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HSE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP

ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP (AFAG)

Revised AFAG Workplan and Project Groups for 2009-10 & Beyond

Paper for AFAG Meeting: 21 May 2009

Summary

1. The attached paper re-affirms AFAG's Terms of Reference and 'provenance'. It includes the draft workplan for 2009-10 and beyond, updated following the last meeting in October 2008. This includes Annex 1, which provides a brief description of each project and new objectives for 2009-10.
2. A 'Progress Report' has been circulated separately (AFAG 09/02). The detailed project plans normally contained in Annex 2 will be updated after the meeting and posted on the HSE/AFAG webpage.

Background

3. The Agricultural Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC) has agreed that AFAG should continue to operate as a sub-committee of the AIAC and deliver its aims and objectives through the agreed series of 'task-and-finish' projects.
4. Amendments to the background notes and 2008-09 Workplan proposed at the last meeting have been incorporated. They also reflect HSE's proposed new Strategy for health and safety in GB and the new initiative aimed at farming ('Agriculture Revisited'). This new Workplan builds on and extends AFAG's Workplan devised for 2005-2008, to ensure that AFAG successfully addresses the priority issues and new topics identified by AFAG members.
5. At a previous meeting, AFAG agreed to examine and identify:
 - (a) how successful the adoption of 'task and finish' project working has been in the delivery of the 2005-2008 Workplan;
 - (b) areas of success and failure – particularly in relation to AFAG delivering the needs of businesses and those at risk; and

- (c) what measures or systems AFAG should adopt to improve how we deliver on key issues in the future.

This review has still to be progressed and it is proposed to discuss this on 21 May.

Action and Recommendations

- 6. AFAG members are invited to:
 - (a) agree the revised Terms of Reference and Workplan for 2009-10 and Beyond;
 - (b) consider current membership of project groups and update where necessary;
 - (c) provide any comments or opinions they or members of their organisations may have on the successes/failures of the 'task and finish' approach to delivering AFAG's key objectives; and
 - (d) consider forming a small 'review' group to progress the issues listed in para 5. The expertise of members from the commercial sector would be of particular value in this review.

ALAN PLOM
AFAG Secretary
Head of Safety Section
HSE Agriculture and Food Sector
15 May 2009

* NB This paper was revised following the AFAG meeting on 21 May 2009.

HSE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ARBORICULTURE AND FORESTRY ADVISORY GROUP

**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAMME
2009-10 & Beyond**

Background

1. The Arboriculture and Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG) is a sub-committee of the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Agriculture Advisory Committee (AIAC). It provides a forum at which the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and others including, the Forestry Commission, trade bodies, training organisations, employers and employees' representatives work together to respond to health and safety issues in the tree work sector ie arboriculture and forestry.
2. AFAG provides authoritative guidance widely accepted as describing good industry practice. AFAG has produced a wide range of free leaflets and other guidance and has set up a number of specific project groups to look at major issues facing the industry. AFAG leaflets replaced the now defunct FASTCo (Forestry and Arboriculture Safety Training Council) guidance and are used as a standard for training and assessment of competence, assessing risks, establishing safe systems of work and management and monitoring of work activities on-site throughout the tree work sector and other industries where relevant equipment is used. Importantly, AFAG is the route through which those carrying out this type of work and involved in the industry can influence HSE's policies and published guidance.
3. The guidance produced is also widely used throughout Europe and is recognised internationally. It has been used in the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) documentation on safe working practices in forestry and has been adopted as far afield as China, New Zealand and Brazil. It is also used frequently in both civil and criminal litigation to demonstrate acceptable standards within the industry and to regulators.
4. The AIAC has agreed that AFAG should continue to consider and make recommendations to HSE:
 - (a) to identify and control all major areas of risk to health and safety arising from work activities in arboriculture and forestry, including transport of timber in the forest; and
 - (b) to help implement HSE's new strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain.
5. AFAG's workplan is endorsed by the AIAC and progress reports are presented to each AIAC meeting.
6. AFAG's Terms of Reference and Workplan have been devised and agreed with industry stakeholders to meet the needs and priorities of the arboriculture and forestry sectors. This will help to deliver key objectives in HSE's new Strategy, in particular by

providing 'strong leadership', 'building competence', and 'creating safer and healthier workplaces'.

7. The HSE Board have also agreed a new initiative for agriculture ("Agriculture Revisited") which aims to reduce fatalities in farming. Tree work is a regular cause of fatal and major injuries in farming and estate maintenance so AFAG will also contribute to this initiative through its focus on reducing chainsaw accidents.

Terms of Reference

8. AFAG will continue to consider and make recommendations to HSE and the AIAC by working closely with the industry to:

- (a) identify and control all major areas of risk to health and safety arising from work activities in arboriculture and forestry, including transport of timber in the forest, and
- (b) contribute to the implementation of the revised HSE strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain.

Aims

9. AFAG aims to build on the success of work delivered as part of the 2005-08 Workplan. During this time AFAG has been successful in increasing its influence in both the arboricultural and forestry sectors. It has also expanded its role and involvement with industry through a range of specific project groups. These have provided an effective platform for partnership working with key industry stakeholders across the full range of the 'tree work' sector.

10. However, tree work continues to have a high incidence rate of fatal and major injuries (~ 2x that of agriculture). As part of the 2005-08 Workplan comprehensive research has been completed that provides a detailed analysis of the common factors and key influences that contribute to tree work accidents, serious injuries and ill health. This has provided a robust evidence base for the development of new project plans that target key issues and enable resource to be focussed in such a way as to maximise the contribution to the overarching strategies of HSE and AIAC.

11. A number of other projects have also successfully delivered identifiable outputs and these are retained in the revised list of projects (Annex 1) for ease of reference. Some projects in the original 2005-08 workplan will need to continue as part of the work plan for '2008-09 & Beyond' as they are addressing long-term goals such as improving training and competence across the tree work industry, reducing the incidence of occupational ill-health or aiming to continue to improve the way AFAG communicates with the industry.

Objectives

12. AFAG's objectives for 2009-10 and the immediate following years are to:

1. continue to contribute through a suite of projects to HSE's current and future Strategy.

2. achieve a fundamental culture change amongst those engaged in forestry, arboriculture and associated industries, aiming to reduce the incidence of injuries and ill health.
3. exploit synergies through joint working across Government Departments and agencies and with key industry stakeholders, to improve the well-being of workers in these sectors.
4. develop, implement and evaluate innovative and cost-effective intervention methodologies to contribute to HSE's Strategy and targets, eg using Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs) aimed at contractors, managers of forestry works and clients in arboriculture.
5. further develop and implement an effective communication strategy for the industry. This includes developing creative, high impact and 'state of the art' methods of communicating that fully utilize the emerging opportunities afforded through evolving communication technologies, eg websites, podcasts, etc.
6. develop an overarching strategy that delivers real improvements in both the incidence of, and cultural attitudes to, occupational ill health in the tree work sector.

AFAG Projects

13. In 2005 AFAG identified a number of projects grouped under 4 areas of work. These areas of work, or themes, continue to be relevant and are:

- A. *Examination of underlying and root causes of serious accidents, and develop strategies for risk reduction* (including improving training and competence).
- B. *Operational best practice* – Improving and maintaining standards.
- C. *Occupational Health* – Improving and developing strategies for risk reduction.
- D. *Communication* – Promoting best practice and maximising the potential for change.

14. The projects are listed and summarised in Annex 1. More detailed outline plans for each of the projects are provided in Annex 2. These identify the background and objectives for each project, the resource implications, milestones and outputs.

Communication Strategy

15. As part of the 2005-08 workplan, AFAG reviewed relevant guidance, including AFAG leaflets and other publications outlining good industry practice. It also devised a Communication Strategy and investigated possible mechanisms to both improve the delivery of projects and increase the participation of those working in the industry in addressing key issues. Many working in the tree work industry are 'hard to reach' and AFAG will pursue a

creative and innovative approach to deliver the key messages and information. AFAG believes that improvements in the health and safety performance of the tree work sector will be much enhanced if those in the industry feel that their opinions are being considered, and if AFAG and HSE's decision-making process is transparent.

16. To assist this process, two 'AFAG Community' sites have been launched on HSE's website. The first is restricted to AFAG members and those involved or invited to participate in Project Groups. The structure of the site, with individual discussion forums for each project and project documentation available, will enable members to work on issues outside of 'face-to-face' meetings. This will reduce the costs involved with travelling and attending meetings and allow projects champions to progress work at a much faster rate. The second 'open' website is open to members of the public, and is particularly aimed at those working within the tree work industry. It will provide information relating to AFAG generally and importantly provide a platform where those in the industry can provide input to all AFAG project groups at every point.

17. To support this work, HSE has developed a new dedicated 'tree work' website to help convey key information and current guidance to the industry. This is expected to be launched in 2010. Podcasts and other new communication methods are also being developed in consultation with the industry.

Resources

18. Current members of AFAG are:

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| Chair | Graeme Walker | HSE, Head of Agriculture & Food Sector |
| Secretary | Alan Plom | HSE Agriculture and Food Sector |
| Tech Sec | Jim Dewar | Forestry Commission (FC) |
| Members | Robert Beaney Gerald Bonner James Brown Ros Burnley Des Campbell Chris Cooper-Abbs Hans Fairley Bruce Hamilton Steve Hewitt Pete Jackson Alex Laver Martin Lennon Donald Maclean Neil McKay Imogen Mole Graham Munford Alex Murray John Price Emily Ramsay Simon Richmond | Unite Tree Care Industry Assoc. (TCIA Confor [Also AFAG rep on AIAC]) Lantra (Sector Skills Council) Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development, Northern Ireland (DARDNI) - Forest Service Lantra Awards Agricultural Engineers Assoc. (AEA) Public & Commercial Services Union (PCS) City & Guilds/NPTC Utility Arboriculture Group (UAG) International Society of Arborists (ISA) Training provider/City&Guilds-NPTC Assessor Forestry Contractors Association (FCA) Inst. of Chartered Foresters (ICF) National Assoc. of Tree Officers (NATO) IOSH (Rural Industries Group) United Kingdom Forest Products Association Local Government Employers Organisation (LGE) Forestry Commission Arboricultural Association (AA) |

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| HSE Advisors | Frances Hirst Jason Liggins Simon Parry | } }HSE Agriculture and Food Sector } |
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18. Members of project groups are drawn from AFAG and include other co-opted industry representatives and HSE staff, as appropriate [see Appendix 1 for summary and Appendix 2 for details of individual projects]. Project Leaders are appointed to convene each project group, help identify objectives, progress the work in liaison with HSE and communicate recommendations to the industry.

19. The funding for any research identified and the cost of production and publishing AFAG guidance is to be determined on a case-by-case basis and subject to inclusion in the Agriculture and Food Sector's research and communication bids. The Forestry Commission and HSE have jointly funded project work previously and other external sources such as European Community funding and industry support (in-kind) will be further explored.

Risk Register

| RISK | LIKELIHOOD | CONSEQUENCE | RISK MANAGEMENT |
|--|------------|---|--|
| Inadequate resource applied | High | Projects do not start or cannot be followed up and good practice is not disseminated and adopted effectively by the industry. | Modest resources requested and Projects are designed to maximise impact across the industry. Reduction/removal of FOD (inspection) resource will result in a reduction in intelligence from the field to inform and assist projects. |
| Stakeholders unable or refuse to engage. | Low | Loss of input by stakeholders devalues project outcomes and inhibits implementation of measures across the industry. | High level of existing pressure from stakeholders across the arb & forestry industries for engagement with HSE is being cultivated and communication between stakeholders and HSE maintained. Removal of HSE Sector and/or FOD resource may result in a loss of goodwill from stakeholders who expect HSE to uphold standards and ensure a 'level playing field' within the industry. |

| RISK | LIKELIHOOD | CONSEQUENCE | RISK MANAGEMENT |
|---|------------|---|---|
| Guidance is not produced. | Medium | Adverse effect on stakeholders and loss of credibility of the AFAG guidance system within the industry. Possible slippage in standards in the industry. | Project Managers to continue to encourage and co-ordinate the efforts of AFAG members and ensure their contributions are submitted according to the agreed timescale. High risks issues that are specific to tree work may not fit easily into HSE's Strategy/ current priorities and therefore robust business cases for revisions/new publications need to be produced. |
| Insufficient funding for promulgation of products (eg AFAG guidance). | Medium | Products will not be taken up effectively by the industry and thus delivery/ outcome of projects will be at risk. The anticipated reductions in injuries/ill health will be at risk in the longer term. | AFAG's Communications Project Group has reviewed and proposed effective methods of communications and HSE's Sector continues to seek adequate budget to launch and publicise new products/outcomes of Projects. |
| Short notice and other unplanned work demands may impact adversely on projects. | Medium | Delays in meeting milestones, inadequate time to prepare outcomes properly. | Feedback to Sector, AFAG and AIAC to advise on competing priorities and resource as necessary. |
| Staff changes in teams due to job changes, promotion etc, disrupt project. | Medium | Deadlines missed etc. | Manage through Sector and others in management chains to minimise disruption. |
| Need for changes or amendments to projects arise. | Medium | Project timetable and/or aims disrupted. | Project Managers to manage change process and inform AFAG/AIAC as necessary. |

20. It is assumed that:

- i. Government, HSE and AIAC will continue to give the work of AFAG support and resources.
- ii. There is a correlation between the standard of management of forestry sites and other tree work activities and the frequency of major and fatal accidents.

- iii. That working closely with the major stakeholders in all sections of the tree work industry will result in real improvements in health and safety.

Project Management

21. AFAG's Workplan is based on a number of 'task and finish' Project Groups each targeting a specific priority issue in the tree work sector. It was proposed that this approach would facilitate the successful delivery of the AFAG's agreed key aims and objectives by providing a framework to ensure the best possible use of the resources and expertise available to AFAG. A Project Plan is required for each project outlining its key aims, objectives and milestones. These project plans are used to measure progress and delivery and to ensure the successful and timely delivery of AFAG's current Terms of Reference and Workplan.

22. Day to day management and reporting to AFAG and the industry is the responsibility of the nominated Project Leader, who will be supported by HSE's Agriculture and Food Sector staff, as appropriate. The same individual may be Project Leader for more than one project. AFAG will sign off tangible outcomes on the basis of the Project Leader's reports and products, e.g. new guidance.

23. Industry will be consulted through stakeholder organisations, trade media and through the AFAG Community websites. Information on projects and emerging findings/guidance on good practice will also be posted on the websites and publicised through the trade media.

Evaluation

24. The outcomes of AFAG Projects, eg in terms of raised awareness across the industry and use of the guidance produced will be evaluated through stakeholders and use of techniques such as the Bomel Cultural Change Tool.

25. Accident and ill health data from RIDDOR will be monitored to identify emerging trends and, if possible, to evaluate project effectiveness. However, given the relatively small workforce involved in the tree work industry, this may prove difficult. It is therefore intended to encourage businesses and industry organisations to share information on accidents, injuries and ill health.

Summary of AFAG Work Programme for 2009-10
(Current/proposed work in italics, at May 2009)

A. Examination of underlying and root causes of serious accidents, and develop strategies for risk reduction.

| Project Title, +deliverables/milestones <i>[Ongoing & new work highlighted in italics]</i> | Project leader + <i>Group members</i> | Priority & Status |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| <p>A1. Examination of underlying and root causes of serious accidents over the past 5 years to identify cultural and behavioural implications and strategies for reduction of risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research to analyse accident and ill health reports and identify effective interventions. Research completed – Bomel’s findings/ recommendations presented to AFAG. • Key influencers network developed with assistance of industry, particularly members of the UKFPA and FC. • Summary of analysis of Safety and Health Awareness Days presented to AFAG. • <i>Research reports to be published asap.</i> • <i>AFAG Project Group A3 set up - to discuss implications of the research for risk reduction strategies and recommend how best to communicate the findings to the industry.</i> | <p>Emily Ramsay – FC <i>Hans Fairley – AEA</i> <i>Paul Smith – AA</i> <i>Peter Jackson - UAG</i> <i>Robert Beaney - Unite</i> <i>Jason Liggins}</i> <i>Simon Parry } - HSE</i> <i>Frances Hirst }</i></p> | <p>A Complete</p> |
| <p>A2. Training and Certification: a) Review of Training Schemes and Certificates of Competence (now including refresher training and re-certification):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review current practices, available funding, IT/database systems, etc and identify possible voluntary registration scheme - complete. • Proposed ‘Register of Tree Work Operators’ (RTwo) not universally accepted - Arboriculture Focus Group discussed options for CPD. Forestry industry being consulted separately. • <i>Guidance to be produced for industry on essential information which should be recorded on training, qualifications and on the job experience (CPD) - AFAG 805 to be revised.</i> • <i>Liaison with NPTC - coordinate/comment on review of chainsaw certificates/Forest Machine Operators (FMOs) - ongoing.</i> • <i>AFAG to consider options for health and safety management VQs.</i> | <p>(a) Simon Richmond – AA <i>James Brown - Confor</i> <i>Jim Dewar – FC</i> <i>Donald Maclean– FCA</i> <i>Gerald Bonner- TCIA</i> <i>Liam McKeown – AA/Lantra Awards (co-opted Trainer)</i> <i>Robert Beaney – Unite</i> <i>Des Campbell – DANI</i> <i>Ros Burnley – Lantra (SSC)</i> <i>Nick Eden – AA (papers only)</i> <i>Sandra Loton-Jones BALI (papers only)</i> <i>Imogen Mole – NATO</i> <i>John Price - LGE</i> <i>Chris Cooper-Abbs - Lantra Awards</i> <i>Steve Hewitt - NPTC</i> <i>Martin Lennon – Trainer/Assessor</i> <i>Alan Plom (Sec)}</i> <i>Frances Hirst } – HSE</i> <i>Jason Liggins }</i> <i>Simon Parry }</i></p> | <p>B Ongoing</p> |

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| <p>(b) Mapping of European standards of training and competence of machine operators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure adequate training and competence of foreign nationals employed in GB. • Preliminary research by FC; further research into training standards in other European countries was deferred due to lack of resources • European chainsaw operator's certificate proposed by EU - AFAG represented at meetings and NPTC coordinating comparison of current training/certification schemes and standards, using UK system of CoCs as basis. | <p>(b) James Brown - Confor <i>Steve Hewitt - NPTC</i> <i>Chris Cooper-Abbs - Lantra Awards</i></p> | |
| <p>A3. Reduce accidents involving chain saws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify the highest risk chainsaw activities and examine the possibility of eliminating chainsaw use (eg by mechanisation) • To review and evaluate and improve the effectiveness of current training, good practice and guidance • To identify ways to effectively communicate recommendations to the industry and other relevant organisations (eg training bodies). • Preliminary scoping meeting held between HSE and FC. • Summary of all fatalities since 2001 included on new treework website • Group to be convened ASAP | <p>Emily Ramsay - FC <i>Gerald Bonner - TCIA</i> <i>Pete Jackson - UAG</i> <i>Ros Burnley - Lantra</i> <i>Robert Beaney – Unite</i> <i>Hans Fairley – AEA</i> <i>Martin Lennon – training provider/ assessor</i> <i>Jason Liggins/Simon Parry}</i> <i>Frances Hirst} - HSE</i> <i>Alan Plom}</i></p> | <p>A New</p> |

B. Operational best practice – Improving and maintaining standards

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| <p>B1. Identifying and promulgating precautions for machines working on steep slopes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFAG leaflet 705 launched at APF 9/06 – available from HSE Books and on HSE website. • Guidance already being incorporated into industry practice and training. • New project D3 ‘Review of guidance on site management & lone working’ to define roles and legal responsibilities of Forestry Works Managers (FWMs) and Site Safety Coordinators (SSCs) in revised guidance. • Further discussions with AFAG members on skylines (ongoing.) | <p>Neil McKay – ICF <i>Emily Ramsay- FC</i> <i>Jason Liggins – HSE</i></p> | <p>A Complete</p> |
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| <p>B2. Improving management of work at height, including implementation of the Work at Height Regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve current practices and promote use of MEWPs. AFAG 401 revised and printed. AA's MEWP's Working Group produced new AA Guidance, published 9/08. Revise AFAG 403 (use of MEWPs) Q3/4 09/10 Articles produced and published in relevant journals, HSE Arb/Tree Work News, etc. AA Guide to Good Climbing Practice to be revised – interim reprint 6/08. | <p>Alex Laver - ISA <i>Emily Ramsay – FC</i> <i>Paul Smith – AA</i> <i>Peter Jackson – UAG</i> <i>Gerald Bonner – TCIA</i> <i>Frances Hirst – HSE</i></p> | <p>A Ongoing</p> |
| <p>B3. Examination of feasibility of welfare provision on forestry work sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Low priority</i> - Issue initially to be considered within project C4: 'Reduce exposure to pesticides' (eg during tree planting). <i>AFAG to review priority in 2010/11.</i> | <p>Emily Ramsay – FC <i>Simon Parry/Jason Liggins</i></p> | <p>C Parked</p> |
| <p>B4. Rigging and dismantling techniques in arboriculture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To produce practical guidance based on research HSE & FC joint-sponsored research completed - final report published. WG discussed findings and made recommendations for knowledge transfer of new techniques. – AFAG and AA guidance to be drafted (by end Q2 2010/11). HSE pursuing funding for articles (written by researchers) and workshops/demos of new technique (in Q4 2009/10). | <p>Frances Hirst – HSE <i>Simon Richmond – AA</i> <i>Jim Dewar – FC</i> <i>Liam McKeown (Research contractor)</i> <i>Pete Jackson - UAG</i> <i>Chris Cooper-Abbs – Lantra Awards</i> <i>Alex Laver - ISA</i></p> | <p>A Ongoing</p> |
| <p>B5. Machine-assisted takedown of trees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review current practice, research and guidance - Phase I research funded by FC, Phase 2 jointly with HSE (completed in 08/09, draft report received Q2 2009/10). Project Gp reviewed recommendations. Report to be finalised and adapted for publication Q4 2009/10 New guidance to be incorporated in AFAG 310 & 603 Articles to be produced and techniques demonstrated to HSE/industry reps (2009-11) | <p>Jim Burns - FC <i>Graham Hodgson – Research Contractor</i> <i>Neil McKay – UPM</i> <i>Alex Murray – UKFPA</i> <i>Colin Saunders –FC/FR</i> <i>John Graves- FC/FTS</i> <i>Donald MacLean- FCA</i> <i>Neil Murray – FC/ FE</i> <i>Grant Macintosh - FC</i> <i>Ken Sinclair - FC/FE</i> <i>Pete Bowsher - UPM Tilhill</i> <i>Chris Cooper-Abbs – Lantra Awards</i> <i>Simon Parry – HSE</i></p> | <p>A Ongoing</p> |
| <p>B6. Chainsaw PPE – to improve and promote standards and related issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing review and resolution of issues arising. | <p>James Brown - Confor Consultees include: <i>Jim Dewar – FC</i></p> | <p>B Ongoing</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFAG 301 revised re gloves in reprint 3/06 • AFAG 401 revised re chainsaw trousers and helmets. • Standard of hearing protection for use with wood chippers - ongoing • New issue chainsaw speed/standard of PPE | <p><i>Alex Murray – UKFPA</i> <i>Jim Burns – FC</i> <i>Gerald Bonner – TCIA</i> <i>Hans Fairley- AEA</i> <i>Frances Hirst}</i> <i>Jason Liggins}– HSE</i> <i>Simon Parry}</i></p> | |
| <p>B7. Market surveillance (product design).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing – to report/resolve issues as they arise, eg: • Combined chain saw/ATV operators helmet - guidance issued for HSE and LA inspectors. • Standard for plastic-toe chain saw boots referred to Trading standards/DTI • New, to be referred to relevant Standards Cttee - guarding of gravity fed wood chippers and crane fed chippers – | <p>James Brown – Confor + All AFAG members to contribute</p> | <p>B Ongoing</p> |
| <p>B8. Treework near Overhead Power Lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research to review and devise safe methods of felling and harvesting timber and other treework for forestry and arboricultural operations close to overhead power lines (OHPLs) - Ongoing. • To input to/take account of ENA G55 (now revised) and HSE’s GS6 (still under revision); AFAG leaflets to be consistent and pragmatic. • <i>AFAG 404 (Utility Arb) withdrawn – in deference to ENA G55.</i> • Update and revise AFAG 804, (following publication of G55 and GS6). | <p>Simon Parry – HSE Doug Cunningham – Scottish and Southern Electricity Co. Brian Bell? – Scottish Power <i>Alex Murray – UKFPA</i> <i>Emily Ramsay - FC</i> <i>Pete Jackson - UAG</i> <i>James Brown – Confor</i> <i>Alex Laver – ISA</i> <i>Electricity Supplier/ENA - TBC</i> <i>John Madden - HSE</i> <i>Frances Hirst – HSE</i></p> | <p>A New</p> |

C. Occupational Health – Improving and developing strategies for risk reduction

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| <p>C1. Promotion of occupational health provision and rehabilitation services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downgraded to priority B but Joint work proposed with PHASS [Partnership for Health and Safety in Scotland] • Project Group established in 07-08; survey of OH providers and treework industry through trade bodies proposed - suspended due to staff/resource issues. • Resources needed to re-initiate project - Ag Sector attempting to secure support/resource from FOD Scotland. | <p>Alan Plom - HSE <i>Emily Ramsay - FC</i> <i>Jason Liggins – HSE</i> <i>Pete Jackson - UAG</i> <i>Forestry industry rep TBA</i> +HSE Health Programme rep TBA +HSE Scotland rep TBA</p> | <p>B Parked</p> |
| <p>C2. Identifying the prevalence and causes of musculoskeletal disorders and develop strategies for risk reduction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review reports of MSD in the tree work industry and produce guidance. • Stats (incl Bomel) reviewed during Q4 05/06 – awaiting publication of final research report. | <p>Pete Jackson - UAG <i>Paolo Bavaresco – AA/trainer co-opted</i> <i>Alex Laver - ISA</i> <i>John Price - LGE</i> <i>Frances Hirst }Simon Parry }</i></p> | <p>A Ongoing</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group met 12/07. Survey questionnaire posted on AFAG website. • MSDs (including relevant articles) section to be included on new Treework website. • Members to decide next steps May 09. • Research needed? | <p>HSE - Jason Liggins</p> | |
| <p>C3. Reduce operator exposure to hand-arm vibration (HAV), whole body vibration (WBV) and noise.</p> <p>3.1 WBV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify priorities for research and guidance, format and target audience • Working Group formed and workshop held at HSL 1/06. • WBV/Back Pain articles produced for trade journals and guidance published. • Results of WBV research promoted at APF 9/06. • Guidance , drafted to be finalised for publication. • AFAG guidance leaflet to be considered and /or information published on Treework Website(Q4 2009/10) • Continue to promote awareness at industry events (APF Show, RHS, Saltex, etc.) <p>3.2 HAV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and use opportunities for publicity – Articles written by HSE/Sector for journals. • FC agreed to fund further research on trigger times for a range of forestry and arboriculture equipment that will be of use across a range of other industries. Supported and encouraged by HSE national Noise and Vibration Team. • FC guidance (produced in collaboration with HSE Specialists) to be shared as industry good practice.Q4 2009/10 • HSE project proposed targeting manfrs/importers/suppliers - to encourage provision of adequate information for users - Ongoing. • AFAG to consider scope for new/revised guidance and raising awareness of findings. <p>3.3 Noise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review research, identify and use opportunities for publicity. • Noise research reports published - conclusions and need for guidance | <p>Jim Dewar- FC Emily Ramsay - FC Colin Saunders - FC Neil McKay – ICF Hans Fairley – AEA Paul Smith – AA Russell Ackroyd – FCA Donald Maclean - FCA Des Campbell - DARDNI Robert Beaney - Unite Paul Pitts - HSL Paul Brereton – HSE N&V Team Stuart Macgregor - HSE N&V Team Alan Plom } Simon Parry } – HSE Frances Hirst} Jason Liggins}</p> | <p>A Ongoing</p> |

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| <p>considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articles written by HSE/Sector for journals. HSL research on wood chippers completed | | |
| <p>C4. Reduce exposure to pesticides, e.g. during tree planting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research - findings of HSE study presented to AFAG 8/06 and considered by Advisory Cttee on Pesticides. <i>ACP's recommendations and proposals (eg for guidance) to be considered at next project meeting</i> | <p><i>Michael Hymers -FC</i> <i>Emily Ramsay – FC</i> Tim Lidden – UPM Tilhill <i>Robert Beaney - Unite</i> <i>Jason Liggins – HSE</i> <i>Cheryl Anthony + Lawrence Murray – HSE (FOD) Consultees</i></p> | <p>B Ongoing</p> |

D. Communication – Promoting best practice and maximising the potential for change.

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| <p>D1. Promotion of best practice in arboriculture and forestry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of current methods completed and options for future work proposed. Aims to build on the success of the ‘Management of H&S in Forestry’ initiative and extend into arboriculture, through provision of guidance and effective communications. Exploit synergies through joint working across Government Departments/agencies and key stakeholders, to improve the well-being of workers Strategic review of AFAG Communication complete and strategy for effective promotion and adoption of good practice devised. To develop, implement and evaluate innovative and cost-effective interventions, eg continue HSE SHADs aimed at Works Managers and contractors in forestry and key client groups in arboriculture (eg LAs) - Impact confirmed following review and evaluation (using Bomel ‘Barometer’). HSE/FTS to deliver a minimum of 3 HSE’s Forestry SHADs and HSE/AA 4 Arb Client SHADs per year.– SHADs publicised, eg in articles in trade press, Arb News and HSE’s staff magazine. HSE/Ag Sector to produce 2 ‘Tree work News’/yr (Q1 and Q3) – Issued electronically. <i>New HSE ‘Tree Work’ web site set up to enable users to find relevant guidance – (Ongoing)</i> <i>New web/IT-based approaches proposed, eg podcasts and safety alerts - funding obtained to film forestry SHAD Q 308/09 for trial DVD and podcasts - Ongoing.</i> | <p>Jason Liggins - HSE <i>Simon Richmond – AA</i> <i>Jim Dewar – FC</i> <i>Frances Hirst – HSE</i> <i>Alan Plom – HSE</i> <i>AFAG Members as Consultees</i></p> | <p>A Ongoing</p> |
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| <p>D2. Production, review and maintenance of AFAG, HSE and industry guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFAG leaflets reviewed – value/status in industry confirmed, eg use as training and management aid. • 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) • Notable new leaflets include: Steep Ground Working (launched at APF 9/06). • AFAG Guides translated (by external funding) into Polish and made available from migrant workers web site +used in China. <p><i>New/Revised Titles proposed include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Revision of IND(G) 294 ‘Managing H&S in Forestry’ and AFAG 805 training and certification;</i> • <i>New guidance on lone working.</i> • <i>Update AFAG guidance 310 & 603 to incorporate findings of research on mechanically-assisted take down.</i> • <i>Web-based guidance on managing noise and vibration in Forestry</i> • <i>Dismantling and Rigging Guide – subject to research report – see project B4</i> | <p>TBC –</p> <p><i>Simon Richmond – AA</i> <i>Jim Dewar – FC</i> <i>Jason Liggins – HSE</i> <i>Simon Parry – HSE</i> <i>Frances Hirst- HSE</i></p> | <p>A Completed</p> |
| <p>D3. Improving management at Forestry Sites (incl Lone Working)</p> <p>1. Management of health and safety at forestry sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review IND(G)294 defining the roles of FWM and SSC and include lone working. • To produce guidance clarifying the roles and legal responsibilities of Forestry Works Managers (FWMs) and Site Safety Coordinators • Review of IND(G) 294 ongoing. • To consider updating ex-FASTCo publication ‘Managing Public Safety on Harvesting Sites’. <p>2. Lone working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review and promote methods for maintaining contact with individuals working remotely/alone • Lone worker guidance to be considered and produced separately. • Possible review/amendment of AFAG 802 – Emergency Planning. | <p>1. Phil Higginbotham - UKFPA <i>Donald Maclean – FCA</i> <i>Alex Murray – UKFPA</i> <i>Emily Ramsay - FC</i> <i>Troels Carlson – Confor</i> <i>Davy Dick - Contractor</i> <i>Simon Parry – HSE</i> <i>Des Campbell – DARDNI</i></p> <p>2. Jason Liggins –HSE <i>Donald Maclean FCA</i> <i>Alex Murray - UKFPA</i></p> | <p>A Ongoing</p> |

**AFAG 09/01– AFAG WORKPLAN 2009-10 & BEYOND
DRAFT OUTLINE PLANS FOR NEW PROJECTS
(TO BE ADDED TO AFAG WORKPLAN - ANNEX 2)**

AFAG Project A3 – Reducing Chainsaw Accidents in Tree Work

PROJECT STATUS: NEW

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| Background: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed analysis of accident statistics and HSE’s investigation reports clearly demonstrates that work with chainsaws represents the highest risk activity in the tree work sector. By their nature, chainsaw related accidents tend to have more serious consequences and often cause major or fatal injuries. By focussing resource on key high-risk area of chainsaw use across the tree work sector AFAG will be able to contribute more effectively and with greatest impact to HSE’s PSA targets by reducing the incidence of fatal and major injuries in the tree work industry. • The forestry and arboriculture industries comprise many small and medium sized enterprises working in remote areas. Tree work is a high-risk industry: in the ten years 1995-2005 there were 50 fatal accidents associated with tree felling and timber extraction and 138 specified major injuries reported under RIDDOR in 2004/05 alone. Statistics indicate an overall fatal injury incidence rate ~2x that of agriculture, ~6x construction and ~20x the all-industry average. We also know there is significant under reporting, particularly of over 3-day accidents. • It is recognised that there are important differences between the type of work in arboriculture and forestry, and therefore the way in which chainsaw are used. Because of this and to best utilise the skills and experience of AFAG members, it is proposed that individual ‘focus’ groups be formed to build on the work of the ‘focus’ groups set up to discuss training and certification. |
| Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify the highest risk chainsaw activities in tree work. 2. To examine the possibility of eliminating chainsaw use in high risk activities (for example by mechanisation) 3. To review and evaluate the effectiveness of current training, good practice and guidance in preventing chainsaw accidents. 4. Build upon and improve current training, competence and good practice guidance where appropriate. 5. Where current guidance is fit for purpose but not followed, identify initiatives and strategies to address these issues. 6. Ensure that outcomes of the project group are communicated effectively to the industry and other relevant organisations (eg training bodies). |
| Resources: | To be determined, eg funding for consultants/research, holding meetings with industry, dissemination through shows, articles, guidance, etc + support in kind from tree work industry. |
| Milestones: | TBC |

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| Outputs: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the evidence based multi-factor risk analysis of chainsaw accidents in forestry and elsewhere. • Review of effectiveness of current training and guidance on good practice and safe systems of work for high risk chainsaw activities and identification of any barriers to the use of these systems. • Communication plan developed and initiated at the start of the project which aims to bring about cultural change. • Input from the industry throughout the project, eg via the AFAG Public Community Website. • Development of intervention strategies to overcome barriers to good practice that address the roles of both operators and managers in forestry operations. • Identification of key communication messages, communication approaches and target audiences for future articles, podcasts, safety alerts, etc (to be determined). Information used for development of articles in trade journals, etc. • Dissemination of results to the relevant organisations. |
| Members of Working Group | <p>Emily Ramsay - FC Gerald Bonner - TCIA Pete Jackson - UAG Ros Burnley - Lantra Robert Beaney – Unite Hans Fairley – AEA Martin Lennon – training provider/ assessor Jason Liggins/Simon Parry} Frances Hirst} - HSE Alan Plom}</p> |

**AFAG 08/03 ANNEX 2 – AFAG WORKPLAN 200-09 & BEYOND
DRAFT OUTLINE PLANS FOR NEW PROJECTS**

AFAG Project B8 – Safe tree work near Overhead Power Lines

PROJECT STATUS: NEW

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| <p>Background:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a significant history associated with tree work near overhead power lines (OHPLs), leading to fatalities and major injuries. In addition to the human cost of these accidents they usually result in disruption to power supplies and therefore can be politically sensitive and economically significant. There is also increasing pressure on contractors to work near to live line, to avoid the penalties of ‘downtime’. • AFAG 804 currently provides good practice guidance on the risk assessment process and control measures that should be adopted when carrying out this type of work. In addition to the AFAG guidance (which is adopted by the forestry industry) energy network companies also produce guidance on working near OHPLs (in particular in the Energy Networks Association’s (ENA) guidance for utility contractors (G55), due to be revised and reissued in 2008). HSE’s AG Sector and Electrical Specialists have made significant efforts to ensure that the range of guidance is consistent and practicable. • Since 2006/07, HSE Sector and Specialist Inspectors, Forest Enterprise, forestry contractors, an electricity supplier, and ADAS have been working together on a site in Scotland to assess alternative techniques and identify good practice. The work was taking place over a wide area and involved a significant amount of trees. • Current good practice guidance (such as AFAG 804) recommends that those trees closest to OHPLs should only be felled sectionally by specialist trained arborists. However, accident analysis clearly demonstrates that tree climbing and the use of chainsaws is a high risk activity itself. The probability of a major or fatal accident increases significantly on large sites with a number of arborists working for a long period of time. • HSE’s Electrical Engineering Specialists were enlisted to investigate the possibility and safety benefits of mechanising the process by the use of tree harvesting machines. Much progress has already been made and energy companies are working with the forest industry on putting in place adequate guidance on risk assessments and to develop appropriate control measures to enable the work to be carried out safely. • The mechanisation of felling trees close to OHPLs could also have significant benefits for the forestry and energy industries, as it will allow the work to be carried out more quickly, with significantly less manpower, and therefore lower costs. There are also clear benefits to health and safety in reducing the risks associated with the current work methods |
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| | <p>and therefore preventing serious accidents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However it is essential that nationally recognised good practice guidance is developed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the risk assessment process ○ the development of a safe system of work ○ ensuring operators are competent to work close to OHPLs |
| Objectives: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of current progress in this area; 2. Identify criteria and key issues to be included in the RA process; 3. Evaluate guidance on the suitable controls and systems of work produced by the ENA/electricity suppliers for this type of work; 4. Assess the ENA/electricity suppliers proposals relating to the appropriate training and assessment that operators should receive before carrying out this type of work; 5. Produce nationally recognised guidance and ensure equivalence of operator training nationally. |
| Resources | <p>To be defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • members of Group to be drawn from AFAG, HSE Sector and HSE Specialist Inspectors, ENAs and industry representatives. • joint FC/HSE/ENA funding – research/hosting meetings/ dissemination. • industry support – financial and in-kind contributions. |
| Milestones: | TBC |
| Output: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of all research to members and industry – articles etc. • Communication plan developed (at the start of the Project0 which aims to bring about cultural change. • Input from industry gathered through out the project via the AFAG Public Community Website. • Review of AFAG 804 and 404. • Production of AFAG/industry safety guide (possibly produced by ENA). • Production of nationally recognised competency framework for operators and managers. |
| Members of Working Group | <p>Simon Parry – HSE Doug Cunningham – Scottish and Southern Electricity Co. Brian Bell? – Scottish Power Alex Murray – UKFPA Emily Ramsay - FC Pete Jackson - UAG James Brown – Confor Alex Laver – ISA Electricity Supplier/ENA - TBC John Madden - HSE Frances Hirst – HSE</p> |

**AFAG 08/03 ANNEX 2 – AFAG WORKPLAN 200-09 & BEYOND
DRAFT OUTLINE PLANS FOR NEW PROJECTS**

**AFAG Project D3 – Management of Health and Safety at Forestry Sites –
The Roles of Forest Works Manager and Site Safety Coordinator & Lone
Working**

PROJECT STATUS: NEW

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| Background: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry work is a high risk activity. The management issues involved in harvesting timber, getting it to the roadside and transporting it to the end user, often in remote arduous conditions, are complex. • To successfully manage health and safety in forestry and associated haulage, it is essential that all those involved work together and pass information up and down the contract chain. <i>The Managing of health and safety in forestry booklet IND(G)294</i>, first launched in 1999, has been widely adopted as a framework by the industry and evidence suggests that this has contributed to the significant improvement in health and safety standards in forestry, resulting in a reduction in the number of forestry accidents. • While the framework is well understood, many in the industry are unclear about the roles and responsibilities of the site safety coordinator (SSC) in particular. This role was not defined in <i>The Managing of health and safety in forestry</i> and this has led to widely different interpretations of the role through out the industry. Those asked to carry out this function are often unsure what it actually means and many are reluctant to do so as they believe they will be held ultimately responsible if things go wrong. • The workshops run by Bomel to identify the key influence network in the industry also identified some concerns about this and also the Forest Works Manager (FWM) role. This has also been raised in the feedback on the guidance on 'Steep Ground Working'. • The issue needs to be addressed urgently. FWMs tend to be transient and cover large geographical areas, so are not on site all the time. H&S management on site therefore depends on good understanding and effective lines of communication with the SSC. This project aims to clarify the roles and responsibilities of both FWM and SSC (both in terms of legal duties and the day to day management of the site) and provide good practice guidance and advice on how the two roles can work most effectively together. • The management of lone working has also regularly been raised during the consultation process, in the press and at shows etc. This will also be considered as part of this project. |
| Objectives: | <p>1. To improve site management by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifying the benefits and legal responsibilities of both FWMs and SSCs • Identifying the key tasks for both SSC and FWM to ensure the successful |

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| | <p>day-to-day management of forestry operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop good practice guidance on how FWMs and SSCs can work together. • Assess any potential need for training for those carrying out the roles. • Ensure that the outcomes of the project group are communicated effectively to the industry and other relevant organisations (eg training bodies?) <p>2. To reduce risks of lone working by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing and promoting awareness and availability of methods and systems for maintaining effective contact with individuals working remotely/alone. • Producing guidance and publicity based on a review of alternative methods currently used by the industry and any new cost-effective solutions discovered, including mobile phone, satellite/GPS/GSI technology etc. |
| Resources | <p>To be determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of Group to be drawn from AFAG (in particular UKFPA and FCA), HSE Sector and industry representatives co-opted as necessary. • Possible joint FC/HSE/industry funding – research/hosting meetings/ dissemination. • Industry support – financial and in-kind contributions. |
| Milestones: | TBC |
| Output: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication plan developed and initiated (at the start of the project) which aims to bring about cultural change. • Input from industry gathered throughout the project via the AFAG Public Community Website. • Dissemination of all research to members and industry – articles etc. • Production of AFAG/ industry good practice guidance |
| Members of Working Group | <p>Phil Higginbotham - UKFPA Donald Maclean - FCA Alex Murray - UKFPA Emily Ramsay - FC Troels Carlson - Confor Davy Dick - Contractor Des Campbell – DARDNI Simon Parry – HSE</p> |