

Minutes of the Rubber Industry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the 57th meeting of the RUBBER INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE held on 27 JUNE 2002 at HSEs offices, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Present

Mr A D Porter
Mr D Simpson
Dr A Dost
Dr J K Straughan
Mr J Marshall
Mr H Thomas
Mr W Holmes
Mr M Khalik
Ms S Ikin
Mr A Harvey
Mr T DiGravio
Mr G King
Mr C Flint
Mr P Green
Dr D Gaubert
Ms A Rayner

Apologies

Mr J Cash
Mr M Smith

Representing

Chairman, HSE
British Vita
BRMA
BRMA
GMB
TGWU
AMICUS MSF
GMB
RMA
AMICUS AEEU
Pirelli Tyres
HSE
Secretary, HSE
HSE
HSE
Minutes Secretary, HSE

Observers

Mr J Sunderland

Summary of Action agreed:

1. **(Min 2.6)** Secretary to pursue outstanding Register of Interest forms.
2. **(Min 3.1)** The Risk Control Indicators would be sent to members with the minutes.
3. **(Min 3.3)** Chair to raise the issue of a free leaflet for SMEs explaining FOD's Revitalizing approach.
4. **(Min 4.4)** Secretary to send final draft Action Plan for comments from members.
5. **(Min 5.4)** Dr Gaubert to discuss with Secretary mechanisms for pursuing skin disorder survey.
6. **(Min 7.1)** Mr Green to clarify position of fatal investigations to determine if

a special edition of the RUBIAC newsletter can be published yet.

7. (Min 8.1) Dr Dost to report to next meeting on trial Supervisor workshops.
8. (Min 9.1) Dr Dost to send latest draft of RUBIAC dust and fume monitoring publication to Secretary for consultation and publication.
9. (Min 10.1) Secretary to seek update on urinary cytology for next meeting.
10. (Min 12.1) Secretary to ask Mr Tyldesley to review implications of DSEAR to rubber industry and prepare guidance if necessary.
11. (Min 14.1) Dr Dost to report back to next meeting on isolation of top doors at Banbury mixers during cleaning.
12. (Min 14.2) Secretary to obtain update on WATCH carbon black review for next meeting.
13. (Min 14.3) Secretary to feedback to HSE coordinator RUBIAC view on misuse of nuisance dust masks in the industry.
14. (Min 14.7) Dr Dost to feedback to next meeting BRMA members views on the use of limited movement controls at threading up on calenders.
15. (Min 14.8) Mr King to provide the Secretary with a synopsis of various contract research and other reports for circulation to members prior to the next meeting.

0. WELCOME AND CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

0.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. He introduced Mr Graham King, the new HSE team member, to his first meeting of RUBIAC.

1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 October 2001 □

1.1 The previous minutes were accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

2. Matters arising □

2.1 E-mail addresses (Min 2.1) -Two member's e-mails were being returned as undeliverable. As both members this concerned were at the meeting the Secretary would pursue the matter at the end of the meeting. The only other missing addresses were for members who were no longer active on the committee.

2.2 Secretary to provide Mr Marshall with an up to date list of TU members of RUBIAC (Min 2.2) -The Secretary had provided this information. Since neither Mr Picken or Mr B Hall had attended a meeting of RUBIAC since June 2000 TU side were asked to determine if they were still active members and if not to nominate new candidates. The CBI side were also asked to identify a replacement for Mr I Smith.

- 2.3** The Secretary to seek nominations for the RUBIAC Manual Handling Working Group to look at tyre delivery and collection (Min 2.4) - Mr G King to give the current position of the Working Group at Item 7 on the agenda.
- 2.4** 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 (Min 2.6) - A number of comments had been received and forwarded to Mr Dost who would be giving an update at agenda Item 10.
- 2.5** Dr D Gaubert to collate information for the health surveillance recommended practice approach and arrange first Working Group Meeting (Min 2.8) - First Meeting arranged for July.
- 2.6** Secretary to re-send the Register of Interests form to members (Min 2.9) The form had been re-sent to members. Most of those outstanding were completed at the meeting. It was hoped that the remaining ones would be returned in the near future. Secretary to pursue.
- 2.7** Members to provide feedback on how to pursue dermatitis health surveillance in the industry (Min 3.2) This would be taken at Item 6 on the agenda.
- 2.8** Secretary to ask the RUBIAC Manual Handling Working Group to consider the upper limb disorder data when it reconvenes (Min 3.3) - The next meeting is arranged for July and the data would be considered then.
- 2.9** Secretary to write to the rubber industry to get greater buy-in to the RUBIAC accident reduction initiative (Min 4.2) -This had not yet been done. The Secretary was still awaiting finalization of the details of the Phase 2 Action Plan, which was on the agenda at Item 5. This outstanding action will then be pursued.
- 2.10** Secretary to include contribution from TU side at CEO event (Min 5.2) Mr J Marshall spoke at the event.
- 2.11** Secretary to send copy of the draft rubber dust and fume monitoring guidance to Mr M Khalik and Mr B Hall (Min 7.2) -This had been done and the replies received were forwarded to Dr A Dost.
- 2.12** 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 (Min 8.2) - The Secretary had received an update from Howard Jackson which would be given at Item 11 on the agenda.
- 2.13** Secretary to locate HSE records for EXASRUB project (Min 9.3) The records had been located. HSE would liaise with Dr Dost to arrange for him to examine the records. The records on HSE's National Exposure Database Base had been provided to Dr Dost by electronic mail.

2.14 Secretary to send draft text for RUBIAC newsletter No. 21 to members for comment (Min 10.2) - This had been done and the newsletter published.

2.15 Secretary to look into omission of RUBIAC on the work into an Occupational Exposure Limit for Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (Min 12.4) -This had been done. It had been an oversight on the part of HSE and Dr Dost had received an explanation and an apology. The rubber industry would now be consulted.

3 FOD's Revitalizing Approach and the Risk Control Indicators

3.1 The Chairman explained that HSE's Revitalizing agenda represented a change in the way HSE would work in the future. Priority was to be given to certain sectors and topics where significant improvements are needed if the Revitalizing Health and Safety Strategy national targets are to be achieved. The priority sectors are construction, agriculture and health services and priority topics are workplace transport, falls from height, musculoskeletal disorders, stress and slips and trips.

Inspectors would be 'geared up' to look at these topics when visiting premises using the newly developed "risk control indicators" (RCI's). The RCI's would be sent to members.

3.2 Other than the priority sectors HSE's would no longer be organized on an industry basis but on a geographical basis. One of the reasons for this was to reduce the time spent traveling and increase inspection time.

3.3 During the general discussion that followed it was perceived that the change would be a positive step forward and make HSE more effective especially if it was tied in with a strong enforcement policy. It was thought that small firms may not be aware of the change and that a simple leaflet explaining it aimed at SME's would be useful. The Chair agreed to raise this suggestion within HSE.

4. Review of CEO meeting of 22 March 2002 and discussion of proposals for Phase 2 of RUBIAC Action Plan.

4.1 Approximately 50 CEO's attended the meeting in London. Members thought that the agenda at the event had been too long and it would have been better if it had lasted all day as people had booked travel and had to leave early when speakers overran their allotted time. They thought that if it had been arranged for a full day midweek those attending could have planned their time accordingly and this would have contributed to a more relaxed timetable.

4.2 Members agreed to review progress with the Action Plan annually at a RUBIAC open meeting and arrange a CEO event at the end of the 3 - year Action Plan.

4.3 Mr Flint asked members for comments on the revised Action Plan. He spoke to paper 57/02/2. The Application of the Action Plan remained the same. The main aim was for the rubber industry to reduce its overall accident rate to that of all manufacturing rate. The subsidiary aims, objectives and supporting activities still needed agreement. The objectives would be set out showing the deliverables, who was responsible for delivery, the date for completion and the performance measure.

A delegate at the CEO event had asked for a health and safety training matrix for employers in the rubber industry which covered all from senior managers to shop floor workers. This idea received support from members who felt it should be a simple matrix showing people where they are and what they need to do.

4.4 The Secretary would seek final comments from members on the Action Plan, aims and objectives and this would then be shared with the industry.

4.5 The members agreed that they would like a signing up ceremony and that Bill Callaghan should be taken up on his offer to attend.

5 Collection of data on dermatitis in the rubber industry

5.1 Dr Gaubert had circulated a draft letter and questionnaire to be sent to occupational health departments requesting information about occupational ill health in the company's workforce.

5.2 The TUC representatives stated that they would be happy to send a questionnaire to their members.

5.3 Following discussion members agreed to limit the survey questionnaire to looking at dermatitis / skin disorders as the statistics presented at previous meetings showed this to be an issue and it was one on which little data existed for the rubber industry. Dr Dost pointed out that in his experience when he had visited after skin problems had arisen it often followed a change in the substance being used.

5.4 Dr Gaubert agreed to proceed in 2 stages. She would produce an employee questionnaire looking specifically at skin problems that the TUs agreed to send out to members. A separate questionnaire would be produced for employers in the industry. Dr Gaubert would discuss this further with the Secretary to clarify the mechanisms for proceeding.

6 Update on RUBIAC Working Group (WG) Activity

6.1 The reconvened Retread WG preparing guidance for the tyre retread industry had met in April to agree the way forward. The guidance will be aimed at SMEs and employee representatives. It will be in the form

of a limited print run publication copies of which will be sent to all known tyre retread companies. The publication will be completed during the current work year.

- 6.2** The Manual Handling WG to look at tyre collection and delivery has representatives from HSE, trades unions, tyre manufacturers, tyre retread companies, a major national haulage company, the National Tyre Distributors Association, local authority Inspectors and an agronomists from the Health and Safety Laboratory had been formed. Its first meeting was to be held on 25th July 2002.

7 Review of fatal accidents in the rubber industry for 2001/02

- 7.1** Mr Green gave a review of recent fatal accidents in the rubber industry. It was agreed that once the legal position had been clarified on the individual cases a special edition of the RUBIAC newsletter would be published.

- 7.2** Transport
In July 2001 a driver was crushed underneath a telescopic materials handler that overturned when he drove into a stack of tyres.

- 7.3** Machinery
In October 2001 the operator of a machine known as a chalker was killed when it appears his jacket had become entangled on exposed pins and he had been held fast on the bar as the motor attempted to continue to drive it. The machine is used to apply a layer of talc to a rubber-coated web of textile material to stop its surfaces adhering together while in a roll. He sustained fatal crush injuries to his chest as a result of being held fast on the bar. The IP was alone at the time. No guard was provided for the exposed pins although one had previously existed

- 7.3** Machinery
In November 2001 Deceased Person investigating an intermittent problem at discharge door of Banbury mixer. He operated the emergency stop on the Carter Mark 3 Banbury mixer and then climbed onto the conveyor and under the discharge door of the mixer, which was open. At some later point, the mixer was operated by a colleague who opened and shut the door twice. Deceased had part of his head amputated by the door. No guard on the conveyor.

- 7.4** Electrocutation
In May 2001 deceased opened machine electrical cabinets and succeeded in overriding the safety switches, which cut off the power to the high voltage system. The machine was then reset by another person. Deceased was not physically prevented from gaining access to the live conductors, and there were no risk assessments undertaken, or safe systems of work implemented or precautions put

in place for carrying out such work.

8 Supervisors Workshops

- 8.1** Dr Dost told the meeting that the planning for the workshops is 90% complete. There would be 2 trial workshops and it is hoped that the material will be finalized after that. It was hoped that the workshops would start to be run at the end of July.

9 RUBIAC Dust and Fume monitoring and reporting draft publication

- 9.1** This was discussed at the last meeting and a number of comments had been received and all had been considered in producing the latest draft. The draft paper was ready for final consultation before publication. It was noted that no comments had been received from the TU side but if there were any there would still be time to accommodate them. The Chairman thanked Dr Dost for his work on this publication.

10 Urinary Cytology update

- 10.1** Little progress had been made since the last meeting. HSE had written to the Department of Health central screening committee requesting a meeting. There had been no response to date and this would be followed up.

11 EXASRUB Project

- 11.1** Dr Dost reported that the BRMA had been collecting data on exposure in the rubber industry for a European exposure database. A formal structure had been agreed between the participating countries. It was estimated that the database would eventually contain 25,000 monitoring results. Sources of UK data had been identified and were now being collated.

12 Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR)

- 12.1** Mr Flint introduced the subject and spoke to paper 57/02/03. Members were asked about the implications for the industry. It was agreed to ask HSE 's specialist in this area Mr A Tyldesley to review implications for the rubber industry and prepare free guidance if it was necessary. Secretary to follow this up.

13 Physical Agents Directive – Noise update

13.1 Mr Flint had circulated the paper 57/02/04, which was in the form of an open letter from HSE, to members. The members were informed that UK lobbying had been very effective and issues in the Directive that had been perceived as detrimental to industry had been amended.

14 Any other business

14.1 Dr Dost said the BRMA were still gathering information on the problem of safe isolation of top doors at internal mixers during cleaning to determine whether or not this was a problem. Dr Dost agreed to report back to the committee at a later date.

14.2 Carbon black was being reviewed by WATCH who met in May and Dr Dost asked for an update. They had discussed the European morbidity study on carbon black and inhalable / respirable limits. The Secretary has learnt that because the International Carbon Black Association wanted to present new data to WATCH a final decision was not taken. A decision on exposure limits will hopefully be taken at the September meeting following presentation of this new data.

14.3 Misuse of nuisance dust masks. Following a request to the Secretary to make enquiries into this issue in the rubber industry it was concluded this was not a problem and that education would be the answer. Secretary to feedback to HSE coordinator.

14.4 Retread vibration project. The Secretary informed members that a project was being undertaken by a HSE specialist into vibration exposure levels in the tyre retread industry. It was hoped preliminary findings would be presented at the next meeting.

14.5 Nitrosamine exposure research. This project was complete and a report was being prepared which would be brought to members attention by the Secretary when published.

14.6 Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) research. The Secretary informed members that a literature search into dermal uptake of PAHs in the rubber industry had not found anything and so a research proposal was being drawn up.

14.7 Threading up calenders. The BRMA had asked whether current RUBIAC guidance on this, which requires the use of limited movement controls and specifically indicates slow crawl is not acceptable, was correct. A member firm had suggested difficulties complying with this. It had been reported that using limited movement caused damage to motors and gearing. As new machines are still supplied with limited movement controls it was agreed the BRMA would enquire further of its members to see if this was a widespread issue before a decision to review the guidance on safety at calenders was taken. Dr Dost to report back to the next meeting.

14.8 The Secretary informed the committee of a number of recent contract research and other reports whose findings should be taken into account in the work of the committee. It was agreed to make discussion of these reports an agenda item at the next meeting. Mr King to provide the Secretary with a synopsis of each report for circulation to members prior to the next meeting.

15 **Date and venue of next meeting**

The next 3 meetings were arranged for 10 October 2002 at Marshalls Mill, Leeds, 27 February 2002 also at Marshalls Mill and 26 June 2003 at Rose Court in London, which would be an Open Meeting.

16 Close