

Foundries Industry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the 9th Meeting of the Foundries Industry Advisory Committee held on Wednesday 27th February 2008 at 10.00.am, at HSE's Offices at 1, Hagley Road, Birmingham

Present	Representing
Dr P Smith	HSE – Chair
Mrs L Weston	HSE - Minute Secretary
Mr J McAlinden	HSE – HSE Carcinogens Programme
Mrs C Lyons	HSE – Manufacturing Sector
Mr N Talbot	Terrill Bros (Founders) Ltd
Mr G Turley	R Turley Engineering Consultancy
Mr D Bartlett	W H Rowe
Mr M Shenton	James W Shenton Ltd
Mr D Oddy	Federal Mogul
Mr J Parker	Cast Metals Federation
Mr J Easton	Unite
Mr B Hudspith	Unite
Mr G Morley	CTI

Apologies	Representing
Mrs P Murrell	ICME
Mr J Moran	Unite
Mr R Sneddon	Community
Mr B Womack	Unite

1. Personalia

The Chair welcomed observer Jim Easton (Unity), and John McAlinden (HSE).

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Silica update – Health Surveillance

John Parker gave feedback on the recently held a workshop, convened by HSE/HSL to discuss what constitutes appropriate health surveillance with respect to silica exposure, at which representatives from silica-using industries attended. John reported that it was hard to determine what effective health surveillance was but the medical evidence was very interesting. He reported that Silicosis occurs 10 plus year after exposure and often after retirement so that any link with occupational exposure may be missed.

Way Forward:

There will be a Working Group formed to draw up a proposal for health surveillance protocol which attendees to the workshop will be consulted upon. Roger Turley suggested that the publications produced by Dr Len Levy, Morris Cook and Martha McBarron on dust in foundries workers should be looked at. It was also suggested to reform the FIAC Occupational Health Working Group.

Bud Hudspith reminded Committee members that the SDA for Silica contained an annex on health surveillance and that following the deliberation of the HSE/HSL Workshop it may be appropriate to feed the outcomes back into the SDA process. Bud also pointed out that union-side would not be able to sign up to a procedure which required mandatory x-ray examinations.

Action agreed:

2.a The Committee agreed to look into the possibility of producing targeted guidance for the foundry industry via a re-constituted FIAC Occupational Health Working Group. (Phil Smith, John Parker, Bud Hudspith)

3. Membership

TU side may appoint up to 6 representatives of which at least one should be a body representing professionals within the industry. We currently have a rep from ICME, UNITE and Community union on FIAC, which leaves 3 spaces.

Bud Hudspith proposed 3 new people from Unite for the Committee:

Jim Easton, Balfour Beatty Rail,
John Moran, Precision Castings, Poole
Barry Womack, Alcan, Warrington

Members supported these nominations.

Action agreed:

3a Due to non attendance for a number of meetings John Parker agreed to speak to Pam Murrell to see if she wishes to stay on as the ICME representative or propose a new nomination.

4. Silica Update – Social Dialogue Agreement

John Parker gave an update on the SDA to FIAC members and went through the Reporting Protocol. An electronic reporting procedure was now in place and sites should have reported back to Nepsi by beginning of April. CMF had included non-members in the scheme, inviting them to report back on a voluntary basis if they wished.

Action agreed:

4a John Parker agreed to email all non members at M.D. level inviting them to join the scheme.

5. Lung cancer and exposure to FFP in steel foundry workers

A written response was tabled to the query raised at the last meeting concerning 29 steel foundry workers with lung cancer.

The estimate of 29 in 2004 is for lung cancers due to all exposures in this industry, not just FFP and is based on estimates of the proportion of various cancers attributable to occupational exposures, known as “attributable factors”. For lung cancer in steel foundry work a single risk estimate in relation to past exposure to carcinogens was used based on information from the Labour Force Survey. The 29 is an estimate of lung cancers attributable to occupational exposure with no adjustment for smoking. Members pointed out that smoking could have a significant effect on this estimate in view of the prevalence of smoking-related lung disease thought to occur within the industry. Following a lengthy discussion it was felt appropriate to ask an HSE epidemiologist to attend the next meeting to clarify this work.

Agreed Action

5a Claire to ask Dr John Osman to next meeting to discuss these outcomes further

6. Carcinogens Project including Azo-Dyes

John McAlinden (HSE) gave feedback on the June 07 Stakeholder Workshop, detailing some emerging themes that arose:

- Successful in highlighting scale and challenge of problem
- Reinforced HSE’s determination to employ an evidence-based strategy to drive down ill-health in this area
- Reinforced the role of all stakeholders in the ‘health and safety system’ in realising this aim
- Took us to a new position but stopped short of identifying priorities
- Stakeholders of opinion that ‘everything is important’ i.e. occupational cancer per se is a priority

The Disease Reduction Programme (DRP) is planning to deliver a follow-up stakeholder event (likely June 2008) to which members of FIAC were likely to be invited.

Activities within Foundries 2008-09 – There is a proposal for Field Operations to inspect at least 50 foundries to assess adequacy of LEV/engineering controls in place.

There is a proposed **Local project** to visit 3 foundries, preferably in the Midlands region, with good standards of control and monitor for exposures to aromatic amines caused by thermal decomposition of MDI based binders and/or use of dye penetrants formulated from azo dyes. HSE don’t currently have any exposure data for UK Foundries and the purpose of this project is to identify a baseline for future work, hence the need for visits to sites where exposure is deemed to be good.

A non-ferrous foundry needs to be included in the research.

Urine Sampling - John confirmed that anybody can send samples to the Health & Safety Laboratory (HSL) at Buxton, who would analyse the sample however there will be a fee for this service.

Participants to the local Project would have samples analysed free of charge

February 2008 WATCH considered use of azo-dye containing products.

- Use as a dye penetrant in Non-Destructive Testing should be treated as a Cat 3 carcinogen (metabolites are carcinogenic)
- Use as a dye penetrant has been identified as a priority area for attention and more exposure data required.
- Paper on azo dye available via the WATCH Website:
www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/hsc/iacs/acts/watch

Action agreed:

6a John McAlinden agreed to present the above at March SHIFT Meeting.

6b John Parker with input from Bud Hudspith and Claire Lyons to produce an interim position statement that can be sent out to the industry concerning the 'Use of Azo Dyes in NDT'.

6c Claire to produce an internal instruction (SIM) alerting HSE FOD Inspectors to the issue. Such instructions are available for all to see via the HSE website.

7. EMF Directive – Future Work Programme

The EMF Directive has been delayed until April 2012; the industry has 4 years to determine whether this is an issue for the industry.

Action agreed:

7a John Parker agreed to take this issue to the next SHIFT meeting, and discuss ways of taking it forward. John Parker to contact Claire Lyons if a HSE representative is needed.

8. FOD Workplan 2008-2009

- Inspect at least 50 foundries during 08/09 to assess adequacy of LEV/engineering controls in place.
- Fit 3 projects including:
 - Slips/Trips; Falls from height during Building and Plant Maintenance
 - Slips arising from floor cleaning activities
 - Workplace Transport (Foundries not specifically targeted)
 - Moving Goods Safely Phase 3
 - Workplace Transport Route Map (www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport)

- Safe Containment of Loads (SHIFT to contact Phil Smith if a presentation of needed)
- Safe Interventions on maintenance procedures/isolation/lock-off involving machinery.
- Migrant Workers
- Asbestos duty to manage
- Site occupiers may be asked by HSE if they are a signatory of the SHIFT Initiative during visits.

9. SHIFT

The next SHIFT meeting is due to take place on 4th March. John Parker reported that the following issues will be discussed:

- Foundry Accident Statistics
- SDA for Silica
- REACH
- EMF Directive
- Azo- Dyes.

John Parker gave a summary of the SHIFT accident statistics. Of the data they had received from 42 companies representing 6752 employees, Handling Objects was the main cause of accidents, followed by Eye Injuries and Burns. John explained to members that he had only received this information the previous day and had not had time to analyse any of the findings.

Points raised:

Bud Hudspith questioned why these statistics were being discussed at a SHIFT meeting and not at this FIAC meeting and wished for this to be noted.

Phil Smith attempted to explain that SHIFT is a targeted injury reduction initiative, in which CMF lead. This Committee has, as of right, access to HSE statistics, but SHIFT passed accident data submitted by its members to CMF onto this Committee on a goodwill basis.

Bud Hudspith requested that a more effective partnership between FIAC and SHIFT should be developed.

10. RIDDOR Statistics 2006-2007

Claire Lyons gave a presentation on the HSE Foundry Industry Injury Statistics. The data for the presentation had all come from RIDDOR and was now available to HSE via a new analysis tool called REGI. This allowed HSE to extract data by SIC, process, injury kind and geographical region. The presentation looked at accident data from 2001 - 2007 for the 5 main groups within SIC 27- Basic Metals (271 - iron/steel, 272 - tubes, 273 - other iron/steel non ferrous, 274 - basic precious metals, 275 - casting of metals). Data used was for RIDDOR-reportable injuries to employees.

Data was presented showing all SIC 27 groups together by year, and then broken down in more detail to show where changes had taken place. The presentation highlighted that fatal, major and over 3 days injuries have fallen over the 6 year period. Overall the number of injuries was decreasing with major accidents reduced by half since 2001, and over 3 day injuries reducing by over 1,000 accidents a year since 2001.

Agreed Action

10a At the Committees request Claire agreed the data would be re-analysed in terms of incidence rates to enable better year-on-year comparisons to take into account changes employment numbers.

11. Analysis of CTI Dataset of exposures in foundries 1996-2004

Claire Lyons gave a presentation on behalf of HSE colleague Peter Griffin, which reported on HSE's analysis of data collected by CTI. The data was from personal samples taken between 1996 and 2004. The data was sorted so that only samples relevant to foundries and foundry processes were examined, by sorting into a standard format to show industry, process and job.

A series of slides presented results for a range of substances. Each one was broken down by work activity and exposure levels. The workplace exposure limit for each substance was also shown as a reference point.

The measurements already took into account the use of LEV so further control measured may be needed to reduce exposure limits below the workplace exposure limits. Members were invited to look at these processes to assess the effectiveness of LEV.

Agreed action:

11a Members should consider the information presented, and be prepared at the next FIAC meeting to suggest suitable actions to secure improved control where necessary.

12. Any Other Business

Update on FOD's LEV Inspections

Agreed action:

12a HSE will provide an in-year progress report on the FOD Engineering Control initiative (LEV Inspections) at the next FIAC meeting.

13. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

Wednesday 15th October 2008 at HSE's Birmingham Office