

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE			
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)			
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<b>Cleared by:</b>	Peter Baker, Chair of CONIAC, on 1 March 2016		

## Update on recent activities of CONIAC's Working Groups

### A paper by Ian Strudley, Secretary to CONIAC

#### Summary

1. This paper updates CONIAC on activities of its working groups for the period November 2015 to March 2016.

#### Background

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

- Asbestos Liaison Group
- Health Risks Working Group
- Safety Working Group
- Working Well Together Steering 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. Each group was invited to provide information on up to three most significant issues being taken forward.

#### Recommendation

5. CONIAC notes the activities of the Working Groups and comments how it may contribute to the delivery of those groups' activities.

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## **ASBESTOS LIAISON GROUP (ALG)**

The last ALG meeting was held on Thursday 11 February 2016.

1. Strategy for Health and Safety - The ALG was briefed on the revised strategy for the health and safety system and asked for their views. The key aim is to get good health and safety recognised as an enabler of good business. The overarching point is that those who create the risk must manage it in a proportionate way and this involves everyone in the health and safety system playing their part by sharing and promoting sensible risk management. ALG members emphasized HSE's role in good regulation and its enforcement. Following consultation with stakeholders at roadshows throughout January, the new strategy is due to be launched at the end of February.
2. Analysts' Guide - Some small businesses have expressed concern about the cost implications of the guidance and HSE is working on a cost benefit analysis to which ALG may be called upon for input. Competition is driving costs down and there is concern that this is having a detrimental effect on standards. It was agreed that clients need to become better informed about the service they pay for. The revised Analysts' Guide is driven by a need to improve the quality of four stage clearance process across the industry.
3. UKATA (UK Asbestos Training Association) welcomed the ARMI (Asbestos Removal Management Institute) guidance on competency. They would now like to develop something similar to ensure that trainers (and others involved in training) are working to a strategy that supports that approach. The Independent Asbestos Training Providers (IATP) are also supportive and wish to be involved. Consequently it was suggested that the guidance needed to be broadened to involve all training providers to encourage the sharing of best practice. It was agreed that UKATA would attend the next ALG to provide more detail.

## **HEALTH RISKS WORKING GROUP (HWG)**

The last HWG meeting was held on Tuesday 26 January 2016

1. Stress and Mental Health. There is significant interest within the group and wider industry to take forward action on this. It is proposed to introduce the Australian initiative Mates in Construction (<http://www.matesinconstruction.org.au/>) to the UK within 2016. This work is already feeding into the HCLG (Health in Construction Leadership Group). The HWG mental health sub-group agreed it should focus its efforts on how to complement the Mates in Construction work in the industry to prevent duplication. This work will include how best to adapt the significant amount of existing material on stress related issues to a construction industry audience.

2. Wider Work. Updates from group members show the breadth of work that is on-going:- the success of the HCLG 'Health Summit' together with the planned follow up event and the work of its sub groups; the IOSH 'No Time to Lose' campaign and its imminent focus on silica; BOHS 'Breathe Freely' events; the Construction Dust Partnership work to 'take the dust message to site'; and HSL hosting 'Listen Up', the first European hearing conservation conference, on 02 March.
3. Where Next. The wide variety of work on-going on health issues is a great success story but also presents challenges for the future. There is a desire to learn the lessons from the industry's safety journey. In particular to prevent frustration in the supply chain by ensuring that the focus, messaging and expected standards are consistent. The emphasis on health in the new HSE strategy and the recent summit provide an ideal opportunity to produce a central narrative. The group started to discuss issues around this. Future meetings will consolidate this and build on the strands emerging from the strategy and industry work.

## **SAFETY WORKING GROUP (SWG)**

The last SWG meeting was held on Tuesday 2 February 2016

1. Fragile roofs. A task and finish sub-group is being set up to drive this initiative forward, with HSE leadership from David Cory. Participants will include Kevin Fear (CITB), Ian Henning (NFRC), David Thomas (TWF) and hopefully a representative from one of the Farm Safety Partnerships.
2. Tall Buildings Group. New concise guidance including the use of case study material is being drafted by a core number of group members. With editorial input from others it recognises the need to bring together information from a variety of sources in one publication and supplement it where appropriate beyond what is available purely for completed buildings. The guidance is aimed at larger contractors / clients / designers although SMEs undertaking subsequent maintenance work should still find it useful. CITB have found a professional editor and Berkeley Group (who host and chair the group) are kindly funding them via its Innovation Fund. CITB has also agreed to host and copyright the guidance although it is hoped to secure HSE endorsement with its logo and an appropriate HSE foreword.

## **WORKING WELL TOGETHER STEERING GROUP (WWT)**

The most recent WWT Steering Group meeting was held before the November ConIAC meeting and the next is set for March 10 2016.

1. WWT will deliver a minimum of 80 events by the end of March 2016 . In line with the HSE Plan of Work, a number of these events have reflected the increased focus on occupational Health /disease and supported the embedding of the CDM 2015 regulations. The WWT Occupational Health poster has been finalised (a draft version was discussed at the March 2015 CONIAC meeting). The image is now freely available for use by all.
2. Following the recent flooding in parts of the country, some of the regional groups have arranged special events to provide relevant health and safety information for businesses, contractors and homeowners in the affected areas. The feedback from these has been very positive.
3. There has been progress in our efforts to increase WWT coverage/activity across the country (also discussed at the March 2015 CONIAC meeting) in particular Cambridgeshire, Hampshire, Sussex and Kent. The WWT Anglia group are planning to hold events and meetings in the Cambridgeshire regions to raise awareness and attract members. We are working with stakeholders to set up a WWT group in the Hampshire region in Q3 of 2016/2017 and a preliminary meeting to discuss expanding WWT activity into the Sussex/Kent areas was held on 12/02/2016.