

THE PRINTING INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13TH MARCH 2002

Present

Mr M Wilcock
Mrs S Peace
Mr I Hobson
Mr B Hudspith
Mr W Stothard
Mr I Wilcock
Ms S Whittaker
Mr M Griffiths
Mrs T Stonley

Representing

HSE Acting Chairman
HSE
HSE
GPMU
BPIF
Heidelberg Graphic Equipment
NPA
GPMU
HSE Minute Secretary

Apologies

Mr A Porter
Dr A Erlam
Mr D Barker
Mr G Mcinyre

Observers

Mr T Usher
Mr P Adams
Ms L Ferrier

Summary of Action Agreed

1. (Min 3.2) Development of costed solutions for the safeguarding of Auto Platens and preparation of a draft protocol for discussion at PIAC.

ACTION Safety and Human Factors sub committee

2. (Min 3.3) The data from the research project into accidents in the printing industry to be reviewed to see if information about the predominant causes of slips, trips and falls could be identified.

ACTION Safety and Human Factors sub committee

3. (Min 6.2.2) Members to forward ideas for International Health and Safety Conference to the Sector Group by the end of May 2002.

ACTION All Members

4. (Min 9) Members to forward information for inclusion on the Register of Members Interests to the Sector Group as soon as possible if they have not already done so.

ACTION All Members

1. INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

1.1 The Acting Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He extended the apologies of the Chairman who was unable to attend due to other work commitments. He went on to introduce Mr Hobson who had joined the Paper & Printing Sector Group in January 2002.

1.2 The Acting Chair updated the committee on several changes to the membership of the committee. Mr McNab, Mr Cooper and Mr Budworth have left the industry and had therefore tendered their resignation from the committee. Mr Clarke has also resigned from the committee. Nominations for replacements for Mr Cooper and Mr Clarke have already been received by the Chairman and are currently being processed. Nominations from BPIF and Scottish Print Employers Federation are now needed to fill the places left by Mr McNab and Mr Budworth.

1.3 Other apologies were noted.

1.4 The Acting Chair welcomed Mr Philip Adams from Field Group who was attending the meeting as an observer.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 14TH OCTOBER 2001

The minutes were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 (Min 1.3) Chairman to find out if all meetings of the committee could be open to the public. The response from the HSC Secretariat was that in principle all meetings of the committee could be open to the public if the committee so wished. There followed a wide ranging debate on membership of the committee, public interest members and venues of the annual Open Meeting / AGM. It was agreed to look at the issues raised in more detail at the committees summer meeting.

Item discharged

3.2 (Min 3.1) Development of costed solutions for the safeguarding of Auto Platens and preparation of a draft protocol for discussion at PIAC. The Sector Group have been unable to progress this matter due to staff shortages but Mr Hobson will be taking this matter forward with the Safety & Human Factors sub committee in June 2002.

Item carried forward

3.3 (Min 3.7) The data from the research project into accidents in the printing industry to be reviewed to see if information about the predominant causes of slips, trips and falls could be identified. The Sector Group have been unable to progress this matter due to staff shortages but Mr Hobson will be taking this matter forward with the Safety & Human Factors sub committee in June 2002.

Item carried forward

3.4 (Min 6.2) PIAC to develop an Action Plan to tackle the problem of MSD within the Printing Industry. This will be discussed at agenda item 4.

Item discharged

4. REPORT FROM THE HEALTH SUB COMMITTEE

4.1 The sub committee last met on 24th January 2002. It discussed

- { Communicating the role of Occupational Health Services
- { Management of Occupational Health
- { Dermatitis and Glove Selection
- { IPEX

4.2 The meeting was attended by Dr B Kueter and Dr A Mayer from the German BG.

4.3.1 The item on Communicating the role of Occupational Health Services was not discussed at length due to time constraints and the sub committee agreed that the item should be discussed in more detail at their next meeting.

4.3.2 The sub committee Chairman drew the sub committees attention to a new service provided by the NHS called NHS Plus which will provide access to occupational health services for SME's (small to medium size enterprises). PIAC were told that health authorities have to go through an accreditation scheme before being able to offer this service and that so far only a few had received their accreditation, but that most other health authorities were currently going through the accreditation process.

4.3.3 The sub committee agreed that it was within its' remit to make the printing industry aware of the service and the considerable benefits it could bring. The sub committee also felt that that they have a role in communicating to printers what kind of services they should be looking for and also helping small printers understand when and where they need help and what they can do for themselves.

4.4.1 The sub committee briefly discussed the continuing failure of printers to carry out proper risk assessments. The sub committee said that printers were still adopting knee jerk reactions to hazard labels and that they were not making use of the Acrylate Preference Criteria Scheme, the Solvent Substitution Scheme and COSHH Essentials all of which had been designed to make risk assessment easier. The sub committee undertook to discuss this issue in more depth at a future meeting and also discuss promotional activity to encourage the use of management tools such as COSHH Essentials.

4.4.2 The sub committee Chair has agreed to invite the person who developed the MSD Assessment Tool to give a presentation at the next meeting of the sub committee.

4.5.1 Members of the sub committee were sent a revised draft of the dermatitis leaflet with the papers for the meeting. The revised text was discussed and changes agreed. The sub committee were informed the final design and layout of the leaflet would be available at the end of February 2002 (Note the leaflet has now been published).

4.5.2 The sub committee were updated on progress with the dermatitis research project. They were told that the research team were in the process of firming up the details of their proposed interventions. The interventions had been slightly delayed, due to problems identifying volunteer companies, but the research team were still on target.

5. IPEX 2002 AND THE LAUNCH OF THE PRINTERS GUIDE

5.1 The committee were informed of the final arrangements for the HSE stand at IPEX.

5.2 The Skin Zone arrangements had been finalised and the Zone will be staffed by EMAS personnel who offer advice and fill in a workplace questionnaire with the visitor. There will be a display by glove manufacturers and skin cream suppliers showing the range of products available but none will be for sale. However the BSIF have said that following IPEX they will carry out a free full audit for any company who visit the stand.

5.3 There will be an MSD model on the stand which will have moving parts.

5.4 There will be a daily competition with a "Spot the Hazard" Graphic and the prize will be a copy of the new Printers Guide. The graphic will also be available as a free poster.

5.5 The sales area will only be selling Sector Specific Guidance and full web access will be available to look up and print off information as required.

5.6 There will be two promotional days on the 11th and 12th April. The 11th will be promoting MSD and skin problems and the 12th will be an event promoting European Partnerships. Members were invited to attend these days as well as any others they wished to.

5.7 Members were told that the revised, and fully indexed, Printers Guide to Health and Safety would be officially launched at the start of the exhibition. The cost of the new guide will be £12.50. (Note it has now been published and copies are being distributed to members of PIAC)

6. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

6.1 The Acting Chairman informed members of his continuing discussions with the BG. The latest discussions had centred on how the various Health & Safety bodies across Europe could continue to learn from each other. PIAC were told that the research it was doing into Dermatitis in the industry had prompted the BG to carry out a similar exercise and that they were very interested in the COSHH Essentials publication and were currently evaluating it to see if it could be adapted for use in Germany.

6.2.1 A proposal for an International Conference, to be held in York, in the Autumn of 2003 was discussed at the meeting with the BG. The theme of which would be what does a Printer need to get Profit into Printing. PIAC were asked for their views on this proposal.

6.2.2 PIAC agreed, in principal, to such an event but said that marketing the event would be crucial to its' success. They felt that if the event was marketed as a health and safety event then the take up would be poor. Many expressed reservations about the idea of "Profit in Printing" Members were asked to forward their ideas to the Sector Group by the end of May 2002.

7. COMMUNICATING WITH SMALL FIRMS

7.1 At the last meeting of PIAC the Sector Group were asked to carry out a mapping exercise to identify who the key intermediaries are within the printing industry to enable PIAC to take forward the Revitalising Health and Safety Initiative.

7.2.1 An outline Action Plan to tackle this was put to PIAC for discussion at this meeting. The proposal was discussed in detail. Members made the point that many small printers see health and safety as a burden not a benefit so that any work done following this mapping exercise must emphasise the cost benefits of good health and safety practice. BPIF reported that they were currently working with the insurance industry to develop a scheme to reduce annual premiums for companies that have complied with a BPIF produced health and safety checklist.

7.2.2 Members discussed the possibility of involving the machinery suppliers in the initiative by getting them to give instruction on health and safety for staff when installing new machines not just instructions on siting of the machine within the premises, as is current practice.

7.2.3 The possibility of using customers as a way of influencing health and safety performance within a company (as is current practice with Food Hygiene legislation) was also discussed and members felt this could be a useful tool.

7.3 The discussion document gave mention to the HSC's Good Neighbour Scheme which is essentially a scheme whereby volunteer companies act as health and safety mentors for other companies in their area. PIAC were not convinced that the scheme would work for the printing industry but agreed, in principal, to a small pilot exercise.

7.4 Members also discussed PIAC's publications strategy and all felt that there was considerable room for improvement. Rather than just producing guidance with very little promotion they felt that the publication of guidance should be just part of a whole package.

7.5 The committee also discussed the way health and safety information is disseminated. Members felt that the message giver for the industry should not be HSE as it is seen as the bringer of bad news and its' guidance as incomprehensible. All felt that whoever was delivering the Health and Safety message should be a well known, well respected member of the printing industry.

7.6 It was agreed that following amendment the proposal should be remitted to the Safety and Human Factors sub committee to take forward.

8 REVITALISING HEALTH AND SAFETY

8.1 The committee discussed progress with Revitalising Health and Safety, in particular the changes within HSE to target the main causes of accidents and ill health and how PIAC could support these. It was agreed that the proposed mapping exercise would go a long way to determining how intermediaries can be used to promote good Health and Safety practice in the printing industry. The matter was referred to the Safety and Human Factors sub committee in association with the mapping exercise.

9. OPEN GOVERNMENT

Members were reminded of the requirement for HSC/E to keep a Register of IAC Members Interests. Members were asked to forward the appropriate information to the Sector Group as soon as possible if they have not already done so.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Members attention was drawn to the following

- { HSC/E's Strategic Research Outlook Document 2002 - available on the HSE Web site at www.hse.gov.uk/research/content/opps/sroo2.pdf
- { Presentation on the proposed new Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations and Modernising Petrol: Phase 1 - dates available from Sector Group.

11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

18th July 2002 - BPIF Birmingham - Annual Review and Planning Meeting
22nd October 2002 - GPMU Quorn - Open Meeting
12th March 2003 - HSE East Grinstead