project Group formed with key stakeholders in Scotland, incl HSE, NHS Scotland, Scottish Government, Healthy Working Lives. • Scope/aim of project amended to Promotion of Occupational Health Services (in Scotland). This will be broadened out after the initial pilot project is complete. <p><i>Unable to progress in 08-09 due to loss of Sector staff member and lack of input from FOD Scotland due to other operational pressures.</i></p>	Sector <i>still</i> attempting to secure support/resource from FOD Scotland <i>in 2009-10 and beyond.</i>
C2. Identifying the prevalence and causes of musculoskeletal disorders and develop strategies for risk reduction. (P Jackson)	A Green	Project Gp met 12/07 – Plan produced and survey questionnaire currently on AFAG Community website for comment by industry.		<p><i>A decision needs to be made on whether the scope of this project should be extended beyond providing web-only material.</i></p> <p><i>Also to decide if research need to scope problem and identify solutions – Awaiting feedback from Alex Laver attending ISA Conference in</i></p>	<p>A Laver attending conference in USA</p> <p>AFAG / MSD Gp members to discuss at next Group meeting.</p>

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				<i>USA, summer 2009</i>	
C3. Reduce operator exposure to whole body vibration, hand-arm vibration and noise.		Products' - guidance to be developed separately, through liaison with 3 Working Groups.			
C3.1 Whole Body Vibration (Colin Saunders)	A Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group formed and workshop held at HSL 1/06 - identified priorities for research and guidance, format and target audience. • WBV/Back Pain articles placed in trade journals. • Results of research promoted at APF 9/06 and 9/08. • Draft guidance prepared and awaiting agreement for publication. 	Failure to secure funding for publication.	To continue to promote awareness at industry events (APF Show, RHS, Saltex, etc.	<p>Members were asked to comment on next steps.</p> <p><i>FC guidance to be adapted and made available via HSE Treework site, rather than produce new AFAG Guide or HSE Info Sheet</i></p>
C 3.2 Hand Arm Vibration (Colin Saunders)	A Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified opportunities for publicity – Journal articles written by HSE/Sector. (Ongoing). • FC agreed to fund further research on trigger times for a range of forestry/arb equipment that will be of use across a range of other industries - Supported and encouraged by HSE national Noise and 	Failure to secure funding for publication.	<p>Good practice guidance on management of HAV in forestry developed by FC and HSE to be shared with industry.</p> <p><i>Increasing cases of HAVS being reported by LAs/amenity sector.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE Specialist N&V Team 	<p><i>FC to make info available – via web-link? [Same as above?]</i></p> <p>Members asked to comment on next steps.</p>

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		Vibration team. FC produced 'good practice' guidance (in collaboration with HSE N&V Specialists) – to be shared with others.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> propose a project targeting manfrs/importers/suppliers to encourage provision of adequate information for users. 	
C3.3 Noise (Colin Saunders)	A Green	<p>HSL research on wood chippers completed - Report published on HSE website.</p> <p>Issues resulting from the research have been identified (eg inadequacy of hearing protection, lack of info for users). Action plan produced.</p>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance to be produced by end of Dec 08 – <i>delayed due to other work/priorities.</i> Identify and use opportunities for publicity – Articles written by HSE/Sector for journals. HSE Specialist N&V Team propose a project targeting manfrs/importers/suppliers to encourage provision of adequate information for users. 	<p>AFAG to consider scope for new/revised guidance and raising awareness of findings 10/08.</p> <p>Members are asked to comment on next steps.</p>
C4. Reduce Exposure to Pesticides (eg during tree planting) (E Ramsay)	B Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial meetings with FC held in Q3 05/06. Group not convened due to ongoing discussions/ACP review. Initial findings of HSE study on exposure to alphacypermethrin (ACP) presented to AFAG 8/06, but release of HSE's final report delayed as subject to Fol enquiry. HSE, FC and Product Approval Holders have been working with PSD (Pesticide Safety Directorate) in a review of ACP - Approval endorsed by 	<p>Insufficient Resource.</p> <p>Withdrawal of approval for ACP</p>	<p>Comments/recommendations following the review of the approval of ACP by the Advisory Committee on Pesticides to be considered by AFAG Project Group.</p> <p><i>Approval for ACP not withdrawn but guidance on use to be considered (by AFAG W Gp), re provision of welfare facilities, etc.</i></p>	<p>Implications to be considered by Working Gp - to be convened by E Ramsay)</p> <p>AFAG guide to be revised.</p>

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		Advisory Cttee on Pesticides 9/08 – subject to review of welfare arrangements, ppe, etc			
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D. COMMUNICATION – PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICE AND MAXIMISING THE POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE					
D1 Promotion of best practice in arboriculture and forestry (J Liggins)	A Green/ Ongoing	<p>Communication ‘Strategy’ / plan devised and agreed by AFAG and endorsed by AIAC - Accepted printed leaflets are vital to industry but should explore new IT/web-based methods.</p> <p>2 x AFAG Community websites launched (for members + open public site).</p> <p>HSE Tree Work Website to be developed.</p> <p>Funds to be obtained to film forestry SHAD for ‘podcasts’ and DVD training materials.</p> <p><i>Proposed topic for podcast = lone working, tying up with new guidance proposed on ‘Site Management’.</i></p>	<p>HSE reduces publication resource.</p> <p>Limit imposed on ‘hard copy’ guidance.</p>	<p><i>AFAG Members agreed that new guidance on lone working and the role of site safety supervisor is needed.</i></p> <p>Clearer access needed to relevant HSE webpage</p> <p><i>HSL produced DVD of the 3 scenarios at the SHAD - further edited to produce effective short ‘films’ for series of podcasts. ‘Editing’ meetings held to review format/content of podcasts and DVD eg at HSL on 16.2.09 et seq.</i></p> <p><i>Website technical issues and way forward agreed with HSE Comms Div/ Webteam (between Feb-May.09).</i></p>	<p>Communication plans for Projects to be agreed.</p> <p><i>New guidance to be identified by Project Group Members /Project Leaders.</i></p> <p>New HSE Treework website to be launched June 09.</p> <p>Need to determine most effective format/content of podcasts and DVD.</p> <p>Pilot podcasts to be finalised and evaluated in 2009-10.</p> <p>Members are asked to comment</p>

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		<i>'Safety Alerts', eg to PDA/Mobile phones also proposed</i>		<i>FC apprentices offered as trial group.</i>	on next steps.
D2 Production, review and maintenance of AFAG, HSE and industry guidance (J Liggins)	A Green/ Ongoing	<p>AFAG leaflets reviewed – value and status in industry confirmed, eg essential for use as training and management aid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper detailing progress on above + providing a full review of publications produced by HSE and industry bodies presented to AFAG 4/07. • AFAG leaflets reviewed/ updated at routine requests for reprints and considered by Sector in HSE's Review of Publications (8/08). <p>Notable new titles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steep Ground Working leaflet - launched at APF 9/06. • Translations of AFAG Guides (by external funding) into Polish and made available from migrant workers website. Also into Chinese after hurricane damage. <p>New Titles proposed incl:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on role of Site Safety Co-ordinators and Lone Working to be included in update of HSE IND(G)294 (Managing H&S in Forestry) ; • AFAG leaflet or AIS on 	Insufficient resources provided or HSE refuse permission to print/ publish new guidance.	<p>A number of outstanding issues are being progressed by HSE/Ag Sector, eg review/ amendment of AFAG 804 & withdrawal of 404 (Electricity at Work: Forestry & Arboriculture) to bring in line with revision of ENA's G55 and HSE's Guidance Note GS6</p> <p>.</p> <p>Nb. Industry expects/requires production of most AFAG guides in hard copy for use in training and as on-site check lists.</p>	<p><i>Action plan to be developed to co-ordinate communication of AFAG Project Work in the future.</i></p> <p>Editorial Group formed to revise INDG294 Managing H&S in Forestry (see new project D3)</p>

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		Managing Risks Associated with WBV in Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>AFAG leaflet on rigging and dismantling</i> subject to research report – see Project B4). 			
D3. Improving Management of H&S, & the role of SSC at Forestry Sites (incl Lone Working) <i>(Project Leader – Phil Higginbotham UKFPA)</i>	<i>A - New work item</i>	<p>1. Management Guidance - To produce guidance, clarifying the roles and legal responsibilities of Forestry Works Managers (FWMs) and Site Safety Coordinators.</p> <p>2. Lone Working - To review and promote methods for maintaining contact with individuals working remotely/alone.</p>	<i>Lack of resources or HSE permission to print/ publish new guidance.</i>	<p><i>AFAG agreed HSE guidance INDG 294 'Managing Health and Safety in Forestry' should be revised and expanded to clarify roles and responsibilities – to include Site Safety coordinator and lone working.</i></p> <p><i>Project group initiated 02/08 = Landowner, contractor & sub contractor all reviewed. Advice for FWMs & SSCs drafted 04/09.</i></p> <p><i>Also to include review of extant FASTCo guide on 'Managing Public Safety on Harvesting Sites'.</i></p> <p><i>This work to be linked with development of podcast(s).</i></p> <p><i>Legal responsibilities of SSC also to be clarified (ie Who should act as SSC and how selected.)</i></p>	<p>Work initiated - Editorial team formed - includes members of project working group.</p> <p>Relevant podcast (listed under D1) based on lone working/chain saw accident is in production and will be used to promote this new guidance.</p>

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