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## **HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION**

### **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)**

#### **Report from CONIAC Occupational Health Working Party**

##### **Summary**

This paper reports on the outcomes of the Occupational Health Working Party meeting of 11 June 2003.

##### **Occupational Health Pilot**

1 Gavin Pugh updated members on progress with the Occupational Health Pilot. OHWP members were reminded that they had asked CONIAC to nominate influential figures from the construction industry to form an 'Action Forum'. CONIAC agreed to this request, and HSE received the following nominations:

- Chris McEwan (National Federation of Builders)
- Trevor Walker (Construction Confederation)
- Ian Davis (Federation of Master Builders)
- Frazer Clement (CITB)
- Jeff Hopewell (UCATT)
- Rodger Evans (DTI)
- Mike Cosman (HSE)

2 We have also been working with Carl Gebhard from Zurich Insurance in order to secure a representative from the Association of British Insurers. The first meeting of the forum is scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup> 2003 – later than originally planned, because of the challenge of finding time in member's busy diaries. Issues currently on the draft agenda for this first meeting are:

- Appointing a Chair
- Agreeing the Terms of Reference for the Action Forum
- The fundraising strategy
- The fund holding mechanism
- The process and selection criteria for the product/provider

3 HSE is also currently investigating the possibility of hiring a professional fundraiser/fundraising consultant to contribute towards the Action Forum's fundraising efforts.

## **MCG Occupational Health Policy**

4. The working group heard from John Morgan about progress which the MCG have made in implementing their policy on Occupational Health. Briefing material for 'tool box talks' have been developed for use on all MCG sites covering the key HSE priorities of HAVS and noise, Cement Dermatitis and manual handling. Agreement has been reached on the way in which ill health statistics will be collected by the group, and work had started on developing the OH questionnaire which the MCG are developing for distribution by their sub-contractors. Richard Boland agreed to attend the next meeting of the MCG Occupational Health working group which is scheduled for July in order to see what help HSE can offer.

### **Development of Guidance**

5. CIRIA are making good progress with the development of their new guidance booklet aimed at site foreman/manager entitled 'A Site Health Handbook'. Richard Boland reported that HSE now had a first draft almost complete for their own guidance booklet entitled 'Managing Occupational Health in Construction'. HSE sits on the steering group for the CIRIA publication, and are confident that the two publications will not significantly overlap, as they are specifically aimed at different target populations.

6. Progress was also reported on the revision of the HSE information sheets on 'handling heavy blocks' and 'the provision of welfare facilities at transient construction sites'. HSE also intends to produce a new information sheet on handling kerbs by the end of March 2004.

### **Chromium VI in Cement**

7. Working party members welcomed news that the proposal to restrict the level of Chrome (VI) in cement had been adopted by the European Commission. The Directive is expected to be published in the European Journal in the near future, and from the date of publication member states will have 1 year to introduce implementing legislation.

### **Updates**

8. The working party received updates on progress with the implementation of the amendments to the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations; implementation of the Noise and Vibration Directives; developments in the management of stress and progress with HSE construction OH research.

### **Action**

9. CONIAC members are asked to note the above report.

### **Contact**

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