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Exempt material: None

Type of Paper: Above the Line

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)

Harnessing designers' skills to deliver a healthier and safer construction industry – current position

Issue

1. To update members on the current position on the development of improving health and safety through the elimination or reduction of risk by design.

Background

2. Members have been kept informed at meetings M1/2003 and M2/2003 about developments on harnessing designers' skills to deliver a healthier and safer construction industry. In brief members are aware that:
 - At meeting M1/2003, members discussed issues for improving the industry's health and safety performance through good design;
 - In May 2003, a 'Think Tank' was held involving a diverse group with design interests, experience and expertise from throughout the construction supply chain to develop these ideas further;
 - At meeting M2/2003, the 'Think Tank' conclusions and a 'way forward' were discussed. Members agreed with the conclusions of the paper to develop a forum, engagement with stakeholders, to develop key commitments and decisions.
3. Forthcoming developments include a press conference on 21 November 2003 to be held at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Westminster at which Construction Industry Council will launch their 'Design Notes' and CIRIA will launch a revised

'Report 166: CDM regulations – Work sector guidance for designers'. It is also hoped that:

- CITB will showcase their new IOSH accredited course for designers;
 - Construction Confederation will set out what MCG companies expect from the designer;
 - Loughborough University will describe their 'Design for Health' (D4H) initiative; and,
 - 'Safety in Design' will describe their development of competency standards for individual designers.
4. Geoff Cox, Construction Division will update members on the current position with these and related developments, in particular the way forward following the decisions taken by CONIAC at meeting M2/2003.

Action

5. CONIAC members are invited to:
- Note the opportunity to be informed on the current position on the development of improving health and safety through the elimination of hazards by design.

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