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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)

REPORT FROM CONIAC SMALL FIRMS ADVISORY GROUP (SFAG)

Summary

This paper reports on the SFAG meeting held on 22 May 2003

Issue

1 This paper updates CONIAC members on discussions at SFAG meeting M1/2003 held on 22 May 2003. Unfortunately only a few members were able to attend this meeting.

Harmonising Employee Consultation Regulations

2 Members were informed on the current timetable for these regulations. If the current timetable is followed a Consultative Document will be published in early autumn and will be open for a period of 3-4 months.

3 Members commented that the eventual regulations should not be overly prescriptive to allow current successful models to be used.

Temporary Work at Height Regulations

4 Gwyneth Deakins gave an oral update on the current status of Temporary Working at Height Regulations. These regulations are to be presented to the HSC in July with a Consultation Document being published in August if Commission workload allows.

5 Members thanked the HSE for the long and comprehensive consultation and expressed that by working well together the public consultation period should run smoother which in turn should allow the regulations to come into effect by the due date (27 July 2004).

Whole Body Vibration Directive

6 Brian Coles from Health Directorate gave the members a comprehensive background to the subject which was greatly appreciated by the members. The Directive for WBV was adopted on July 2001 for implementation in July 2005. WBV is a complex issue and although stems from the mining industry has great implications in construction. The new regulations have an upper limit of 1.15m/s². More research is needed to establish figures for plant and equipment and it is intended that key intermediaries will be approached to help with this research.

Action Plans and Revitalising Health & Safety

7 Martin Thurgood reminded members that challenging RHS targets were set and that members need to revisit their Action Plans to update and establish deliverables. Members need to engage with the groups they represent to drive the agenda forward. He challenged those present to report on what their organisations had managed to deliver so far. The members present reported that their organisations were delivering although in some cases it had been difficult to establish benchmarks.

8 Members suggested that organisations could ask their members to report eg RIDDOR notifications to the centre as well as to HSE or to use the 'Respect for People' Toolkit.

9 Members agreed to report back to their organisations on updating Action Plans and producing deliverables with milestones.

Working Well Together

10 Joy Jones informed members on current WWT issues. They were informed on new material on the website and that the site was under review with a remit of improving access and information retrieval.

11 FMB was thanked for their support for SHADs (13 venues with 2300 SMEs attending ie about 1000 individual companies reaching about 75% of the target audience). Evaluation has shown that circa 86% of the poll had implemented changes in health & safety as a result of attending a SHAD.

12 The new 'High 5' leaflet aimed at micro-SMEs (less than 15 workers) was launched at the Birmingham SHAD on 3 June and a new video is being produced by BRE with the High 5 as a central theme.

13 Members agreed to ask the organizations they represent for assistance in finding sponsorship of £3000 for a new award for SMEs on the "4 C's".

14 Members were informed that rather than a national conference this year, the intention is to develop local conferences with an agenda decided locally.

CONIAC

15 Members were interested to learn about the 'Designer Think Tank' meeting that had taken place after the last CONIAC as means to establish key issues in design. They were informed that last CONIAC and the Think Tank were being used as basis by BOMEL Ltd to produce a strategy paper on design for the next CONIAC.

Action

16 CONIAC members are asked to note the above report.

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