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HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)

Review of recent activities of CONIAC sub-groups

A paper by the CONIAC Secretariat

Cleared by Philip White, Chair of CONIAC, on 26 October 2009

Summary

For information only

1. This paper reviews the work of CONIAC's sub-groups for the period July 2009 to November 2009.

Timing

2. Routine

Recommendation

3. CONIAC notes the activities of the sub-groups.

Background

4. CONIAC has asked to be kept informed of the work of its sub-groups:

- Working Well Together Steering Group
- Safety Working Group
- Occupational Health Working Group
- CDM 2007 evaluation Working Group.

Updating information for each of the above is set out in the **Annex** to this paper.

Consultation

5. Chairs of the Groups mentioned in paragraph 4 have contributed to and agreed this paper.

Contact

Michael J Ryan, CONIAC Secretariat, 1st Floor, Mercantile Chambers, 53 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6TS, Tel: 0141 275 3107, e-mail:

Michael.ryan@hse.gsi.gov.uk

**CONIAC sub-groups: update on activities undertaken
from July 2009 to November 2009**

Information on the scope and general aims of the Working Well Together Steering Group, the Safety Working Group and the Occupational Health Working Group can be found in paper **M1/2009/4**.

The CDM 2007 WG has been established by CONIAC in order to assist HSE with its formal evaluation of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM 2007).

1. Working Well Together Steering Group (WWT SG)

Information on recent and forthcoming activities of the WWT SG, particularly in regard to events in connection with its tenth anniversary, can be found in paper **M3/2009/4**.

2. Safety Working Group (SWG)

This group met on 15 September. It:

- was advised that draft revised guidance on fire safety in construction work (HSG 168) would be circulated to it by November.
- discussed dissemination of a document alerting on risks from carbon monoxide, and suggested that security firms and companies hiring/selling containers and portable buildings should be targeted.
- agreed to the formation of a sub-group to identify issues and review standards in relation to work at height. A trawl of views from HSE inspectors highlighted the following issues for consideration: lack of edge protection for roofwork; poor scaffolding standards; poor control of falls *into* buildings; and site supervisor competence and planning. Members were asked to contribute case studies of fall accidents.
- was updated on work being carried out on its behalf by the Strategic Forum Plant Safety Working Group. This included preparation of guidance to support the new Regulations on notification of tower cranes. The SWG's role would be to approve the guidance, a draft of which was expected by mid-November. Additionally, work is underway in relation to quick hitches and MEWPs. On the former, a guide for managers and a guide for operators should be on the CPA web site by the end of 2009. On MEWPs, initial guidance (with more to follow) is expected by the end of the year.

- offered a number of suggestions for work to be done by HSE in the 2010-2011 operational year including: (i) a focus on basic safety issues for SMEs and those working for domestic clients; and (ii) encouragement of training/development of people and worker involvement in risk assessments.

3. Occupational Health Working Group (OH WG)

The Group has not met during the last year. However, discussions are in progress about how the Group might be revitalised, possibly with a number of specific task and finish activities. Among those with whom discussions have been held are some existing CONIAC members, IOSH and Constructing Better Health, with others to follow. It is hoped that a first meeting of the revitalised group will occur within the next few months.

4. CDM 2007 evaluation Working Group

This newly-established Group met for the first time on 26 October 2009. The meeting was mainly devoted to introductions, clarifying the group's purposes (ie its relationship to HSE's formal evaluation of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM 2007)) and a preliminary discussion of its terms of reference. It is a task and finish group that is due to report in November 2010.

The members of the group are: Steve Acaster (Persimmon), Richard Ash (Engineering Construction Industry Association), Greg Brown (Association for Project Safety), Paul Bussey (Scott Brownrigg), Kevin Fear (ConstructionSkills), Professor Rudi Klein (Specialist Engineering Contractors' Group), David Lambert (Institution of Civil Engineers), Rob Miguel (UNITE), Alan Muddiman (Construction Confederation), Peter O'Connell (Federation of Master Builders), Colin Silcock (G & J Seddon), Ian Simms (Royal Mail Group) and David Watson (WSP UK), with one other appointment pending. Chair and Secretariat are being provided by HSE.

It is fundamental that the working group evaluates against the Health and Safety Commission's stated aims for CDM 2007. Members asked for and agreed to share various items of background information. They would provide feedback on the draft terms of reference and help identify issues for discussion at future meetings.