

Minutes of the Rubber Industry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the 56th meeting of the RUBBER INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE held on 27 FEBRUARY 2002 at HSEs offices, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Present

Mr A D Porter
Mr D Simpson
Dr A Dost
Dr J K Straughan
Mr J Cash
Mr B Nicholson
Mr J Marshall
Mr H Thomas
Mr M Smith
Mr W Holmes
Mr M Khalik
Mr C Flint,
Mr P Green
Dr D Gaubert
Mrs C Rooney-West

Apologies

Mr A Harvey
Ms S Ikin
Mr A DiGravio

Representing

Chairman, HSE
British Vita
BRMA
BRMA
Cooper Avon Tyres
Pirelli Tyres
GMB
TGWU
GOODYEAR
MSFU
GMB
Secretary, HSE
HSE
HSE
Minute Secretary, HSE

Observers

Mr J Sunderland
Mr B Hall

Summary of Action agreed:

- 1. (Min 2.1)** Secretary to write to all those members who have not submitted their e-mail details.
- 2. (Min 2.2)** Secretary to provide Mr J Marshall with an up to date list of TU members of RUBIAC and attendance records.
- 3. (Min 2.4)** Secretary to seek nominations for the RUBIAC Manual Handling Working Group to look at tyre delivery and collection.
- 4. (Min 2.6)** Secretary to write to consultees reminding them to send comments on the draft RUBIAC guidance on exposure monitoring and reporting for rubber fume and dust.

5. **(Min 2.8)** Dr D Gaubert to collate information for the health surveillance recommended practice approach and arrange first Working Group meeting.
6. **(Min 2.9)** Secretary to re-send Register of Interests form to members yet to complete one.
7. **(Min 3.2)** All members to provide feedback on how to pursue dermatitis health surveillance in the industry.
8. **(Min 3.3)** Secretary to ask the RUBIAC Manual Handling Working Group to consider the upper limb disorder data when it reconvenes.
9. **(Min 4.2)** Secretary to write to the rubber industry to get greater buy-in to the RUBIAC accident reduction initiative.
10. **(Min 5.2)** Secretary to include contribution from TU side at CEO event.
11. **(Min 7.2)** Secretary to send copy of the draft rubber dust and fume monitoring guidance to Mr Khalik and Mr Hall.
12. **(Min 8.2)** Secretary to speak with the section of HSE agreeing the way forward on urinary cytology with the Department of Health and report any developments to next meeting.
13. **(Min 9.3)** Secretary to locate HSE records for EXASRUB project.
14. **(Min 10.2)** Secretary to send draft text for RUBIAC newsletter No. 21 to members for comment.
15. **(Min 12.4)** Secretary to look into omission of RUBIAC on the work into an Occupational Exposure Limit for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons.

0. WELCOME AND CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

0.1 Mr M Khalik was welcomed as a new member. Mr J Sunderland and Mr B Hall were welcomed as observers. Claire Rooney-West was introduced as the temporary RUBIAC minute secretary.

1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 October 2001

1.1 The minutes were agreed.

2. Matters arising

2.1 E-mail addresses (min 2.1) - There were still a number of members yet to submit e-mail addresses to the RUBIAC Secretary. Secretary to pursue.

2.2 TU membership (min 2.2) - The TU side replacement for Mr J Hann is Mr M Khalik, present at the meeting. Mr J Marshall requested information from the Secretary on TU membership of RUBIAC and attendance records.

2.3 Retread Working Group (min 2.4) - The 8 April was announced as the date for the next RUBIAC Retread Working Group meeting. Membership had been settled.

- 2.4 Membership of the RUBIAC Manual Handling Working Group (min 2.10) - This group was being reconvened to look at tyre delivery and collection. Membership still had to be settled. As the work couldn't progress until April 2002 when the Rubber and Plastics Sector Group would be up to strength membership would be pursued then. Mr J Marshall said he would continue to identify TU members.
- 2.5 Health Statistics (min 3.4) - Dr D Gaubert's follow up work on the ill health data was on the main agenda at item 3.
- 2.6 Draft RUBIAC guidance (min 4.2) - Secretary to write out to consultees reminding them to respond promptly to the draft RUBIAC guidance on exposure monitoring and reporting for rubber fume and dust. There had been a poor response to date.
- 2.7 Urinary Cytology (min 5.1) - An update on the HSE position on Urinary Cytology was on the main agenda at item 9.
- 2.8 Health Surveillance checklist (min 6.7) - Dr D Gaubert to take the lead on the production of a RUBIAC recommended practice approach on Health surveillance. Dr Dost, Dr Gilanders and Mr Flint are to be members of the working group. Dr D Gaubert to arrange first meeting.
- 2.9 Register of Interests (min 7.2) - Secretary to write out again requesting those members who haven't yet returned their completed Register of Interest form to do so.
- 2.10 Number of RUBIAC meetings (min 7.3) - Members voted to retain 3 meetings a year.

3 Rubber Industry Health Statistics

- 3.1 Members debated the additional statistical data Dr D Gaubert presented to the meeting in paper 56/02/1. This data came from the voluntary reporting scheme co-ordinated by Manchester University.
- 3.2 From the data dermatitis stood out as a health issue amongst rubber workers, however, the true extent was not known. Members suggested that the person responsible for health surveillance in companies needed to be more pro-active to identify cases and get a more accurate picture of the extent of the issue. Dr Gaubert asked that members provide feedback on how this might best be pursued for debate at the next meeting. This should include the sources of information that might be used.
- 3.3 Upper limb disorders were also highlighted from the data and members asked that this data be looked at by the RUBIAC Manual Handling Working Group when it is reconvened. •

4. Work place Contact Officer (WCO) survey report

- 4.1** Three workplace contact officers (WCOs) visited all rubber manufacturing businesses registered with the HSE in Yorkshire and the North East. Visits were made by appointment.
- 4.2** Approximately 90 businesses were visited. A significant number of those contacted did not automatically associate themselves with the 'Rubber Industry'. Consequently, when they originally received the Action Plan, they felt no 'bond' with the industry as a whole, and didn't feel inclined to take ownership of it. This was particularly the case with smaller companies. Members agreed that the Secretary should write to companies setting out why they are included as part of the rubber industry. They should be informed of the work that has been done and of any future initiative to reduce accidents to which they should sign up as part of the "Revitalising" agenda.
- 4.3** The companies who did accept ownership were larger companies or SMEs forming part of a larger group. There were however a few 'blind spots' where we would expect a more positive/informed response. A number of people we would expect to have received a copy of the Action Plan claimed not to have seen it. Very few could produce the Recommended Practice text. Overall, about half of the contacts claimed not to know about the Action Plan however there were variations with the North East having the greatest positive responses and West/North Yorkshire having the lowest. More people claimed to have seen the RUBIAC Newsletter than the Action Plan.
- 4.4** When asked if they had carried out manual handling assessments most companies thought they had not. In fact they had been done and incorporated into machinery risk assessments. Purely lifting tasks were not routinely assessed. The main form of management of the issue was to provide training in lifting techniques. Most of the companies visited had 1-3 of the processes in their factories covered by the manual handling case studies in the RUBIAC guidance. Most of the assessments were carried out by a combination of personnel.

5 RUBIAC Action Plan CEO meeting 22 March 2002.

- 5.1** The secretary informed the meeting that letters of invitation had been sent out to all companies in the industry. Dr Dost had also written to BRMA members to encourage attendance. The secretary would send a reminder letter to all BRMA member companies and the top 100 non-BRMA companies in the industry. RUBIAC members were asked to encourage the attendance of Directors and senior managers.
- 5.2** An agenda had been prepared which included contributions from industry reporting on initiatives undertaken to progress the RUBIAC Action Plan. Mr Marshall noted that there wasn't a contribution on the agenda from TU side. Members agreed Mr Marshall should give a TU perspective on the Action Plan.

5.3 Members made it clear agreement to a new high level accident reduction initiative should be sought at the event. This would need to include new targets and end date whilst recognising companies where progressing at different speeds. To reflect this RUBIAC would need an approach which allowed those still needing to meet the objectives of the first RUBIAC Action Plan opportunity to do this whilst giving something new for those ready to move on into new areas.

5.4 The paper to be presented to the CEO event for discussion would include those health and safety items members had expressed a desire to see progress on and which had been discussed at the last 3 RUBIAC meetings e.g. improving supervision, rehabilitation, training etc. The BRMA health and safety conference in September would be a platform to formally launch any new high level initiative.

6 Supervisors Workshops

6.1 Dr Dost informed the meeting that following discussions between HSE and the BRMA supervision had been identified as an underlying cause in many accidents. It had been decided that workshops would be run for supervisors with the aim of giving them information about the key role they play in managing health and safety, an understanding of human behaviour and tools they might use to improve in their role.

6.2 Dr Dost had produced an agenda for the supervisors workshop. The intention was to pilot the exercise for BRMA members and then make it available to the rest of the rubber industry.

7 RUBIAC Dust and Fume Monitoring and Reporting - Draft Publication

7.1 The draft had been circulated within HSE and externally for comment. Only a few responses had been received to date and the Secretary said he would chase up those that were outstanding. These would be forwarded to Dr Dost. Dr Dost agreed to provide a revised draft once these had been received. Dr Dost would like the BRMA's involvement in preparing the guidance acknowledged in the publication.

7.2 Mr Hall and Mr Khalik both requested a copy. The Secretary agreed to send it to them.

8 Urinary Cytology Update

8.1 It had not been clear if BRMA views had been taken into consideration when discussing this issue at the ACTS July 2001 meeting. The Secretary had pursued the matter with the relevant section in HSE and been informed that whilst HSE wouldn't support such schemes for the rubber industry starting today that existing schemes should continue. There was to be a meeting with the Department of Health to explain

HSE's position and ensure that people presently being monitored by the NHS, or those who might transfer to its scheme in the future, would continue to be monitored. Dr J K Straughan said he would like to know the outcome of this meeting and any report produced. The Secretary would liaise with the relevant section in HSE.

9 EXASRUB Project

9.1 Dr Dost described a new research project sponsored by the EC for the rubber industry - "Improved Exposure Assessment for Prospective Cohort Studies and Exposure Control in the European Rubber Manufacturing Industry (EXASRUB)".

9.2 The project started in January 2002 and its duration is expected to be 2 years. The goal is to develop new insights into exposure controls and exposure assessment in the European rubber manufacturing industry. Personal exposure measurements available in the Netherlands, Germany, UK and Sweden will be amalgamated into a common database. The database will provide information for constructing statistical exposure models for known and potential carcinogens. The models will seek to identify and evaluate exposure reducing measures and ascertain production characteristics that can be best used to assess exposure for three prospective cohort studies in Germany, Sweden and the UK.

9.3 The BRMA is coordinating the UK input to this project and is requesting the HSE and others to provide data. The BRMA has asked the HSE to provide existing data for the rubber industry contained in the National Exposure Database and elsewhere. BRMA will also request data from its own members

10 RUBIAC Newsletter No. 21

10.1 RUBIAC newsletter No. 21 is to be produced after the CEO meeting on 22 March. It will be used to promote the CEO event and any agreement to a further high level accident reduction initiative. Other articles include the BRMA Health Surveillance event, EXASRUB project, draft RUBIAC Fume and Dust monitoring and reporting guidance and the report on recent WCO visits in Yorkshire and the North East.

10.2 Secretary to send draft text to members for comment.

11 Physical Agents Directive - Noise

11.1 Dr Dost reported on UK lobbying to ensure that proposed amendments to the noise provisions of the Directive would not be detrimental to UK industry. The meeting heard that the most controversial amendments had been withdrawn.

12 AOB

12.1 The Secretary reminded members that there is less than a year to go for all mobile work equipment to be brought into compliance with Part 3 of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. The measures that needed to be addressed includes roll-over protection, falling object protection, seat restraints and driver visibility aids.

12.2 The Secretary brought to members attention the revised HSE Enforcement Policy Statement and a forthcoming presentation on the proposed new Regulations on Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres (DSEAR).

12.3 Dr Dost expressed the view that HSE had not responded well to industries concerns following two recent fatalities at Banbury mixers. It was agreed that in future the Sector group would manage the flow of information differently to improve communication. Dr Dost said he would be writing to the DG on better communications following such events.

12.4 Dr Dost said he had received an e-mail from Martin Unwin HSE regarding work to revise the Occupational Exposure Limit for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons. It was agreed that RUBIAC should have been informed of this work earlier. The Secretary said he would look into this.

13 Date and venue of next meeting

13.1 27 June 2002 - HSEs Offices, Newcastle-under-Lyme.