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

**Review of Standards Committees**

**Information Paper for AFAG Meeting: 21 May 2009**

**ISSUES**

1. This paper updates the summary table presented previously to Members (*new information is shown in italics*). It is provided to:
  - i. Inform Members of the status of current work on standards for design of machinery and personal protective equipment used in the forestry and arboriculture (treework) industries;
  - ii. Highlight new developments and issues relating to tree work and relevant standards, and
  - iii. Encourage AFAG members to identify and contribute to possible future developments in relation to relevant standards.

**BACKGROUND**

2. HSE, the Forestry Commission (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 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and in representing the UK on European (CEN) and International Standards Committees (ISO). In many cases the UK has been at the forefront of developing new standards to address serious risks world-wide. These have been identified through accident data, for example the provision of operator protection on hand-fed mobile woodchippers. A more recent example is the successful work to establish acceptable roll-over protection (ROPS) standards for 360 excavators essentially designed for construction work but adapted for use on steep ground, in forestry. This influence over foreign manufacturers could only be achieved at ISO level. These particular standards and others have been led by HSE Agriculture Sector and FC staff and based on research carried out by HSE, FC and other organisations. Jointly-funded research has 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 believes that harmonised standards are essential to maintaining and improving standards in the industry and has previously expressed concern that HSE might withdraw further from standards work. AFAG considers it essential that HSE continues to take an active role in British, European and International Standards Organisation 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. FC staff are able to present a depth of knowledge and influence the practical application of standards, whilst HSE's Agriculture and Food Sector is able to present experience and knowledge of the enforcement role in the application of standards work.

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 is now able to commit some time to Standards work again and will be working with and alongside Colin Saunders of FC's Technical Research Department. Jim is also able to present a policy input whilst Colin provides technical expertise. However, attendance of representatives from Government Departments and Agencies at European and International Standards meetings is not funded externally and it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain this work financially. A business case has to be submitted to senior management in HSE & FC for attendance of their staff at any overseas meeting.

7. The attached paper only covers machinery and ppe integrity and design standards. It does not deal with the discussions on standards of training and mapping of training and certification (specifically for chainsaw operators) across Europe.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8. AFAG Members are invited to:

- i. Note and comment on the current UK representation on BS, CEN and ISO Standards Committees relevant to the UK forest and arb industries, as detailed in Appendix I – in particular to comment on current representation from the industry and identify any gaps where representation from within the treework industry or HSE/other Government Departments should be considered;

ii. Comment on current or future developments and issues relating to standards work detailed in Appendix II – with a view to identifying new areas of work; and

iii. 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.

**HSE Agriculture & Food Sector**  
**May 2009**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEES RELEVANT TO AFAG  
AND SAFETY WITHIN THE FORESTRY AND ARBORICULTURE INDUSTRIES (Update 5/09)**

WORK ITEM AND UPDATE	COMMITTEE DETAILS		
	BSI	EUROPEAN	INTERNATIONAL
<p><b><u>Forestry Handtools</u></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) <i>Met May 09- Beijing. Jim Dewar to give verbal update at meeting on 21 May 2009</i></p>	<p>AGE 29 Hans Fairley (AEA - Chair) Alan Plom (HSE) Colin Saunders(FC)</p>	<p>Colin Saunders</p>	<p>TC 23/SC 17 Jim Dewar FC</p>
<p><b><u>Forest Machinery</u></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 – ) <i>Met Feb 09 – Lapland. Simon Parry to give verbal update at meeting on 21 May 2009.</i></p>	<p>AGE 29 Hans Fairley (AEA - Chair) Simon Parry(HSE) Alan Plom Colin Saunders (FC)</p>	<p>Colin Saunders Simon Parry</p>	<p>TC 23/SC 15 Simon Parry Colin Saunders</p>

WORK ITEM AND UPDATE	COMMITTEE DETAILS		
	BSI	EUROPEAN	INTERNATIONAL
<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<sup>o</sup> 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 have reviewed current reviewing proposals and further information has been requested. Proposed that issues will be resolved at a WG meeting on 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of September attended by J Liggins UK . WG proposals to be voted upon at SC15 meeting in November attended by C Saunders, UK.  <i>Approval of proposed draft document ISI 8082 – 2 adopted at November 08 meeting. The working group is to develop international standard.</i>  <i>Draft International Standard (DIS) was presented to WG in Lapland Feb 09. The draft has been circulated and approved as a DIS. Voting to occur summer 09.</i></p>	N/A	N/A	TC 23/SC 15/WG 2 Simon Parry Colin Saunders
<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. Proposal submitted to Chair of BS Committee. Will be considered at next meeting. Proposal raised at Lapland meeting 02/08. Likely to be adopted as a NWI.</p>	Colin Saunders Hans Fairley Simon Parry		

	<b>COMMITTEE DETAILS</b>		
<b>WORK ITEM AND UPDATE</b>	<b>BSI</b>	<b>EUROPEAN</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>
<p><b><u>Chainsaw PPE</u></b>            Safety aspects covering protective clothing. Specifically for forestry, gloves, jackets, trousers and boots.</p>	GME6 James Brown	??? James 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. Meeting of WG2 (Noise) and WG3 (Vibration) held on 18 June 2007. Preliminary round-robin tests results for noise and vibration on a range of hand held equipment presented. Completion of round robin tests is currently underway with results presented at ISO SC17 meeting in November 07, ( J Dewar UK Rep). Current ISO test methods and standards reviewed and amended to ensure harmonisation with new EU Machinery Directive. Amendments to be agreed at November meeting.</p> <p>Issue raised by UK delegation at Lapland meeting concerning Noise levels from Chippers etc. Secretary of ISO group to consider action. Large chippers and shredders used in wood fuel/biomass mkt v.likely to become a new work item, ISO 11850 can be applied to wood chippers.</p>	Jim Dewar Colin Saunders	N/A	TC 23/SC 17WG 2 Colin Saunders

<b>WORK ITEM AND UPDATE</b>	<b>COMMITTEE DETAILS</b>		
	<b>BSI</b>	<b>EUROPEAN</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>
<p><b><u>Vibration</u></b>            Technical committee ISO TC 23 SC17 - see comments above on noise.  <i>Jim Dewar attended WG meeting in Beijing in May 2009, will give verbal update at meeting on 21 May 2009</i></p>	N/A	N/A	TC 23/SC 17/WG 3 Simon Parry Colin Saunders
<p><b><u>Vibration</u></b>            Technical committee GME/21/6 - Human exposure to mechanical vibration and shock.</p>	GME/21/6 Paul Brereton (HSE) Chris Nelson (HSE) Jim Dewar (FC) Hans Fairley (AEA/Stihl)	Paul Brereton (HSE)	Paul Brereton (HSE)
<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>	AGE/15 WG 5 Bill Jones (TDB) Bernardine Cooney (HSE)	Keith Hawken Tom Bals	Keith Hawken Tom Bals