

**Minutes of the
Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum
Chartered Institute of Wastes Management – Northampton
15 January 2005**

Present

Trevor Hay (HSE) Chair
David Rawlinson (ESA)
Andrew Ainsworth (ESA)
Mary Messer (Composting Association)
Paul Harvey (HSE)
Lawrence Strong (WAMITAB)
Jane Gilbert (Composting Association)
Vincent Borg (TUC)
Raj Segaram (COI)
Iwan Williams (COI)
David Buxton (CHEM)
Bob Mason (Local Government Employers)

Apologies

Chris Jones (ESA)
Neil Ferris

Personalia

Andrew Ainsworth was leaving ESA and proposed that ESA would continue to provide secretariat support to the WISH Forum. WISH gave their thanks for his work as secretary and gave their best wishes for his future career.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Apart from one minor change, the minutes of the previous meeting were passed as a true record.

Information Items

Ergonomics at MRFs

Andrew Ainsworth had sent presentations on ergonomics at MRFs to Members of the WISH Forum. Guidance would be on the HSE's web site in the near future.

Green Waste

Trevor Hay has engaged with Brian Crook (HSL), the Composting Association and Chris Jones to develop brief guidance on the health aspects of green waste collection.

Competency

WRAP and EUSkills were working on standards for collection of recyclable materials. Paul Harvey (HSE) had attended the Steering Committee.

Landfill Gas

A seminar on DSEAR and landfill gas was being run and training was being provided to Environment Agency inspectors.

HSE Street Collection Initiative

Trevor Hay gave a summary of the HSE Street Collection Initiative. Detailed information is available on the HSE web site.

HSE Projects

Retail Sector Project: Gareth Jones, an Environmental Health Officer at Torfaen Council would be seconded to waste and recycling at HSE for three months to work on three projects:

- Bring sites – in retail parks and on the street (site layout, hoisting operations, maintenance, etc.)
- Compactors/balers at retail sites
- Members of public found in skips, etc.

Discussion Items

Communications Strategy

HSE putting focus on improved health and safety performance within waste management and recycling and were working with Central Office of Information (COI) to develop a strategy to improve communications with the industry.

The aim is to develop a coherent and effective health and safety communications campaign for the waste management and recycling industry. Corporate level messages would be identified and delivered through specific projects and tasks. There was a need to identify and priorities relevant stakeholders in the first instance and identify the most effective communication methodologies. WISH discussed what messages should be used to get the information across to the relevant people.

The current communications strategy would be reviewed in February and March. In April, targets would be refined and messages developed. The plans would be prepared and evaluated prior to implementation of the new strategy from May.

Action: Iwan Williams to send presentations to Andrew Ainsworth for circulation to the Forum.

Refuse Collection Drivers

Bob Mason introduced a guidance note on Management of Refuse Driving Operations prepared by the Northamptonshire Local Authority Safety Advisors Group. The document was produced following a number of incidents in Northamptonshire and had been sent to all Local Authorities. Bob Mason thought the Forum should explore how the document might be developed to become an industry standard.

Suggest that Members of WISH examine the document in detail and hold a detailed discussion at the next WISH meeting to decide on the best way forward, perhaps through wider consultation via the HSE web site.

Glass Collection

This would be discussed at the next WISH meeting.

Waste Industry Standard H&S Training

David Rawlinson was invited to the CIWM WG which would discuss H&S training. Primary focus is competency of individuals at whom the guidance is aimed. Discussed mandatory H&S competence training across the industry and whether WISH could examine this issue.

CIWM wanted to examine local authority accident statistics to supplement the information collected by HSE and ESA.

Lawrence Strong reported that health and safety is included in statutory NVQs and also in some level 1 and 2 qualifications. WAMITAB was examining how companies could better use health and safety information from qualifications and training, e.g. taking elements of training and adding on elements of assessment to determine competence. Highlighted need for specific waste management industry guidance.

Discussed whether training should be mandatory or optional and agreed that industry would have to agree on this. Any training would have to appeal to the industry and would have to be capable of being applied across the board at operative level.

Passport schemes such as the BMRA scheme were discussed. HSE would support ESA and CIWM in development of any such scheme and believe that this would be central to improving competence in the industry.

Action: David Rawlinson to discuss schemes with CIWM and would report back at the next meeting.

Lawrence Strong to circulate a paper to WISH.

Action Items

Best Practice guidance

David Rawlinson and Chris Jones agreed to send finalised versions of best practice guidance on manual handling and refuse collection to Trevor Hay.

Action: David Rawlinson and Chris Jones to send best practice guidance to Trevor Hay.

Civic Amenity sites guidance

The meeting discussed guidance for CA sites and agreed information on stress and assaults would not be included. The subject of stress/violence is for a separate deliverable as agreed at a previous WISH meeting.

The guidance has been on the HSE web site for open consultation.

Action: Trevor Hay to incorporate relevant suggestions and improvements into the draft.

Hazardous waste

A National Household Hazardous Waste Forum meeting had been attended by Trevor Hay. They are currently working on guidance to handle hazardous waste safely in CA sites.

Action: WISH agreed it would review and comment on their guidance if requested.

Machinery guarding: compactors, etc.

HSE inspectors had begun a programme to examine compactors, balers, fragmentisers, etc. at a number of sites, including scrap metal merchants. Information on this intervention was available on the HSE web site as is guidance on machinery guarding. Of particular relevance is the guidance for the recovered paper sector which uses such machines extensively.

Geoff Smallwood had sent Shanks guidance on compactors and balers to Trevor Hay and would send to David Buxton.

Action: Geoff Smallwood to send a copy of the draft compactors and balers guidance to David Buxton.

Aerosol handling

Trevor Hay had expressed concern to BAMA about their guidance on aerosols. David Buxton commented on the development of aerosol piercers which address the toxic and flammable hazards of this activity.

Action: Trevor Hay to pursue status of guidance with BAMA.

AOB

David Buxton reported that BSI was working on a code of practice for waste management and buildings (BS5906/2004). The Code dealt with storage and handling of waste at residential and commercial buildings. The Code was available in draft form and comments were requested by 28 February.

Action: WISH Members to send comments to BSI by 28 February.

Date of next meetings:

Thursday 14 April, HSE offices, Trevor Hay to confirm.

Wednesday 20 July, WAMITAB offices, Lawrence Strong to confirm.