

<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE</b>			
<b>CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)</b>			
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## Update on recent activities of CONIAC's working groups

### A paper by the CONIAC Secretariat

#### Purpose of the paper

For information only

1. This paper updates on activities of CONIAC's working groups for the period December 2009 to March 2010.

#### Background

2. CONIAC has established a number of working groups to further its aims. The groups are:
  - Working Well Together Steering Group
  - Safety Working Group
  - Occupational Health Working Group
  - CDM 2007 evaluation Working Group.

#### Argument

3. Updating information for each of the working groups is set out in the **Annex** to this paper. Chairs of the groups mentioned in paragraph 2 have contributed to and agreed this paper.

#### Action

4. CONIAC notes the activities of the working groups.

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**CONIAC working groups: update on activities undertaken  
from December 2009 to March 2010**

**Working Well Together Steering Group (WWT SG)**

1. Despite the current economic climate and the downturn in the Construction Industry, the WWT Campaign continues to deliver key health and safety messages across the country via various methods and routes. These include the traditional Safety Health and Awareness Day (SHAD) type event, White Van Roadshows, small targeted breakfast events, stands at builders merchants, Designer Awareness Days etc. This year has been the 10th Anniversary year of the Campaign and the industry has relentlessly pulled together to deliver our record number of events to the target audience. By the end of the work year we will have run in excess of 60 events and reached over 8000 workers. The average has been 35 events to 4000 workers.

2. Traditionally events are not held in December and January, though a further 26 events are planned for February and March. The new website was launched in October and work is currently under way to complete the Further Guidance area of the site. This will provide intuitive and easy to read guidance aimed at SMEs and individual workers..

3. Two new groups have recently formed, North East and North & West Yorkshire. Both of these WWT groups are the result of bringing local H&S groups together under the WWT umbrella and are actively planning events for the next work year. The next meeting of the WWT Steering Group is on 20 April at HSE offices in Birmingham. The objectives of the meeting are to confirm budgets and workplans for the coming year and to share thoughts, ideas and best practice.

4. 2009/10 has proved to be the best year to date for the Campaign, not only in reaching out and engaging with our target audience, but in raising awareness generally about the Campaign and bringing in new companies and organisations who want to work in partnership with us and each other to help drive down the number of fatalities and accidents within the industry.

**Safety Working Group (SWG)**

5. On 5 November the first meeting was held of a small task and finish group set up to look at work at height and this group reported to the Safety Working Group on 27 January. The accident picture over the last 10 years was reviewed and the group concluded that there was no obvious area which could be tackled to bring about a dramatic reduction in accidents. The group agreed that the problem was essentially in shorter duration work involving tradesmen in micro businesses, ie, the hard to reach group. A longer term

sustained campaign (5 years plus) was suggested to hit this ill-defined target audience with simple messages about precautions which could and should be taken and the potentially devastating consequences of accidents may be appropriate. It would be something specific to construction, and linked to but different from HSE's Shattered Lives campaign. The SWG will submit a short paper to CONIAC outlining conclusions, making recommendations and seeking feedback/endorsement.

6. The SWG also heard about progress of the work of the Strategic Forum for Construction Plant Safety Group to which it has delegated matters of plant safety. In particular the Plant Safety Group provided a very helpful consultation mechanism for preparation of guidance on the *Notification of Conventional Tower Cranes Regulations*, it launching best practice guidance on quick hitches on 4 February, and is making progress with the development of best practice guidance on preventing crushing accidents in mewps, which it expects to publish in Spring 2010. The relationship between the two groups is working well.

7. The SWG is a key consultee for the revision of the HSE guidance publication, *Fire safety in construction work* (HSG 168) for which comments have been sought by 5 February. The SWG has also endorsed the development of a fire course by ConstructionSkills. Members are also considering the wider debate about fire safety and off-site risks. They will be involved in considering the major accident potential research currently being undertaken by CIRIA which includes fire.

### **Occupational Health Working Group (OH WG)**

8. The Group has not met during the last year. Discussions are in progress about how the OH WG might be revitalised, possibly with a number of specific task and finish activities. It is hoped that a first meeting of the revitalised group will occur within the next few months.

### **CDM 2007 evaluation Working Group (CDM WG)**

9. This task and finish group met on 29 January. It:
- signed off its terms of reference after minor amendments. Broadly the main tasks are to:
    - review existing CDM material;
    - consult within stakeholder groups and seek to agree a consensus;
    - comment on the findings of research to pilot evaluation methodologies;
    - provide stakeholder views (focusing on high level messages) on the degree to which the aims of CDM 2007 have been met, the adequacy of industry guidance/ACoP and the need for amendments; and

- provide interim reports to CONIAC.
  - reviewed a log of CDM evaluation issues and discussed how this should operate in future. It was agreed that it would be useful to capture in a table ongoing issues brought to HSE's or the CDM WG's attention and then regularly update this. It should cover the significant issues of most concern to the CDM WG under the headings provided by the (former) Health and Safety Commission's stated aims for CDM 2007 and 'other significant' issues, and alongside these any related points of detail.
  - had a presentation on and asked questions about a recent pilot to develop the survey methodology and question set for HSE's formal evaluation of CDM 2007. Because of the relatively small sample size (64), Members were asked not to place too much emphasis on the results (although these seemed to indicate that 3 out of the 5 aims were being met and 2 partially met). Members agreed to feed back any views on the question set or areas to probe in interviews as part of the full evaluation.
  - provided a useful opportunity for Members to report back on what their organisations had already done to help evaluate CDM 2007, had planned or other ideas and the aims in which they had most interest. It was agreed to draw together a summary of these reports and seek an update at the next meeting.
10. Some work already initiated by members of the CDM WG includes:
- review of existing CDM material;
  - a December 2009 workshop (APS/ICE);
  - a survey among specialist contractors (SEC Group) and another among clients (CCG);
  - designer meetings;
  - discussion at various health and safety committees;
  - planned regional meetings (ECIA and APS); and
  - likely feedback from the Inter-Institution Panel by mid-summer 2010.