

**MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2002
AT THE TOWN HALL, THE HEADROW, LEEDS**

Present

Mr A D Porter
Miss M Kingman
Mr P Gates
Mr N Halton
Mrs S Bearcroft
Mr G Rudd
Mr J Beardsley
Mr R Johnson
Mr A Jones
Mr R Binch
Mr N Campbell
Dr F Gallagher
Mr B Coles
Ms L Robertson
Mr H Jones
Mr T Trehear
Mr I Cook
Mr S Kay
Ms A Rayner

Representing

HSE Chairman
HSE Secretary
TUC
TUC
TUC
TUC
CBI
CBI
CBI
CBI
CBI
HSE
HSE HDB5 - Speaker
MMS National Ltd - Speaker
Sarah Lee Courtaulds/KDLI - Speaker
HSE
HSE
HSE
HSE Minutes Secretary

Apologies

Mrs S Burton
Mr S Walsh

Observers

Summary of Action agreed:

- 1 (Min 1.2) To seek a replacement for Mr Rutherford
ACTION: Mr Halton
- 2 (Min 3.2) To seek replacement for Mr Mitchell
ACTION: Secretary
- 3 (Min 3.4) Outstanding declarations of interest to be returned to secretary
ACTION: Members
- 4 (Min 3.7) To consider how to take forward the findings of the research into the accident rate in the cotton industry.
ACTION: Secretary/Mr Walsh
- 5 (Min 5.2) To pursue the possibility of incorporating the 'anchor statements' and scoring system which inspectors would be using for the 'revitalising' topics and to rename the package.
ACTION: Secretary/Mr Kay/Mr Johnson
- 6 (Min 5.3) To investigate whether the audit package could be made available on the HSE Web site and pending the outcome, to make arrangements for a suitable launch in liaison with CBWT.
ACTION: Secretary/Mr Kay/Mr Johnson
- 7 (Min 6.1) To consult widely on the Common Strategy paper and to present views to next meeting
ACTION: Members
- 8 (Min 7.5) To raise concerns about the effects of the various proposals being considered in the development of the Physical Agents (Noise) Directive with the rapporteur/EP/MEPs
ACTION: Members

1 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the 19th meeting, and second open meeting, of the Committee. He was very pleased to welcome members of the public (approx 15) who he invited to contribute to discussion, and the speakers for the meeting - Mr B Coles from HSE, Ms L Robertson from MMS National Ltd and Mr H Jones from Sarah Lee Courtaulds Ltd/KDLI.
- 1.2 The Chairman reported that Mr J Rutherford of the TGWU Textiles Group had resigned from the Committee and said that Mr Halton was pursuing his replacement with the TUC.

2 MINUTES OF THE 18TH MEETING OF TEXIAC HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2001.

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 18TH MEETING OF TEXIAC HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2001.

- 3.1 Textile dust survey (Min 2.2). This was distributed to members at the meeting. Dr Gallagher would speak about this at Agenda item 9.
- 3.2 Nominations for Mr Mitchell's replacement (Min 3.3). Nominations are still being sought.
- 3.3 Revised guidance on expenses entitlements and new claim form (Min 3.5). The guidance document and new claim forms were distributed to members with the minutes of the meeting.
- 3.4 Members to provide information to compile a register of interests (Min 3.6) The forms have been distributed to members. Some forms had not been returned and the Chairman asked members to return them even if they had a nil return.
- 3.5 Investigate innovative ways of publishing information (Min 4.2) Miss Kingman and Mr A Jones were looking into this.
- 3.6 Summary of Strategic Plan to be sent to members (Min 5.2) This had been done.
- 3.7 Decide on next steps following initial research findings (Min 6.5) Miss Kingman and Mr Walsh were still looking into this.
- 3.8 Invite presentation on rehabilitation arrangements (min 8.4) This would be taken at Agenda item 8 by Ms Robertson representing MMS National Ltd.
- 3.9 Complete draft audit package (Min 10) This had been completed and would be taken at agenda item 5.
- 3.10 Members to advise of potential expert witnesses on workplace transport issues (Min 13.2) There were no suggestions received.

4 INDUSTRY REPORTS

- 4.1 Wool - Mr Johnson reported that the CBWT Health and Safety Committee was following the progress of the Physical Agents Directive as it could have a significant impact on the industry.
- There was also interest in the potential of NHS Plus to provide access for small and medium sized businesses to an Occupational Health service but it was still to be seen whether the service would be extended to non-NHS employees.

Many member companies were active in European Health and Safety Week.

- 4.2 Cotton - Mr Binch reported that there was a possibility of a HSE secondment to the industry.
- 4.3 Knitting - this would be dealt with later in the Agenda.
- 4.4 Clothing - Mr A Jones said that the Clothing Industry Committee had not met recently. He reported that the long awaited ISO 10821 on sewing machine guarding standards had not yet been published. The text of the previous draft had been acceptable but objections had been raised to some diagrams.
- 4.5 Footwear - Mr Campbell reported that the Footwear Health and Safety Conference had launched new guidance on slips and trips, falls and ergonomics etc. and that it had been well attended.

5 TEXTILE INDUSTRY MODEL SAFETY AUDIT

- 5.1 Mr Kay reported that the rewrite of the audit had been completed. He had had a productive meeting with representatives of the KDLI and had taken on board their concerns. Mrs Carvell and Mr H Jones had provided some helpful comments on drafting to make it more user friendly and missing questions from the old KDLI audit had been incorporated. The industry specific questions had now been grouped to make it easier to delete a block of questions when tailoring the audit to a particular part of the textiles industry. Mr Kay suggested the possibility of raising the profile of the 'revitalising issues' in the audit by incorporating the anchor statements and scoring system which inspectors would be using during inspections after April 2002. After making the final revisions the next step would be to launch the document and ideas were sought from the committee on promoting its use.
- 5.2 In the discussion which followed there was some support for using the anchor statements, but general agreement that the title 'Model safety audit' was a misnomer.
- 5.3 The Chairman thanked Mr Kay and other members of the industry for this work. He said it was a very useful foundation. The committee agreed that the document could now be launched.

6 REVITALISING HEALTH AND SAFETY: DISCUSSION OF STRATEGY TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY IN TEXTILES SECTOR.

- 6.1 Miss Kingman introduced TEXIAC Paper 19/02/01 'Revitalising Health and Safety: a common strategy to improve health and safety in the textiles and footwear industries'. She said that the aim of the paper was to spread commitment to the Revitalising Agenda and was intended to stimulate discussion and consultation over the next few months. Members would have the

opportunity to give their views and discuss the proposals at greater length at the May meeting.

7 PHYSICAL AGENTS (NOISE) DIRECTIVE - REPORT ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S PROPOSALS

7.1 Mr Coles of HSE's Physical Agents Policy Unit gave a presentation on the progress of negotiations on the Physical Agents (Noise) Directive. He advised that the proposed Directive had to be agreed by both the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament before it could be adopted.

The Council of Ministers reached common position (agreement) on a text for the Directive in October 2001 and sent it on to the European Parliament (EP) for its second reading. The EP rapporteur is charged with preparing a report on the Council common position text, which will be considered by a Committee of the Parliament (Employment and Social Affairs Committee or ESAC) on 18 February 2002. The report may then be amended to take account of the ESAC's views. Next, the report will go to a full meeting of the European Parliament (plenary) which will vote for its adoption in full or in part. This is expected to take place in March 2002. The Directive is likely to be adopted by June 2002 and the UK regulations would be in place three years later.

7.2 Mr Coles provided a comparison of the main proposals in the Council's common position with the current requirements in the Noise at Work Regulations (NAWR) 1989. If adopted in its current form the Directive would reduce the First Action Level in NAWR from 85dB(A) to 80dB(A) and the Second Action Level from 90dB(A) to 85dB(A). Also, hearing protection would be mandatory at 85dB(A) rather than 90dB(A) as at present and the delimiting of ear protection zones would be required at 85dB(A) instead of 90dB(A).

7.3 The European Parliament's draft proposals included no weekly averaging of noise exposure, a reduction of the upper action value from 85 to 83dB(A) and delimiting areas above the upper action value (85dB(A)) regardless of risk assessment.

7.4 In the discussion that followed concern was expressed about the possibility of the upper limit being set at 83dB(A) as this would cause severe problems for employers. Mr A Jones said it would apply to a large proportion of the stitching industry and could ultimately affect their competitiveness.

7.5 Mr Coles advised those with concerns to direct them to the rapporteur, members of the ESAC and MEPs before 18 February.

8 REHABILITATION

8.1 Ms Robertson gave a presentation on MMS National Ltd's Musculoskeletal Management System for rehabilitating injured

workers back into work. MMS operate a network of therapists to whom employees may be referred within 72 hours of injury.

Ms Robertson provided case studies of employees who had been treated under the MMS system and who had been able to return to work sooner than if they had been treated on the NHS. The cost of the treatment to their employers had been more than offset by the savings in sickness pay, lost production, overtime and in compensation payments.

- 8.2 In the discussion that followed there was some scepticism expressed about the figures Ms Robertson had used to calculate the savings and about the feasibility of the service for small firms but comments from both members and members of the public were generally favourable about the benefits of such a rehabilitation system. Dr Gallagher said that there was strong evidence that if people were absent from work for more than 12 weeks, the likelihood of their returning to work sharply decreased.

9 HEALTH TOPICS

- 9.1 Dr Gallagher introduced the draft HSL paper - Health Effects Resulting from Fibre Exposure. He said that though it was not a TEXIAC piece of work it contained much useful information.
- 9.2 Mr H Jones representing the KDLI delivered a paper (deferred from earlier in the meeting) recommending employers to adopt a policy on rehabilitation. The paper included a draft example of a rehabilitation policy.

10 DISCUSSION

In response to a question from the Chairman, members of the public said that the open meeting had been interesting and worthwhile and that should be repeated as an annual event. It had, however, been rather long.

11 UPDATE ON INCIDENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 11.1 The update on incidents and publications would be sent to members with the minutes of the meeting.

12 Any other business

- 12.1 None.

13 Dates and venues of future meetings

- 13.1 Tuesday, 7 May 2002 at Marshalls Mill,
Tuesday, 15 October 2002 at Marshalls Mill

15 January 2003 (open meeting) at Leeds Town Hall (prov)

Close