

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE			
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)			
Meeting date:	14 March 2012	FOI status:	Fully open
Type of paper:	Above-the-line	Exemptions:	None
TRIM reference:	2012/79540	Paper No:	M1/2012/1
Cleared by:	Philip White, Chair of CONIAC, on 20 February 2012		

Update on recent activities of CONIAC's Working Groups

Summary

1. This paper updates CONIAC on activities of its working groups for the period November 2011 to March 2012.

Background

2. CONIAC has established the following Working Groups to further its aims:
 - Health Risks
 - Working Well Together Steering Group
 - Catastrophic Events
 - Safety

Argument

3. CONIAC's terms of reference provide as follows: "Each Working Group shall have and, subject to its endorsement by CONIAC, carry forward a Work Plan. CONIAC shall monitor the activities of the Working Groups and hold them to account for delivery of their Work Plans. Reports from Working Groups shall be a standing agenda item for CONIAC meetings."
4. Updating information for each of the Working Groups is set out in the **Annex** to this paper.

Recommendations

5. CONIAC notes the activities of the working groups.

Contact

Michael J Ryan, CONIAC Secretariat (michael.ryan@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

Health Risks Working Group

1. CONIAC Health Risks Working Group (WG) met for the sixth time on 1 February.
2. The HWG Position statement was discussed by WG members following comment received at the November main CONIAC meeting. This is now being revised with assistance provided from the Trades Unions group members.
3. The guidance for employers entitled *Understanding Occupational Health Management in Construction* is being further revised to take account of additional comment from WG members. This guidance has now been developed in two formats: a short two-side basic guide and an accompanying fuller detailed document. It is then intended to place this guidance on HSE's and WG members' websites. Discussion is also being held with HSE's Communications Directorate colleagues over the feasibility of establishing a CONIAC 'logo' for deliverables such as this. Supplements to the guidance are also planned for employees and for the design community.
4. WG members have been tasked with identifying their representative bodies' 'top 5 health risks' for discussion at the next meeting with a view to exploring whether any simple message self-help checklists/tools for the SME can be developed.
5. An initial scoping meeting has been held with the Health and Safety Laboratory to develop the WG proposal for a behavioural maturity measure for health risk management. A Health Risk Management Maturity Index (HeRMMIn) will be produced as a self-assessment tool which it is anticipated will provide leading indicator intelligence on how health issues are dealt with in construction and so assist the WG and HSE in future targeting.
6. At the last meeting the WG was pleased to welcome Dr Paul Madgwick, of Sheffield NHS Hospitals Trust, who presented his IOSH funded project work on raising the awareness of skin cancer from solar exposure. Skin cancer is the commonest form of cancer making up 30% of the total and Dr Madgwick explained its incidence costs the NHS more than £100m per year. With HSE and industry specialists involvement he has produced a 'Sun safety' DVD product which as part of a skin cancer awareness campaign starting in April 2012 he hopes will produce a cultural change in attitudes and behaviours to a disease which recent statistics tells us records 100,000 cases per year (500 deaths in 2008) of the non-melanoma type, and 12,000 cases of melanoma per year (2000 deaths in 2008).
7. The next WG meeting is set for Wednesday 30 May.

Working Well Together Steering Group

Neil Stephens, Chair of the WWT Steering Group, will provide an oral update to CONIAC at the meeting on 14 March.

Catastrophic Events Working Group

1. The purpose of the Working Group (WG) is to advise CONIAC on the steps that should be taken to respond to the findings and conclusions of the HSE Contract Research Report RR834 "Preventing Catastrophic Events in Construction". The WG's tasks and responsibilities include:

- Developing proposals for an industry-wide response to the report including identifying the "what, how, when and who" for taking forward workstreams to address the findings and conclusions
- Monitoring progress with the workstreams and reporting to CONIAC on progress and advising on remedial actions, if necessary

A first meeting was held on 6 February. Among the actions agreed were:

- Potential grouping of issues for taking forward – prepare options paper for comment by WG members
- Development of leading performance indicators – discuss potential for UKCG to take this work forward
- Raising awareness of the issues raised in RR834:
 - (i) draft letter and questionnaire for circulation to "Top 200" construction companies to remind them of research and to enquire what action they have taken or intend to take in response.
 - (ii) explore potential to work with NCE on publicising the establishment of the WG and intention of the group to send out the letter/questionnaire.
 - (iii) report back to WG at next meeting on the potential for using Cabinet Office guidelines/Common Minimum Standards to promote improved management of low probability/high consequence events.

A further 6 meetings are planned at approximately 3-month intervals

Safety Working Group

Since last update to CONIAC the following has occurred or is in progress:

- amendment of Work at Height business plan to account for comments of main CONIAC.
- at 20 February meeting:
 - exploration with HSE's Work Environment, Radiation and Gas Division (WERG) and Communications on formulation of a strategy and plan for communications
 - identification on how/who to enlist for the evaluation plan.
 - Update on progress with work of Strategic Forum for Construction Plant Safety Group
 - Update from policy colleagues about the regulatory review agenda/Löfstedt review and commented on some of the recommendations
 - update from policy colleagues about proposal to revoke the Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989. Members were concerned only that when the change is made HSE undertakes effective communications work to ensure that duty holders understand the need to provide and ensure use of head protection remains.
- At April 2012 meeting:
 - will take reports on AIF training and equipment gap analysis
- At September 2012 meeting:
 - A presentation on HSL research on equipment for working on domestic properties.