

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE			
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)			
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Update on recent activities of CONIAC's Working Groups

A paper by CONIAC Secretariat

Summary

1. This paper updates CONIAC on activities of its working groups for the period April 2015 to July 2015.

Background

2. CONIAC may establish Working Groups to further its aims. Currently, the following groups exist:

- Asbestos Liaison Group
- Safety Working Group
- Working Well Together Steering Group
- Health Risks Working Group

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.

Recommendation

5. CONIAC notes the activities of the Working Groups.

Contacts

Simon Longbottom, Simon.longbottom@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Michael J Ryan: Michael.ryan@hse.gsi.gov.uk

ASBESTOS LIAISON GROUP (ALG)

The last ALG meeting was held on Wednesday 20 May 2015.

Points of interest

Previous ALG minutes and meeting papers are available at

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/meetings/committees/alg/index.htm>

The minutes from the meeting held on 20 May should be available by mid-July.

Changes to ALG membership

- Dave Nichol has replaced Eddie Strong as UKATA Representative
- Melanie Tolson is the new Local Authority Representative (Melanie is based in Halifax, Calderdale Council)
- The 20 May meeting was also attended by Colin Smith from UKAS as a guest (UKAS accredit analysts who carry out site clearance certification)..

Items discussed

- The meeting was updated on the set up of the asbestos community pages on the HSE website.
- Work continues on updating details of waste sites used by LARCs (Licensed Asbestos removal Contractors). ALU have written to all LARCs, which will also assist with updating ALUs records of contact details.
- CDM Update – Simon Longbottom delivered a presentation covering the impact of CDM 2015 on the asbestos removal industry. CDM 2015 should not make any substantial difference in terms of current practice. LARCs still have the same basic duties and responsibilities.
- Licensed Contractors Guide - The meeting was updated on progress with the revised version of the Licensed Contractors Guide. Graham Warren (ACAD) provided an update on the industry work he has been coordinating and the target for circulating the draft will be following the technical review at the end of June. The guidance will eventually go out for consultation, but not until it has been through the HSE policy team.
- Analysts Project – Archie Mitchell provided an update on the latest position with the analyst project which is prompted by a wish to confirm that analysts are carrying out their role. The project feeds in the new analyst guide which will be made available for consultation in due course.
- Prosecution details since the last ALG were presented by Rob Hirst and Annette Leppla provided the latest statistical return (number of inspections, number of notifications etc.)
- Under AOB Helen Ratcliffe provided feedback following evaluation of the recent asbestos campaign and Susan Murray drew the groups attention to the continuing global campaign to sign countries up to the Rotterdam Convention.

The next meeting will be held on 20 October 2015

SAFETY WORKING GROUP (SWG)

1. A task and finish sub-group has been set up to look at current guidance and practices involving construction of tall buildings and consider production of specific guidance to address this area. An initial meeting has taken place between its chair and secretary (both provided by Berkeley Group) and HSE to set a plan and format to move forward. As well as the volunteers from the Safety Working Group the chair is in contact with senior management at several contractors experienced in tall buildings to see if they would also like to participate and bring their knowledge to the table. A series of meetings will have been put in place by the time CONIAC meets.

2. The Safety Working Group would like to run a fragile roofs week, as is done with general industry safety weeks, to try and help get the message across to industry and particularly to SMEs. The Group recognises that the behavioural safety research into fragile roof/rooflight safety mentioned at the last meeting will take time to research, commission, run and analyse. We are therefore keen to try and do something to raise awareness and hopefully change attitudes before that. We have invited representatives from various industry representative trade bodies, including the Builder's Merchants Federation, to see what approach might be taken. BMF has been invited as, in a similar way to the last asbestos campaign where information packs were handed out via B&Q Trade Counter, it is felt they are well placed to target SMEs that do not belong to industry organisations and that this might be as simple as asking them to include some form of link on their invoices. What we actually do for that week remains to be considered more fully, though SMEs are the clear target. Though this is aimed at construction HSE's agriculture sector has been invited as have the chairs from the English, Welsh and Scottish Farm Safety partnerships, as this is another sector that has a poor record in this area.

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WORKING WELL TOGETHER STEERING GROUP (WWT)

1. In the first quarter (April – June) of 2015/2016, WWT delivered 25 events. The WWT groups were identified as the main mechanism for rolling out CDM 2015 to small construction businesses in 2015/2016 and in line with this, 13 of the 25 events held to date have focused (entirely or significantly) on CDM 2015. The feedback from these CDM (and all WWT events) remains very positive.

2. The results from the exercise to evaluate the longer term effectiveness of WWT events in 2014/2015 were very encouraging. These were initially presented at the March 2015 CONIAC meeting and have now been circulated to all the WWT groups to encourage interest in WWT and the work it delivers. For 2015/2016, the evaluation procedures have also been reviewed by the HSE Science Directorate and appropriate improvements identified and implemented.

3. There has been significant interest towards forming new WWT groups in the Hampshire/Oxfordshire and also the Cambridgeshire regions. We expect to be in a position to open formal meetings/discussions on potential new WWT groups in both these areas shortly.

HEALTH RISKS WORKING GROUP (HWG)

1. CONIAC Health Risks Working Group (WG) met for the fourteenth time on 17 June 2015. Joining the existing group members, the WG Chair Ian Strudley welcomed Martin Coyd as the new UKCG representative, and Mike Slater, President of the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS).
2. The WG guidance Occupational Health risk management in construction has been cleared for endorsement with HSE's logo. IOSH colleagues (who assisted the group in formatting the original version) are currently producing a final version of the document for publishing on HSE and member websites. A press notice to announce its release will be produced.
3. The activities of the CONIAC mandated 'Health Task Group' formed after the CONIAC 'member challenge on health' at the July 2014 meeting, and the group plans for action were discussed. Chaired by Clive Johnson, participation in the next Construction 2025 industry summit on 9 September 2015 has been confirmed. Peter Baker will be assisting in the group's presentation on the day. Plans are also being taken forward to stage high level events specifically on driving forward the health agenda in construction first on October 22 2015 (for CEO level) and then in January 2016 (date tbc) for health and safety/operational practitioners. The Group's activities, now known as the 'Construction Health Leadership Group' has also spawned a number of further groups to target specific objectives. These are a: 'Healthy Design' group, a Baseline data group and a 'Best practice hub'.
4. Updates on various partnership groups / campaign activities were given by members. These were: DH Responsibility deal group, Construction Dust Partnership, BOHS 'Breathe freely' campaign, IOSH 'No time to lose' campaign and the industry supply chain project on paving road and highway work. The number of and breadth of activities from these groups demonstrates the significant momentum being driven forward on improving the management of health risks in the industry.
5. For future outputs a substantial discussion was held on what the WG could contribute to the construction mental health agenda. Acknowledged in last year's 'CONIAC member challenge on health' as one of the industry's most significant problems it was agreed that the WG could act as an 'accelerator' for various work / campaigns, i.e. assist, but importantly not duplicate what is already going on to improve mental health issues in the industry. In the first instance HSE officials would collate information on what activities are going on / planned and collaborate with members accordingly.
6. Date of next meeting is Wednesday 7 October, HSE Rose Court.

End of paper