

Foundries Industry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Foundries Industry Advisory Committee held on Thursday 22nd April 2004 at 10.00am at the Health and Safety Executives Offices, Hagley Road, Birmingham.

Present

Mr J Barrett
Mr P Harvey
Mrs L Weston
Dr G Morley
Mr D Wells
Mr M Shenton
Mrs P Murrell
Mr J Parker
Mr T McCarthy
Mr T McGown
Mr G Roper
Mr D Oddy
Mr R Sneddon
Mr S Nicholas

Representing

Chair – HSE
Secretary – HSE
Minute Secretary – HSE
Casting Technology International
Casting Technology International
James W Shenton Ltd
Institute of Cast Metal Engineers
Casting Metals Federation
NUDAGO
Halberg Guss
Zeus
Federal Mogul
ISTU
Saint Gobain

Absent

Mr R O'Sullivan
Mr R Turley
Mr T Parker
Mr P Clews
Mr D Smitheram

QDF Components Ltd
Roger Turley Engineering Consultancy
Amicus - MSF
TGWU
Terrill Bros (Founders) Ltd

1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to this meeting, together with new members Mr G Roper, Mr T McGowan, Mr S Nicholas and Mr R Sneddon. Apologies had been received from Mr T Parker and Mr R Turley.

2. ACTION ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Membership

Welcome to new members. John Parker was thanked for his help with membership.

Face Fitting

Copy of correspondence from Mr D Wells and Mr B Rajan (HSE) were passed to members. Points included in correspondence; no need to

carry our face fitting if RPE is provided there is no legal requirement; Face masks should not be worn with beards, but if no alternatives then you may demonstrate the effectiveness by face fitting.

Association of British Insurers Scheme

Mr P Harvey contacted BPIF however they guard their audits and will not give them out to anybody. He had attended a recent presentation from ABI. ABI will recognise an industry based health and safety scheme and therefore encourage their member broker to offer discounted premiums if the scheme is verifiable as achieving results.

Shift Initiative

Mr J Parker to forward onto Mr R Sneddon a full list of industry representatives who signed up to the initiative on 9th July 2003 together with information on the health surveillance scheme.

Action – Mr J Parker

3. MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING HELD ON 23RD OCTOBER 2003

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY IN FOUNDRIES – G MORLEY

Training styles

- conventional classroom
- classroom workshop with feedback
- shop-floor workshop
- photo-based workshop

Conclusion

- many foundries have poor awareness
- hazard awareness could be improved
- most effective training method appeared to be worker centred learning
- worker centred learning involves least disruption to work patterns

Full report to be sent to Mr P Harvey (HSE) by the end of April. This to be distributed to members.

5. SHIFT INITIATIVE – REPORT ON PROGRESS

John Parker gave a progress report following the launch of SHIFT last year. Two further events have been scheduled in April and June.

The website was shown to members and all agreed that it would be a useful tool. Members were asked what improvements they felt could be made to the website.

- Link SHIFT website to other useful websites e.g. Unions.
- Ask Unions to promote scheme
- Promote through journals
- Include best practice scenarios
- Chatroom forum

Way forward

The following topics need to be addressed: Fettling, Control of contractors, Slips and trips, Molten metal ppe.

It is hoped that members will be able to contribute with the aim being to produce best practice guidance for the industry. Proposed that a meeting would only be called when necessary and that most of the work would be via email.

Action agreed: **Action – Members were ask to forward any comments about the structure of the website to John Parker as soon as possible.**

Action – Members were ask to let Paul Harvey by the end of May, what help they could offer when writing this guidance.

6. FIAC PROJECT PLAN

FIAC at the moment has one main project SHIFT that will provide guidance to the industry. Members were asked to comment whether or not FIAC needed to initiate any other areas? What could FIAC do to improve the H&S of those working in foundries? Where are risks high/standards poor?

Points raised

- Industry is having problems meeting the vibration limits. Members felt that this was the only forum where Industry/HSE/Union could speak openly and get views from both sides.
- Too much regulations, must have common themes but unfortunately don't have time to talk to other foundries to discuss.
- Health Surveillance is a big issue, we need to steer the role of SHIFT towards health rather than accidents.
- Need to draw together to see what problems we have across the sector?

Action agreed: **Look into the concerns raised with regard to suppliers/manufacturers on vibration issues. If needed to reconvene the Noise and Vibration Sub Committee.**

7. ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

Following the presentation from Arwel Barrett at the last FIAC meeting a working group was set-up. This working group agreed to establish what was the effect of the directive on users and if needed to produce some readable guidance advising the industry when they do/don't need to take any action.

Arwel Barrett will be working with contractors on how to deliver this work; this will be produced via a research project.

Action agreed: **Action – Members were ask to forward to Paul Harvey by the end of June any information on the types of furnaces in use and what range of different types to look at.**

8. FURFURYL ALCOHOL

COSHH essentials guidance is now available on the HSE website. The existing CHAN 33 has been amended to link to this COSHH guidance.

Paul Harvey has written to ACTS asking them to establish an occupational exposure standard for furfuryl alcohol and also asking if they have any evidence on ill health amongst foundry workers.

Awaiting their reply will keep members updated.

9. SILICA

Silica Essentials has now been published and is available on the HSE website. Guidance has been issued to inspectors advising the need to ensure below 0.1mg and also advising them that enforcement action should be taken if this is not achieved.

10. ACCIDENT/ILL HEALTH

Paul Harvey reported that accident numbers were going down, however we don't know accident rate per 100,000 workers as the employment figures have also decreased.

11. RECENT EXPERIENCE

Paul Harvey reported on specific problem areas found by inspectors: failure to maintain LEV plants, failure to maintain basic control measures, HAV, poor industrial relations, lack of health and safety competence, inappropriate PPE. Also discussed were accidents, enforcement and prosecutions.

Action agreed: **Action – Members asked if details of such accidents could be forwarded to them. Agreed that such information should be put on the SHIFT website.**

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members were warned about three firms, all based in north-west England who have written to companies all over Great Britain asking for between £125 and £249 to ensure they comply with health and safety law. They were advised that there was no legal requirement for anyone to buy literature or services from these companies and that they should ignore such requests.

Consultation document on new Control of Noise at Work Regulations (Feb 2006) not available off the HSE website. Comments needed by 25th June.

13. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 21st October 2004 & Thursday 14th April 2005 to be held in:

HSE's Offices, 1 Hagley Road, Birmingham at 10.00am.

Close