

Foundries Industry Advisory Committee Minutes
12th October 2006
at HSE offices, Worcester

Present

John Parker (Chair)
Trevor Hay (Secretary)
Martin Shenton
Roger Turley
Glynn Morley
David Oddy
Tony McCarthy
Chris Mills
Nicholas Talbot

Representing

Cast Metals Federation
HSE
James W Shenton
Roger Turley Engineering Consultancy
CTI
Federal Mogul
NUDAGO
CTI
Terrill Bros

1 Personalia

John Parker chaired the meeting. Apologies were received from absent members.

The retirement of one FIAC member was noted. FIAC expressed its thanks for the work and commitment over the years of:

Tony McCarthy NUDAGO

2 Minutes of the previous meeting on 27 April 2006.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record. The relevant HSE staff (Arwel Barrett – radiation, Matters arising were discussed under the “Health Issues” item of the current meetings agenda (below).

3 Health Issues

Furfuryl Alcohol and Formaldehyde

Members again discussed the carcinogenicity of these. There was real concern that the industry could not achieve adequate reductions in exposure, and that substitution could frequently only be achieved by using even more hazardous chemicals.

It was decided to write formally to WATCH and ACTS to indicate that the foundry industry considered that it was unlikely to be able to achieve any further reduction in the Workplace Exposure Limit (WEL) for these substances. The letter should

formally request specific reference to FIAC/CMF/foundry industry for detailed information should reductions in the WEL be proposed.

Action. Trevor Hay to write to WATCH/ACTS, and give their response at the next meeting.

4 SHIFT

John Parker tabled statistical data collected by SHIFT from participant companies. Discussion followed regarding comparisons between HSE and SHIFT data, methods of data capture and categorisation of accidents/ill health. Particular difficulties were expressed in collecting meaningful data on occupational ill health.

Members noted that the overall incidence trend was downwards.

5 The Future of FIAC

Trevor Hay raised the issue of the future of FIAC and SHIFT. IN particular, the following were commented upon:

6 Formaldehyde

Discussion held regarding Formaldehyde, its carcinogenicity and common limits achieved in the industry. Examples include:

Approx 0.2 @ casting

Approx 0.5 @ hotbox

Action

- Trevor Hay to discuss current European situation with P Howden (Industrial Chemicals Unit- HSE), and let him know FIACs opinion that a 0.1 limit is currently unachievable
- D Oddy to provide indicative US figures

7 SHIFT

John Parker reported back on SHIFT. The SHIFT conference would be on 3 November, and would cover accident statistics, HAVs, the New Noise and Vibration Regs, MMPPE, Slips and Trips, Musculo-skeletal disorders and Manual Handling. Engaging the workforce is also a topic for one session.

8 Any Other Business

None

9 Date and venue of next meeting

22nd February 2007, HSE, 1 Hagley Road, Birmingham. 10.00 a.m.