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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)

A Brief Review of the Activities of CONIAC Sub - Groups April 2005 –March 2006

Summary

This paper summarises the activities carried out by CONIAC's sub-groups for the period April 2005 – March 2006.

Issue

1. CONIAC sub-group activities during 2005 – 2006.

Timing

2. Routine.

Recommendation

3. That CONIAC members note the activities of its sub-groups during 2005 – 2006.

Background

4. Since its reconstitution in April 2004, CONIAC has been supported by the following sub-groups:

- The Working Well Together Steering Group (WWT)
- The Worker Engagement Working Party
- The Occupational Health Working Party (OHWP)
- The Safety Working Party
- The CDM Regulations¹ Review Working Party
- The Designer Working Party.

Objectives for each Group can be found at Annex 1, and details of their activities can be found at paragraphs 5 – 34.

¹ The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations

Working Well Together Steering Group

5. Accident records for 2004/05 show that two-thirds of the fatal accidents are suffered in firms with 15 or fewer workers. There is no reason to suppose the prevalence of non-fatal injuries is less, although low reporting levels may affect the RIDDOR²-reported statistics. During 2005/06, the WWT Campaign focused on improvement in the micro SME sector (the 1-15 worker category), particularly the 1-5 category.
6. The Campaign included tried and tested WWT activities such as the giving of awards (including to the No1 Worker) - this year integrated into Building Magazine's Health and Safety Awards 2005; nationwide Roadshow tours (20 sites); White Van Tours (43 sites); Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs) and High Risk/High Influence events like Designer Awareness Days (DADs) or Working at Height SHADs (33 to date with six more taking place by the end of March).
7. On 5 September, Danny Carrigan, Health and Safety Commissioner and HSC Construction Champion, launched the five-week national 2005 Roadshow tour which visited construction sites in order to highlight areas that are most likely to pose health and safety risks on the site. The tour also sought to encourage everyone to co-operate to bring about improvements and included interactive demonstrations highlighting the importance of safe lifting techniques, transport-viewing aids and safety harnesses. Construction employees were also given the opportunity to test their hearing levels.
8. The Steering Group is supported by its own growing network of Regional Groups, which have become increasingly independent in taking forward initiatives. (Currently there are 13 Regional Groups with at least one more in the planning stage). An example of their innovative work was the "SHACavan" Plymouth pilot. This was organised by the South West Group who worked closely with the Plymouth Building Control Officers to target the smaller domestic sector, not normally invited to the SHADs. The pilot consisted of two 2-3 hour mini-SHADs early in the day. Delegates were then offered a half-day Risk Assessment Workshop and free registration to the Contractor's Health and Safety Assessment Scheme³. The pilot has been very successful and WWT is planning to run a similar pilot in Cardiff in 2006/07.
9. In 2005/06, industry partners contributed money and resource to Campaign activities to the value of £1.2m - mainly SHADs - but including £85,000 sponsorship for Roadshow and White Van Tours. This demonstrates how committed the industry is in helping to reduce the number of fatalities and accidents and the high profile the Campaign still maintains within it.
10. The full range of activities carried out in 2005/06 is given at Annex 2.

Looking ahead:

11. The Campaign will continue with WWT SHADs and High Risk/Influence events (but incorporating the latest key health and safety messages i.e. Falls and Backs Campaigns); SHAD "plus"⁴; WWT website and WWT News and WWT Awards (again

² Reporting of Injuries Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995

³ <http://www.chas.gov.uk/>

⁴ Risk Assessment Workshops. A new development responding to the need to go beyond awareness to improve competence in performing risk assessments and producing method statements. Implemented 2005/06 following a pilot in 04/05.

run in conjunction with Building Magazine, in London on 22 June). Continued support will be given to existing Regional Groups and the formation of new groups will be encouraged to help countrywide coverage. The national WWT Roadshow and White Van Tours are currently being evaluated. This, together with the need to prioritise within our budget, means that they will not form part of the WWT Programme this year. However, some of the Regional groups have shown an interest in running their own White Van tours, as did the Anglia Group this year. In addition, Asda is very keen to work with WWT next year and run their own White Van initiative on their sites nationally. This may well lead to other large retail clients wanting to run their own White Van Programmes. A Building Control Officers Pilot will be run in Cardiff (building on the Plymouth "SHACavan" pilot).

Worker Engagement Working Party

12. During 2005/06, Working Party Members have engaged in a significant amount of consultation on a number of matters. Since the report to CONIAC on the Worker Engagement Initiative in July 2005⁵, significant resource has been committed to the launch and monitoring of the Worker Engagement Tool on the website. The tool will help employers to assess whether their standards of consultation and worker engagement are adequate. Initial monitoring suggests that there has been steady access of the tool by users. Further development of the tool will be taking place through Spring 2006, assisted by Bomel Consulting who will host a version of the tool on their website.
13. From October 2005 to May 2006, Glasgow Caledonian university researchers will be measuring the effectiveness of selected methods of worker engagement in a range of over 20 sites nationwide. Sites and participating contractors have been selected through the work of research partner MACE.
14. The current phase of HSE's Construction Division's (CD's) Worker Engagement Initiative includes fieldwork by CD inspectors across the UK who will be raising the topic of worker engagement at selected inspections and investigations. Where inspectors find no evidence of compliance then enforcement will be considered.
15. David Dean, a long-serving Principal Inspector in Leeds, has drawn on his lengthy experience of worker consultation in the construction industry to write a "blue skies" paper to open a discussion with the Working Party. . This paper opens a debate on how HSE, unions and industry stakeholders can work together to improve standards. This paper was considered at a special joint Project and Working Group meeting in Leeds on February 22nd.
16. A positive outcome of the last 12 months has been the production of eight case studies on the HSE website⁶. These case studies describe actions taken by a range of contractors (from small to large), on a range of sites (from medium sized to very large). The case studies present evidence that these actions have led to improved standards on site, through improving worker engagement. One of the key messages is that it requires action by managers, and clients, as well as workers, to make a sustained difference. The Worker Engagement message is clearly a "business improvement"

⁵ CONIAC Paper M2 2005/1: (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/hsc/iacs/coniac/200705/m220051.pdf>)

⁶ <http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/engagement/casestudies.htm>

message. More case studies are in the pipeline, and more are sought to build up the library and evidence base through 2006/07.

Looking ahead:

17. The Initiative will be taking part in the cross-HSE Worker Involvement project⁷ on Hand Arm Vibrations (HAVs) and Noise, working with contractors and specialists to develop guidance materials for the industry. This project will demonstrate how principles of worker engagement can lead to better quality decisions on how to manage risks to individuals from HAVs and Noise. On September 20th a Conference on Worker Engagement is planned at Rose Court.

Occupational Health Working Party

18. OHWP considered and advised on a wide variety of topics over the period having agreed that the OHWP Statement of Purpose and Key Priorities of February 2003 remained appropriate subject to minor updates. Frequently discussed topics were the Occupational Health Management Model, the Supply Chain Project and Constructing Better Health. Also discussed were Site Welfare, Healthy Handling and Backs! 2005, Asbestos Management and the HSL stress research (see paragraphs 22 to 25).

19. Occupational Health Management Model Pilot⁸: OHWP Members have been kept informed of developments since April 2005. Over 200 copies of the Model have been sent out to potential pilots. Evaluation by *Bomei* will follow at the end of the pilot in June 2006.

20. Supply Chain Project: the Project targets action on all parts of the supply chain to reduce risks from specific construction processes, including: heavy blocks, kerbs, HAVs, Rebar-tying, handling panel products and the use of lifting aids. Consideration of silica is to be added to some strands of the project. A summary of developments with the project can be found at Annex 3.

21. Constructing Better Health (CBH) Pilot⁹: The Group was updated on developments through the year. (CONIAC has been provided with separate briefing on CBH, and its relationship with Workplace Health Connect.)

22. Site Welfare: OHWP discussed standards of site welfare with portable sanitation equipment suppliers and the manual handling risks associated with the delivery of units.

23. Healthy Handling and Backs! 2005: This joint HSE / Local Authority initiative held in June/July 2005 included targeted inspection. Members had been keen to involve the insurance industry as a driving force and to assist in an advisory capacity on initiatives.

24. Asbestos Management: Members were kept abreast of asbestos issues i.e. licensing and enforcement activity, asbestos events and safety and health awareness days for licence holders and the proposed measures and developments to implement the Asbestos Worker Protection Directive.

⁷ A programme designed to improve the quantity and quality of worker involvement in health and safety at work.

⁸ A web-based tool for employers designed to provide advice to the industry on the management of occupational health

⁹ Providing occupational health advice and support to employers, workers, designers and clients of building work in Leicestershire

25. HSL stress research: HSE's Construction Sector commissioned HSL to carry out an analysis of the prevalence and distribution of stress in the construction industry. Members of the Working Party and CONIAC itself had co-operated with the researchers. The research will be completed in March 2006.

Looking ahead

26. At the time of drafting this paper, the OHWP is drawing up a programme of work for 2006/07 which will need to be formally endorsed by the Group.

Safety Working Party

27. Key focuses of the Safety Working Party have been to consider the construction-related campaigns run during the period 2005/06 – in particular the “Fit Out” Campaign¹⁰; and to advise and assist on Campaign work for 2006 – the “Trips” Campaign¹¹ in February –; and the main HSE-wide campaigns for 2006/07 – “Falls” in May¹², and “MSD/Backs” in October.
28. “Fit Out” Campaign: An interim report was provided at the Safety Working Party's November meeting, prompting wide-ranging discussion and comment. Members agreed that the visits were appropriate and that generally there was a lack of planning for end-of-project work – HSE needed to interest clients in planning for end-of-project work early in the procurement process. One of the positive features of the exercises was that they allowed site-based staff to spend quality time with inspectors and learn about possible solutions. The final report is now on HSE's web site at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/fitout/index.htm>
29. “Falls” Campaign in May 2006: The main focus would be on building maintenance: ‘RIGHT EQUIPMENT – PROPERLY USED’ was a possible campaign theme. Members put forward a number of suggestions and supported the idea of having a roof light replacement case study.
30. “Construction Logistics”: The Working Party also considered early proposals for “Construction Logistics” – an initiative looking holistically at the supply chain from delivery of goods to use – including consideration of the manual handling, mechanised lifting and transport issues. Members were generally positive and saw environmental benefits.
31. The Working Party met on 27 February (too late to include a comprehensive update in this paper). Agenda items included an interim report on the “Watch Your Step - Good Order” Initiative, an update on the “Falls” Campaign and development of the Construction Logistics Initiative. In response to a Member's request, the Group also discussed competence issues.

¹⁰ A Campaign which focused on low falls and good order in nearly-completed buildings and was related to the HSE-wide autumn “Ladders” Campaign

¹¹ A follow-up campaign specifically on “Good Order” and building upon the trips work in the “Fit Out” Campaign

¹² Focusing on different types of building maintenance

Looking ahead

32. One of the key items being taken forward is the “Construction Logistics” initiative, which the Group will scope and develop.

The CDM Regulations Review Working Party

33. The Group met regularly prior to the start of the consultation exercise (March 2005), to develop the draft regulatory package and Consultative Document. Following consultation close in August 2005, it has continued to meet on a monthly basis, to refine the proposals and develop the supporting Approved Code of Practice. Regular progress reports have been presented to CONIAC, most recently M1/2006/1, which provides a comprehensive update. An extraordinary meeting of the Group was held on 24 January, to discuss CDM competence assessment issues, arising from the findings of Research Report 422, published on 20 January 2006¹³. Latterly, the Group has been considering strategies for managing the development of the industry-produced guidance for the revised CDM Regulations, and for promoting the revised Regulations. The Group will continue with the work described through to implementation and to monitor developments for a time post implementation.

The Designer Working Party

34. The Group has not met. At its meeting in July 2005, CONIAC agreed that there was little point in activating the Group until there was a reason, and to do so at that time would mean replicating work elsewhere. HSE officials are currently considering options for the Group in the light of Construction Programme plans for 2006/07 and developments with the proposed CDM Regulations – particularly when the findings of work being done by an industry secondee to address post-CDM consultation designer issues are known.

Consultation

35. Chairs of Working Groups have contributed to and agreed the paper.

Action

36. CONIAC Members are asked to note the work done by sub-group activities during 2005 – 2006 at paragraphs 5 – 34.

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¹³ <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr422.htm>

Objectives of the CONIAC sub-groups

Working Well Together Steering Group

The aims of the WWT Campaign are to:

- Give information and raise awareness of key risks, particularly in HSE priority areas;
- Raise competence in health and safety management; and
- Promote / encourage people to take action.

The Worker Engagement Working Party

The objectives of the Group are:

- To develop, establish and promote the CONIAC Declaration on Engaging the Workforce¹⁴
- To support the Worker Engagement Project and to provide a mechanism for consultation on and for directing the industry-wide Worker Engagement Initiative.

The Occupational Health Working Party (OHWP)

The OHWP provides a forum in which health risks common to the construction industry can be identified and ways found for removing and minimizing them. The OHWP contributes to projects to increase the awareness of occupational health issues and sets an agenda for change in the industry.

Safety WG

The main purposes of the Group are:

- to provide support and a consultation mechanism for the safety-related projects being taken forward through the Construction Programme;
- to share good practice, and
- to explore where new initiatives are needed.

The CDM Regulations Review Working Party

The main purpose of the Group, which first met on 7 October 2003, was to help with development of the detailed proposals for revised CDM Regulations.

The Designer Working Party.

Established, originally to support the Designer Engagement Project of the Construction Priority Programme, including the design, client and contractor perspectives.

¹⁴ <http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/engagement/coniac.htm>

WWT ACTIVITIES 2005/6

The following table summarises the elements within the WWT strategic outreach campaign in 2005/6.

WWT Activity / Description	WWT Activity / Description
<p>Safety and Health Awareness Days Largely organised by regional WWT groups comprising larger firms who nominate small firms / prospective subcontractors to attend. Targeted at micro SMEs, those in high-risk occupations, those most able to influence health and safety on site and workers with literacy or language needs. Awareness raising. The WWT formula delivers 'general SHADs' centred on the priority health and safety messages</p> <p>Audience Contacts Target: 4,000 delegates at 20 High 5 & 10 High risk/influence</p> <p>Out-turn: 39 events 19 High 5 events to date, 3 planned 13 high risk/influence to date, 4 planned – total attendees expected by end of MARCH, 4900</p>	<p>Website Externally hosted wwt.uk.com provides WWT branded portal to sign up with action plans and obtain information (including Roadshow and White van). Provides home for regional group information.</p> <p>Comparisons (with 2004 and other sites): 26,092 'hits' 2004 56,423 Jan to Nov '05</p> <p><u>May - Oct</u> 41,534 hits for WWT 152,471 visits to HSE Construction (539035 page requests) 175 visits linked from WWT to HSE Construction (cf Strategic Forum 272, Sypol (CBH) 14)</p>
<p>SHAD Plus (Risk Assessment workshops) A new development responding to the need to go beyond awareness to improve competence in performing risk assessments and producing method statements. Implemented 2005/06 following pilot in 04/05.</p> <p>Audience contacts Micro SMEs, sole traders and their workforce Take up ~20% from general SHADs where offered.</p>	<p>Awards Initially sponsored by HSE (specifically for No. 1 worker, Small firm, and Organisation of the year), now sponsored by others and recently have been adopted as part of Building Magazine's health and safety awards.</p>
<p>Roadshow Trailer (40') with exhibition material taken by arrangement to large sites (200+ workers) with exhibition panels, videos etc to promote key messages proactively.</p> <p>Audience contacts Target: 10,000 for Roadshow & White Van Out-turn: 3600 workers (Sept/Oct'05)</p>	<p>WWT regional groups Local hubs active in planning WWT activity. Pivotal in contacting the hard to reach. Increasingly developing own activities / agendas. 10 groups (plus four new groups set up in 2005)</p>
<p>White Van 'Wrapped' White Van (WWT logo and Roadshow details on the side) taken to smaller sites with "High5" video, hearing loss test and safety harness demonstration.</p> <p>Audience contacts Out-turn: 1490 workers (Sept/Oct'05)</p>	<p>WWT Newsletter News sent to members and groups – WWT activity focused.</p> <p>Audience contacts 6,500 WWT members +</p>
<p>SHACavan (Plymouth pilot) A new approach working with LA Building Control Officers who refer small contractors they encounter in domestic market on refurbishment. 'Wrapped' caravan with displays etc hosted by B&Q.</p> <p>Audience contacts 30 attendees to June'05 92% said relevant 20% taken CHAS 30% booked RA workshop</p>	

Summary of developments with OHWP's Supply Chain Project.

The use of heavy blocks by main contractors is decreasing, but they are still being manufactured and sales are still high. Discussions are ongoing with builders' merchants. Good progress has been made on kerbs with evidence of an increase in the use of kerb lifters. The work is now being extended to cover paving slabs and HSE is working with Interpave.

HAVS: The objective of the work is to eliminate HAVS where alternative processes can be adopted; to reduce the vibration levels from portable tools and to improve the quality of information provided by tool manufacturers. A forum for key members of the supply chain was held in November. The main areas of discussion were the quality and availability of accurate information on the vibration levels of portable tools and the revision of the current "traffic light" system database so that it can encompass different types of vibration information.

Rebar tying: (focusing on: height of work, platforms, using common bar size, techniques to prevent rebar tying, designed to be done off-site). Tying machines do have potential, but limitations; trials have been planned to test the problems and benefits of the tying machines.

Panel products: (focusing on handling techniques and deliveries). Investigations into trials of different sized boards, handling aids and improved working methods continue.

Lifting aids: (focusing on ensuring that products are supplied in a form or packaging that allows lifting aids to be used). OHWP is going to specify an initial range of products to consider first –e.g. draining products and/or lintels.