

**MINUTES OF THE 38th MEETING OF THE
TEXTILES INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
held on 27 January 2009 at HSE's Nottingham Office**

Present

Mr Huw Jones (Chair)
Ms Angela Worthington
Mr Alan Edmond
Ms Elaine Davies
Mr Paul Pearson
Mr Gary Dickson
Mr Brendan Gold
Mr Terry Britton
Mr Tim Small (Secretary)
Mrs Rosie Bricis
Mrs Wendie Drammeh (Minutes Secretary)

Representing

British Clothing Industries Association
Confederation of British Wool Textiles
Community Union
British Footwear Association
UK Leather Federation
Scottish Leather Group Limited
Unite
TGWU
HSE
HSE
HSE

Apologies

Mr Clive Moss	Performance Textiles Association
Mr Chris O'Neill	Performance Textiles Association
Ms Anne Carvell	British Clothing Industries Association
Mr Robert Sneddon	Community Union

Speaker

John Hubbard	SATRA
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Observer

David Wright	SATRA
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ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

No	Actions	Action by
1	(Min 2.6) Mr Small to send Mr Dickson the criteria for LEV case studies on HSE's website. The LEV website now includes FAQs (www.hse.gov.uk/lev/faqs.htm) and case studies (www.hse.gov.uk/lev/casestudies.htm), together with a request for further case studies, details of the criteria to be satisfied and contact details.	complete
2	(Min 3.2) All Members to e-mail Mrs Bricis their comments on the HSE Strategy Document (www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/index.htm) to enable her to draft a response on behalf of TEXIAC.	complete
3	(Min 3.2) Mr Dickson to forward his comments on the HSE Strategy Document to Mrs Bricis after he has attended the Glasgow roadshow on 29 January 2009.	complete
4	(Min 4.5) Ms Worthington to forward the findings of CBWT's accident and ill health survey to Mrs Bricis when it is complete.	end Mar 09

No	Actions	Action by
5	<p>(Min 7.0) Mr Small to forward Mr Dickson information about the REACH regulators and their inspection procedures.</p> <p>DEFRA has the policy lead on REACH in the UK and has developed the enforcement arrangements, acting with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Devolved Administrations for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The authorities given enforcement responsibility by the REACH Enforcement Regulations 2008 are those with existing remits to protect human health, consumer safety and the environment, ie:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the Health and Safety Executive (HSE); · the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI); · the Environment Agency (EA); · the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); · the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) · the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC); and · Local Authorities (LAs) - in relation to health and safety and consumer protection (trading standards). <p>Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 of the REACH Enforcement Regulations 2008 (www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20082852_en_1) sets out which enforcing authority is responsible for enforcing the listed REACH provisions. Broadly speaking these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · HSE, in its capacity as UK REACH CA, will enforce those duties in REACH concerning registration; · HSE in Great Britain and HSENI in Northern Ireland will enforce supply chain related duties up to the point of retail sale; after that, local authority trading standards departments are responsible. <p>Further information can be found on the following websites:</p> <p>HSE - www.hse.gov.uk/reach/enforcement.htm DEFRA - www.defra.gov.uk/environment/chemicals/reach/index.htm</p>	complete
6	<p>(Min 5.1) Ms Bricis to send members an electronic copy of the RIDDOR statistics distributed during the meeting.</p>	end Mar 09
7	<p>(Min 6.1) Mr Small to respond to Mr Dickson's questions about the Machinery Directive, which arose from his attendance at a presentation by Laidler Associates.</p> <p>The following websites give useful information about buying new and second-hand machinery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · work equipment and machinery - www.hse.gov.uk/equipment/index.htm · <i>Buying New Machinery</i> (INDG 271) – www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg271.pdf - this leaflet also gives advice about buying second-hand machinery. 	end Mar 09

MINUTES

1.0 CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and gave apologies for Anne Carvell, Robert Sneddon, Clive Moss and Chris O'Neill.
- 1.2 The Chairman commented on the success of the Open Meeting, which was held on 16 September 2008. Members discussed briefly possible topics and venues for the next Open Meeting, subject to funding being made available.

2.0 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes from the 36th TEXIAC meeting, held on 7 May 2008, were agreed. There were no minutes from the 37th meeting, held on 16 September 2008, as this was the Open Meeting.

- 2.1 **(Min 2.5) Mrs Bricis** to contact Mr Price for further discussion on the implications of REACH.

Action superseded by events. John Hubbard from SATRA gave a presentation on REACH at this meeting - agenda item 7 (item 5 of actual meeting).

- 2.2 **(Min 2.10) Mr Dickson** to send the Chair the occupational health policy used by Scottish Leather for distribution to members.

Complete. Mr Dickson made the observation that insurance companies were starting to consider health and safety issues and were offering occupational health schemes.

- 2.3 **(Min 2.11) Mrs Bricis** to forward further links for information about occupational health.

Complete.

- 2.4 **(Min 2.13) Mrs Drammeh** to send information on Safe Interventions project to members.

Complete.

- 2.5 **(Min 2.13) Mrs Bricis** to find out why textile balers were not included in HSE's updated baler guidance and report to Members.

Complete. It would appear that this guidance has only a limited scope and will relate to mechanical safety only. However, general guidance on textile baler safety already exists and can be found on the HSE website in the Health and Safety Audit: *Part 10 – Baling Machines* - www.hse.gov.uk/textiles/audit/part10.htm#2.

- 2.6 **(Min 2.17) Members** to confirm that the processes listed as using LEV (see Min 2.17 of the minutes of the meeting held 7 May 2008) are correct and to let Mrs Bricis know of any others. Also to provide any further comments or views on the subject of LEV.

No additional information received.

Mr Small spoke about the importance of LEV in woodworking and motor vehicle repair and about HSE's LEV project (www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sectors/manuf/030805.htm), which began in 2008. HSE's LEV webpages can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/lev/index.htm. Mr Dickson mentioned that he had attended an LEV workshop in Glasgow run by HSL. Mr Small agreed to send Mr Dickson the criteria for LEV case studies on HSE's website.

- 2.7 **(Min 3.2) Mr Small** to forward a questionnaire to members to gauge their views about TEXIAC.

Complete. Mr Small explained that Members' comments had been used as the basis of a submission to HSE's Senior Management Team, which is currently preparing a paper for HSE's Board about the role and work of IACs.

2.8 (Min 3.2) Members to return their completed questionnaires to Rosie Bricis.

Complete.

2.9 (Min 6.1) Ms Bricis to send members copies of the presentation on the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007.

Complete.

3.0 HSE STRATEGY – Chair and Members

3.1 HSE is running a three-month consultation process on its new strategy (www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/index.htm) and is calling on all stakeholders to take part. The deadline for responses is 2 March 2009.

There was a general discussion about the document, which raised the following points:

- the document seemed to be promoting principles and aspirations, rather than goals;
- the new strategy was too vague and lacked direction and specific targets;
- it was felt that HSE would benefit from a change of name that removed itself from the negative image of health and safety.

3.2 The Committee felt that TEXIAC was the most effective platform for delivering HSE's messages to the industries that they represented and discussed the merits of holding small workshops aimed directly at certain sectors of the industry, giving specific information on particular issues. Mr Small spoke about the success of HSE's Targeted Initiative Campaigns (www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sectors/manuf/030806.htm) and it was felt that these types of initiatives might benefit SMEs.

Members agreed to e-mail Mrs Bricis by 13 February 2009 with their comments on the Strategy Document so that she could draft a response on behalf of TEXIAC. Mr Dickson also agreed to forward his comments to Mrs Bricis after he had attended the Strategy Roadshow in Glasgow on 29 January 2009.

4.0 FEEDBACK FROM INDUSTRY

4.1 Paul Pearson – UK Leather Federation

There has been a 30-40% drop in leather production and the price of raw materials has dropped by about 50%. Footwear is in a better situation as demand for leather tends to reflect the price of the raw material. The supply of leather is a by-product of the meat industry and is fairly static (demand for meat is more or less constant). Therefore, if the demand for leather drops, then the price falls accordingly.

4.2 Elaine Davies – British Footwear Association

BFA members are proceeding with quiet caution in the current economic climate. However, there is an underlying confidence throughout the industry. Whilst there has been one recent closure and the possibility of another, these have been a long time coming and are not the result of the economic downturn.

4.3 Alan Edmonds – Community Union

The Footwear and Leather Annual Conference in November 2008 had been a great success and planning for this year's Conference is underway. Guidance notes for the conference topics have been produced and are available from the *Information* area on the BFA website, www.britfoot.com. The topics for this year's Conference will be COSHH, first aid, safe systems of work and occupational health.

NB there are also links to the BFA and other stakeholders websites on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/leather/links.htm and www.hse.gov.uk/textiles/links.htm.

4.4 Gary Dickson – Scottish Leather Group

Finishing companies are struggling and are introducing short-time working. However, Scottish

Leather is treating the crisis as an opportunity and using the spare time for training. Companies that process fresh hides are not really suffering problems in the current climate. Scottish Leather has started work on its thermal energy project – a facility on its main site that will provide energy for the whole of the site via the processing of its waste/by-products – this would make Scottish Leather the most sustainable leather factory in the world.

4.5 Angela Worthington – Confederation of British Wool Textiles

The increase in energy costs has had a huge impact on companies and resulted in many of them introducing a 3-day week. CBWT is currently undertaking an accident and ill health survey of members (including compensation claims and first aid accidents) and will forward the findings to Mrs Bricis once it is complete. Angela Worthington is trained in audiometry and spirometry and offers this service to CBWT members. CBWT has held a number of seminars for workers about looking after their hearing protection and these have proved very successful.

4.6 Terry Britton – TGWU

Many firms are working 3-day weeks because of the increase in energy costs. Health and safety systems are in place but not always put into practice.

4.7 Brendan Gold – UNITE

Short-time working and redundancies are happening on a daily basis in the manufacturing industry and CapEx (capital expenditure) programmes are being slashed. Health and safety tends to drop lower down the list of priorities during an economic crisis; there is also a greater risk of accidents and ill health as companies cut jobs and workers move from task to task without proper training. The lack of Government support is causing great difficulties for UK manufacturing.

4.8 Huw Jones – Knitting Industry Federation, BCIA

Both the national and international demand for UK knitwear products has suffered a decline.

5.0 Presentation on REACH – John Hubbard, SATRA

Mr Hubbard gave a presentation on REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation (and Restriction) of Chemicals), which was very well received.

Mr Small agreed to forward Mr Dickson information about the REACH regulators and their inspection procedures.

6.0 RIDDOR STATISTICS 2007-08

6.1 This item was not discussed as the meeting over-ran considerably. Mrs Bricis agreed to send members electronic copies of the statistics distributed in paper format at the meeting.

7.0 MACHINERY DIRECTIVE

7.1 Mr Dickson asked for clarification of the following points, which arose following his attendance at a workshop about the Machinery Directive:

- (1) When a machine has been designed and constructed to the specification in a harmonized European Standard there is a presumption that it conforms to the relevant EHSRs. If the manufacturer or agent doesn't do this, does liability transfer to the user?
- (2) If the documentation from the supplier/manufacturer doesn't include the risk assessment etc, is the onus on the user to do this in relation to design and construction of the machine?
- (3) What about the situation when a number of individual machine/plant items are assembled together?
- (4) Laidler Associates advised the user to specify safety requirements, carry out pre-purchasing audits and validation exercise to match the design to the specification – what are HSE's views on this?

Mr Small outlined his view of the intent of the Directive, ie to focus responsibility for design and the provision of information on the supplier, not the user. Nonetheless, the user needs to act as an intelligent customer. Logically, the level of challenge to suppliers should be proportionate to the complexity and cost of any project, process or plant. Mr Small is to check with HSE's Safety Unit for its views on this.

8.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 No further matters were raised.

8.2 The date of the next meeting was set for 10.30am on Tuesday 14 July 2009 at:

Community Union, The Grange, 108 Northampton Road, Earls Barton, Northampton NN6 0JH
(NB the closest postcode if using SatNav is NN6 0HF)

Google Maps reference:

http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=NN6+0JH&sll=53.800651,-4.064941&sspn=19.490735,29.223633&ie=UTF8&ll=52.271233,-0.757113&spn=0.000594,0.001202&t=h&z=20