

MINUTES OF THE PRINTING INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Health sub committee meeting held on 14th May 2002

Present

Dr A R Erlam
Mrs S Peace
Mr P Machin
Mr R A Hudspith
Mr D Blanchard
Ms H Davitt

Representing

HSE (Chair)
HSE (Secretary)
PICON
GPMU
BCF
NPA

Apologies

Mr D Barker
Mr P Chambers
Mr D Wallis
Mr P Larkin

Observers

SUMMARY OF ACTION AGREED

1. (Min 3.1.2) Development of agreed limits of exposure to UV light, an agreed method of measurement and definition of high risk areas to be pursued and comments regarding manufacturers responsibilities to be passed to the person in the Sector responsible for the development of the relevant standard pr1010.

ACTION Sector Group

2. (Min 4.2) Proposal that the largest 30 - 50 printing companies be identified as part of the mapping exercise and then invited to attend a conference or seminar about occupational health (and/or PIAC's Open Meeting in October 2002), to receive key messages about the health risks, what occupational health services they should consider providing to employees and promoting an exchange of best practice between them, to be explored.

ACTION Sector Group

3. (Min 4.3) Checklist of occupational health services that printers might require to be prepared, for use particularly by SMEs.

ACTION Chair

4. (Min 4.4) Occupational health providers attention to be drawn to the health problems within the printing industry and the type of services that SME printers may require. The committee Chair to prepare a document and then write to the central au-

ditioning office of NHS Plus and to all the main institutes whose members provide such services.

ACTION **Chair**

5. (Min 5.1) Chair to draw up a protocol for research into musculoskeletal disorders in the printing industry in consultation with a Nursing Adviser and present this at the next meeting.

ACTION **Chair**

6. (Min 8.1) Produce an addendum to the priced publication The Guide to the Safe Use of Iccyanates in Printing and Laminating containing the relevant new information.

ACTION **Sector Group**

7. (Min 8.2) The PIAC Information Sheet, Asthma in the Printing Industry to be circulated for comment.

ACTION **Sector Group**

8. (Min 9.1.1) Comments and concerns regarding safeguarding standards and provision of information by manufacturers of digital printing equipment to be passed to the person in the Sector responsible for the development of the relevant standard pr1010.

ACTION **Sector Group**

9. (Min 9.1.2) Upon receipt of information about the identity of the key printing head suppliers, Sector Group to pursue the issue of labelling and material safety data sheets.

ACTION **Sector Group**

10. (Min 10.3) List of new publications of interest to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.

ACTION **Minute Secretary**

11. (Min 10.4) Sector to take action to try to ensure that when COSHH Essentials for Printers becomes available online it is possible to go straight to the control sheets.

ACTION **Sector Group**

12. (Min 10.5) Members concerns regarding the requirement for INEX numbers to replace CAS numbers on material safety data sheets to be passed on to the relevant HSE representative.

ACTION Sector Group

1. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES

1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to Helen Davitt who has replaced Louise Ward on the committee. She will be representing the Newspaper Publishers Association.

1.2 The Chairman also noted that Graham Cooper of the Newspaper Society had been replaced by Paul Larkin and that Neil Budworth of the British Printing Industries Federation had been replaced by Dale Wallis, although neither could be present at this meeting.

1.3 All other apologies were noted.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 24TH JANUARY 2002

The minutes were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 (Min 3.1) In the context of the development of an agreed safe level for UV light, the BG to forward information on the Kraft Project to the Sector. This was done and the information circulated with the papers for this meeting.

3.1.1 The recommended maximum permissible exposure values contained in the BG document were adopted from the 1976 American Conference of Industrial Hygienists report (ACGIH), which this committee had already seen. Usefully the BG paper identified in broad terms very low, low, medium and high risks in terms of irradiance values. The paper also referred to instruments for the measurement of UV hazard. This would not be a particularly easy to carry out without specialist involvement. It was suggested that there are limited numbers of meters in the UK that could be used for measurement, and that each type measures in a different way.

3.1.2 The committee suggested that agreed limits, an agreed method of measurement, and a definition of high risk areas were needed to ensure effective and consistent enforcement. The Secretariat undertook to pursue this issue and report back to the committee. It was further agreed that manufacturers of printing equipment should be required to provide more information residual risk, and it was agreed that this comment would be passed to the person in the Sector responsible for the development of the relevant standard pr1010.

Item carried forward

3.2 (Min 3.4) The Chair to invite the person who developed the MSD Assessment tool to give a presentation to a future meeting. The Chair has spoken to Sarah Tapley who developed the tool and she will give a presentation to the September meeting of the committee.

Item discharged

3.3 (Min 8.3) Revised glove selection table to be produced within ten working days of the meeting. Contributions were received from Mr Machin and Mr Blanchard but agreement was not possible so the original table was reinserted into the dermatitis leaflet. The contributions received took the approach of linking the advice to the particular tasks carried out by printers. This approach was considered to be the most effective means of communicating the message. Mr John McAlinden will attend the next meeting to take the discussions forward.

Item discharged

4. AND 7. COMMUNICATING THE ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES AND PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION

4.1 The committee reviewed the agenda and agreed that items 4 and 7 should be discussed as one item.

4.2 The committee considered what activities they could carry out that would raise awareness among printers and promote an understanding of occupational health services. It was suggested that one approach should be taken for the top 30-50 large printing businesses and a different approach adopted to deal with the many SME's. It was thought that the mapping exercise currently being undertaken on PIAC's behalf should be used to identify the largest 30 - 50 printing companies. Indeed it was thought that the GMPU, BPIF and PICON, BCF could probably identify these with relative ease. These companies should then be invited to attend a conference or seminar about occupational health, with or without workshops, to receive key messages about the health risks, what occupational health services they should consider providing to employees and promoting an exchange of best practice between them. This would also involve the development and delivery of case studies on the benefits of occupational health provision, such as reductions in absenteeism. It was also suggested that some of these companies should be invited to PIAC's Open Meeting in October 2002. The Secretary undertook to ensure that the committee's views and ideas about this were taken forward.

4.3 For SME's two initial actions were identified. The first was to prepare a ready made checklist of occupational health services that printers might require, and that they can use when trying to obtain services. Currently few are equipped to even discuss what services they might need. There was some discussion about the best way to publicise this initiative. GPMU said that it would publicise it through their journals, BCF and PICON agreed to do the same. BPIF will also be asked if they would be willing to do the same in their journal.

4.4 The second action was to draw occupational health providers attention to the health problems within the printing industry and the type of services that SME printers may require. The committee Chair agreed to prepare a document and then write to the central auditing office of NHS Plus and to all the main institutes whose members provide such services. The committee hoped that this proactive effort would encourage some providers to contact SME printers about occupational health, raising awareness and the level of actual provision.

5. MANAGEMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

5.1 The Chair reported that one of his Employment Nursing Advisers had come across several issues with MSD within the printing industry in the South East and as a result would like to do a project to look at the issues. The Chair said that he would work with the Nursing Adviser to draw up a protocol to present to the next meeting of the committee. He did however say to the committee that because the project would be an inspection based one then enforcement action would be taken if necessary.

5.2 Members attention was drawn to two useful web sites:

1. Securing Health Together - Best Practice - www.ohstrategy.net/bestpractice
2. SignUP - Healthy Workplace Initiative - www.signupweb.net

6. ACCESS TO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

6.1 Since the last meeting of the committee the Secretary had obtained more information about the new Occupational Health Service NHS Plus. She reported that 105 Health Authorities had now achieved accreditation and that an NHS Plus web site was available (www.nhsplus.nhs.uk). This provided some useful information, in particular case studies giving a breakdown of costings per head for the provision of occupational health services within various sized companies.

7. REHABILITATION

This was discussed at agenda item 4

8. REVISION OF PUBLICATIONS

8.1 The Guide to the Safe Use of Isocyanates in Printing and Laminating has been circulated to the relevant departments within HSE and the consensus was that there is not enough new information to warrant the publication being completely revised and republished at this time. It was agreed that an addendum containing new information would be produced.

8.2 A Member of the committee had suggested that some of the references needed to be updated on the Information Sheet Occupational Asthma in the Printing Industry. This sheet was originally developed in 1998 and is currently available either on the web or in single copies from the Sector. Members agreed revision was needed and also suggested that some examples of problems and solutions should be included. It was agreed that the document would be circulated for comment.

8.3 The Secretary said that she had received some initial feedback from the SWORD and OPRA Schemes 1996 - 2001 concerning respiratory illness. The schemes had reported 23 cases of asthma in the printing industry over an 11 year period.

9. DIGITAL INKS

9.1 A member of the committee raised concerns about health and safety standards in the digital printing industry. This part of the printing industry is growing rapidly but there appears to be little health and safety knowledge or controls. The member found that many of the inks are imported from Canada and Israel, are incorrectly labelled and either have no material safety data sheet, or one that does not conform with UK requirements. MEK is a common ingredient in the inks and the machines are cleaned with solvent. UV inks are also used within this industry. There is a need for frequent cleaning and the risk of spills or leaks from the printing ink heads, yet little or no extraction is fitted and the equipment is often used in environments with restricted space. Guarding standards on the machines are often inadequate, for example access can be gained to the traps created between the moving ink heads and fixed parts of the machine.

9.1.1 Members felt that although digital printing was mentioned in COSHH Essentials for Printers more detailed information was perhaps required given growth in this sector of the industry. It was agreed that the comments and concerns expressed would be passed to the person in the Sector responsible for the development of the relevant standard pr1010, with a view to the development of proposals for safeguarding standards and user information provided by manufacturers to be included in the standard.

9.1.2 It was further agreed that, upon receipt of information about the identity of the key printing ink head suppliers, Secretariat would pursue the issue of labelling and material safety data sheets.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 The latest document concerning the Physical Agents (Noise) Directive were sent out with the agenda for this meeting.

10.2 An article "Increased morbidity from nasopharyngeal carcinoma and chronic pharyngitis or sinusitis among workers at a newspaper printing company" was circulated with the agenda.

10.3 Members were informed of new publications of interest since the last meeting. It was agreed that the list would be sent with the minutes of this meeting.

10.4 It was noted that COSHH Essentials was now freely available online. However a member reported that when he tried to access it he found that you could only get to the control sheets if you have the details of the chemical. Members asked whether the Sector could ensure that when COSHH Essentials for Printers becomes available via the web it is possible to go straight to the Control Sheets .

10.5 Members attention was drawn to CHIP 3 (due out later this year). The revision requires suppliers to put the INEX numbers and not the CAS numbers on their material safety data sheets, which will present industry with a problem as EH40 only has the CAS numbers listed. It was agreed that members concerns regarding this issue would be passed to the relevant HSE representative.

11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

26th September 2002 - HSE East Grinstead

28th January 2003 - Venue TBA

