

Foundries Industry Advisory Committee

**Minutes of the 15th meeting of the Foundries Industry Advisory Committee held
on Tuesday 1st March 2011 at 10.30 am,
Cast Metals Federation,
National Metalforming Centre, 47 Birmingham Road,
West Bromwich, B70 6PY**

Present:

Dr P Smith
Mr J Parker
Mr G Morley
Mr M Shenton
Mr N Talbot
Mr C Mills
Mr R Flynn
Mr D Bartlett
Mr B Hudspith
Mr D Oddy
Dr P Murrell
Mr J McAlinden
Mr M Bone
Ms C Flannigan

Representing:

HSE (Chair)
Cast Metals Federation (CMF)
Cast Metals Federation (CMF)
James W Shenton Ltd
Terrill Bros (Founders) Ltd
CTI
Momentive Speciality Chemicals UK Ltd
W H Rowe
Unite
Federal Mogul
ICME
HSE
HSE
HSE (Minutes)

Apologies:

Ms S Polak
Mr S Nicholas

Representing:

HSE
St Gobain PAM UK Ltd

1. Welcome and Apologies.

1.1 Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies as listed.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting. An amendment was required to be made at item (2.5) STOTs versus WEL. The section should read:

“..... STOT stands for “Specific Target Organ Toxicity” under the new hazard classification system which is being introduced by the EU Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures (CLP Regulation) (EC 1272/2008)”

An amendment was also required at item 4.3, penultimate sentence, to now read: “Toulene and Sulphonic acids”

With regard to the substitution aspect of the Foundries project, Mr McAlinden proposed setting up a partnership team with suppliers. It would include HSE and CMF involvement.

(2.1) LEV Project Update. This was ongoing – Mr Bone would liaise with Mr Parker. Information would be placed on the FIAC Community site and the new SHIFT website.

Action: Mr Bone /Mr Parker

(2.2) Additional Data. Mr Bone and Mr Parker would liaise to produce a general LEV health Information Sheet that would be sent to SHIFT members. It would be under the SHIFT banner and would contain a link to the HSE website.

Action: Mr Bone/Mr Parker

(2.2g) HSE Strategy: The constitution of this committee had been updated to align with the HSE Strategy.

Discharged

Members were informed that HSE was in the process of producing a Sector Strategy. There would be a Strategy specifically for manufacturing. This would link in with FIAC and be shared with external partners. When complete, members would be asked to consider how to align the work of this committee with the Strategy and give thought to how to deliver the work.

Action: Members

A copy of this committee’s updated constitution was circulated to members. They were asked to consider the document and the new name for the committee. They were invited to submit comments by the end of April.

Action: Members

(2.3) Load Security. Agenda item.

(2.4) Workplace Temperature. HSE had consulted with Policy Section on the issue of process heat in certain industries. Members were advised that there were no plans for legislative change to implement a maximum workplace temperature. Information regarding workplace temperature on the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/index.htm> had been revisited and was up to date.

Discharged

- (3.1) Mr Bone to check if there was a link to the Falls Project website. To be carried forward.

Action: Mr Bone

- (4.1) Susan Polak's presentation was not yet on the Community site. Mr Bone would upload it when he had received it from Susan.

Action: Mr Bone

- (9.1) Furfuryl Alcohol - consideration of a reasonably achievable exposure limit in the absence of the now withdrawn WEL.

This matter had already been cleared by e-mail advising 'In practice HSE Inspectors would expect exposure to furfuryl alcohol to be prevented or where this is not reasonably practicable exposure should be adequately controlled to comply with the duty under COSHH Regulation 7(1). Measures to secure adequate control should be taken in accordance with the hierarchy given in Regulation 7(3), further guidance on which is given in paragraphs 93-96 and Schedule 2 "Principles of good practice for the control of substances hazardous to health" of the COSHH ACOP'.

CTi dataset for foundries indicates approx 30% of foundries exceed 5 ppm (previous WEL, now withdrawn) and only 15% do not exceed 0.5 ppm (target airborne concentration quoted in COSHH Essentials). There is however uncertainty about the CTi dataset as it is unclear whether the data is task specific, time weighted average or a mixture of both. It was agreed to monitor for such exposures in the forthcoming Foundries Project and then re-visit the issue.

- (10.1) RIDDOR stats. Agenda item.

- (3.3) LEV Systems – expertise. A question was raised at the previous meeting if there were any member suppliers of LEV as it was thought that trade associations could recommend suitably qualified engineers. CMF had surveyed SHIFT members and had identified a company called Gwyn Thomas Ltd. This company had experience and understanding of the foundry industry and could be approached for expertise in conjunction with the Dust Partnership. Mr McAlinden had attended a Suppliers' Charter meeting in November 2010 and agreed to keep FIAC members informed of progress with the Suppliers' Charter.

Ongoing agenda item

- (4.2) An Executive Summary of the EXTEND topic report "Benzene and Aromatic Amine Exposures in Foundries" has been placed on the Community site.

Discharged

- (5.1) Clarity on Equality Act – what could/could not be asked at interviews. There was no simple answer. It was thought this may be a matter for Human Resources to address. Mr Bone would contact Corporate Medical Unit for their view concerning pre-employment health questionnaires.

Action: Mr Bone

Members were informed of the official guidance available on the Government website. Mr Hudspith would send a link to members.

Action: Mr Hudspith



Macmillan
EqualityAct2010.pdf

The document above, although specifically about cancer, does provide some guidance in this area.

(7.1) Silica Update – health surveillance. This was still an unresolved issue. There was confusing and conflicting opinions from different professionals in different countries with questions remaining unanswered. Issues included:-

- ◆ what health surveillance comprised
- ◆ format and frequency
- ◆ value of chest x-rays
- ◆ periodicity
- ◆ lung function tests
- ◆ COSHH Regulation 11 compliance
- ◆ employee co-operation
- ◆ peripatetic workers (re access to past medical records)
- ◆ cost of implementation and services to deliver it
- ◆ suitably qualified film readers

There was insufficient lead and recommendation from HSE. Further meetings were required to explore the issues. It was felt that the recent RR827 Health Surveillance in Silica Exposed Workers Report didn't help to form a judgement either. Members were advised there was likely to be a Paper produced on this topic which would go to the HSE Board.

Action: Ongoing agenda item

(9.1) RPE Project. CMF had expressed an interest in assisting with supplier research for this project and had agreed to consult with their members.

Action: Discharged

Mr Parker reported that a questionnaire had been sent to suppliers of RPE and to date, thirty-one replies had been received.

Mr Bone had enquired if a member of the Social Science Unit could attend the SHIFT meeting.

Discharged

(9.2) Revision of HSG53. Members had been invited to consult with their member organisations for volunteers to form a sub-committee with a view to producing industry-specific guidance for the foundry industry. The sub-committee would draft an HSE badged template – for approval by HSE. The template would be made available to industry to produce bespoke guidance. Members were asked to respond by the end of April.

Action: Members

(9.4) Inspection Training DVD. The DVD, primarily for inspector training, was complete but not yet released generally. It would be incorporated into the inspector training programme and may be released generally once internal clearance had been given.

(9.5) RPE Model Simulator. A video clip of the simulator is likely to be placed on the new RPE website when the site is developed.

(10.1) Competence. Irene Stevenson, Proskills, would be invited to the next FIAC meeting.

Action: Mr Bone

Mr Flynn informed the meeting of a four-day Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) course on managing health and safety at work aimed at managers and supervisors.

(10.2) Fatality involving a worker lifting a large casting box. Mr Parker had highlighted this at a number of meetings. He asked if HSE could provide further information of the circumstances surrounding the incident. HSE agreed to contact the investigating inspector to enquire what additional information could be released.

Action: Mr Bone

3. Dust Initiative.

3.1 A partnership meeting had taken place on 1 November 2010 comprising HSE and industry representatives. Discussion took place on whether the content of NVQs covered appropriate levels of health and safety in the industry. Identifying key areas where dust is emitted and the best technique to employ to eliminate or minimise it was also discussed.

Members were informed that by March 2012 sufficient information will have been gathered from all of the visits that had been undertaken during the Foundries Project and would be fed into the partnership team.

The next partnership meeting is scheduled for 13 March.

It was queried why there was separate meetings and committees for the Dust Initiative and the Foundries Project and why the two couldn't be combined. The Foundries Project would be delivered by CMF/HSE but the FIAC Working Group would still own the project.

4. Foundries Long Latency Health Risks Project – update on the work now done and what's next.

4.1 Members were advised that support for this project was strong and positive. Three pilot visits had been carried out at three foundries over a three-month period and visit reports produced. The reports were now complete having been through HSE's internal clearance system. A hygiene report (approx 60 pages), had been produced. A further twelve visits to four foundries would be undertaken every six months to run over an eighteen-month period for the purpose of information gathering. A team had been established to carry out the visits. HSE were presently waiting for HSL to produce a detailed visit programme. Mr Bone would arrange a meeting to select which foundries were to be visited.

Action: Mr Bone

There had been liaison with FOD Operational Inspectors regarding the project. There was a good understanding amongst them and any issues that arose from the visits would be passed to them to pursue.

Much had been learned from the initial Pilot with regard to particular issues to investigate. The original budget of £30,000 had been increased to £50,000 for each visit. In terms of deliverables, Mr McAlinden advised that a Steering Group meeting was due to take place in the near future. Mr Parker advised that following the first Pilot, publicity of the project would be given in the CMF journal.

5. Foundries COSHH Essentials – discussion.

- 5.1 Discussion took place concerning a review of fourteen foundries COSHH Essentials Information Sheets. It was felt that information in some of the sheets was out of date and no longer fit for purpose. HSE advised that a full review of all guidance was in progress to address out of date information, standards and language used in guidance.

Members considered the following:-

- ◆ whether the Information Sheets were representative of the industry
- ◆ to what extent they were used
- ◆ how often they were downloaded from the website
- ◆ an unawareness in the industry of their existence
- ◆ need to re-promote them (eg disseminate information via CMF)
- ◆ whether any additional Information Sheets should be produced
- ◆ need for industry to have input into the review

There was a view that they were generic and didn't address specific issues in the foundry industry. It was suggested that they could be linked to the dust partnership and have links from HSE website to SHIFT website. The general feeling was that they should not be abandoned but be reviewed (with input from the industry), and updated.

HSE advised that they were the property of Policy Section but Mr Bone would contact Julie Helps to enquire which of the COSHH Essentials Information Sheets were going to be reviewed and what the timescales were.

Action: Mr Bone

- 9.2 A number of the Information Sheets dated 2006 related to Silica. It was queried who had reviewed them and why they were changed to address Silica and not dust and fume.

6. RIDDOR Changes – Consultation Document.

- 6.1 Members were made aware of the proposed changes to the RIDDOR reporting requirements to extend the three-day accident reporting criteria to seven days. Possible issues following the change could result in:-

- ◆ more under-reporting
- ◆ less information on F2508s
- ◆ inaccuracy of figures
- ◆ loss of benchmark re stats

A Consultation Document is available at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd233.htm> Members were encouraged to comment on the document. The closing date for comments is 9 May 2011.

Action: Members

7. Statistics.

- 7.1 Mr Bone presented provisional statistics for 2009-10 for the foundries industry. The figures were taken from the Standard Industrial Classification codes and illustrated a breakdown of fatalities, major injuries and over three-day injuries. The kind of accidents was also illustrated in percentages (eg slips & trips, falls from height, handling, struck by etc) as well as numbers of enforcement notices served.

The trend was generally downwards with there being a decrease in the number of reported incidents. Members considered whether the overall improvement could be attributed to anything in particular, eg companies not recruiting in the current economic climate, or, using “downtime” for training. HSE would provide a link to the figures.

Action: Mr Bone

- 7.2 With reference to enforcement, a request was made for further details of the Notice that had been served for Legionella. All were informed that details of Notices and prosecutions were available on the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/enforce/prosecutions.htm>

8. Metalworking Fluids – discussion.

- 8.1 A supplier member had raised the issue of cutting fluids and the potential for Legionella. HSE responded and advised that workers should follow the guidance on metalworking fluids which would control the potential for contracting Legionella. Mr Parker had issued a press release.

9. Load Security – discussion.

- 9.1 A first draft document had been produced. Feedback from members was invited on the following:-

- ◆ relevance of the information it contained (good/bad)
- ◆ layout
- ◆ photos
- ◆ whether to have one document or a series of Information Sheets

Page two, item six – “Plan the Load”. It was felt further clarification was required regarding exactly what it meant.

Suggestions put forward for inclusion were:-

- ◆ include examples of what was right rather than what was wrong
- ◆ include where responsibilities rest
- ◆ include mention of VOSA with regard to the stopping of vehicles
- ◆ include accepting/offloading of dangerous goods
- ◆ aim it at the foundries industry

All were generally content with the layout and agreed to a two-sided A4 document with pictures and large text. To cover all the points raised by members, a series of short, punchy Information Sheets would probably be required.

- 9.2 Members strongly favoured retaining the HSE logo on the document despite the fact that it would be subject to HSE’s lengthy clearance procedure. There was general agreement that the guidance was likely to have a greater influence on the industry if it had HSE endorsement.

All were invited to submit any further comments on the draft by 20 April. Mr Shenton would submit additional photos to Mr Bone. Mr Bone would send an electronic copy of the document to members.

Action: Members/Mr Shenton/Mr Bone

10. Electromagnetic Field Directive – update.

- 10.1 Mr Parker and Mr Morley had attended a workshop in Birmingham on 21 February. Matters were progressing but additional work was still required. More would be known in a few months. There still needs to be a Parliamentary debate and they hope they may be able to influence the Euro debate. The Directive should be law by 2014.

There is discussion about simplifying the measurements associated with Zoning and further work needs to be done on various definitions.

11. SHIFT – update.

11.1 Members were provided with an update of the SHIFT meeting of 9 November 2010.

- ◆ presentation given on RPE by Rob Ellis (RPE Project)
- ◆ draft questionnaire aimed at suppliers of RPE tabled. The questionnaire had now been circulated to suppliers and to date, thirty-one replies had been received
- ◆ Glyn Morley gave a presentation/critique on the RPE Selector tool
- ◆ presentation given on face fit testing
- ◆ presentation given on face fit simulator – feedback was that a video clip of this on the website would be very useful
- ◆ next SHIFT meeting will take place on 23 March

Mr Parker told members of plans to reinvigorate the SHIFT committee in the coming months. New members would be invited to join as it was felt fresh impetus/new targets were needed. There had also been issues concerning lack of attendance at meetings by some individuals.

12. AOB.

12.1 Mr Parker had attended a European Association Health, Safety & Environment meeting. There would be a further meeting in April.

12.2 Mr Oddy and Mr Shenton were retiring from this committee. Dr Smith wished them well and thanked them for their expertise and valuable contributions to the committee over the years.

12.3 Dr Smith informed members of a proposed Health and Safety Awareness Day.

13. Date of Next Meeting.

13.1 Wednesday 19 October 2011 at HSE office, 1 Hagley Road, Birmingham, B16 8HS.