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AIAC 18/06/03

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)

Overview of the AFAG meeting held on 8 May 2018

Significant matters discussed

1. Work to encourage greater participation by AFAG members resulted in several new representatives of existing AFAG organisations being nominated as attendees to the meeting. Jonathan Callis (Network Rail), Neil Grieve (Unite), Alexander Laver (ISA), Carl Powell (IOSH) and Ian Cupper (MTOA) were welcomed to the meeting.
2. **European Chainsaw Certificates** – Legal proceedings regarding intellectual property rights have continued to delay any further progress. This item has been removed from future actions while the legal discussions continue.
3. **Reports back from FISA** have been received, a written summary has been provided to AIAC in Paper 18-16-04.
4. **Chainsaw and aerial qualifications** – Lantra presented a paper summarising the challenges of the existing forestry and arboriculture qualifications, particularly as many are in need of updating to reflect new technology. It was felt that the existing structure includes duplication and confusion when it comes to refresher training. The question was raised of whether an alternative approach is required and could AFAG contribute. Discussion centred on employers using certificates as an alternative to effective management, that a one size fits all approach may not be appropriate and career progression is not adequately catered for. However, there was no consensus around the problem or solution. AFAG agreed to act as a consultee on future options.
5. **Chainsaw accidents** – Driving Improvement. There have been a number of fatal incidents involving chainsaws in the last two years. Common themes include; lack of planning, competence and supervision; the development of a mind-set that training is the equivalent of competence; and planning being divorced from the active management of risks on site. The latter point extends to welfare, emergency planning and first aid provision. HSE's plan to draft proposals for the work to be carried forward by AFAG had been delayed although a working group will not be set up to take the issues forward.
6. Concerns about the competency of managers and supervisors will also be considered by the Driving Improvement WG.

7. It was agreed to consider the format of FISA leaflets, given representations by the industry on the usefulness of the checklist.
8. Three of the last four chainsaw fatalities occurred when the deceased was using a chainsaw that was not their own. AFAG members were invited to consider if this was an issue. The consensus was that sharing tools was commonplace and the characteristics of chainsaws so similar that this was unlikely to be an issue.
9. Work is in progress on a new woodchipper standard, following withdrawal of the existing standard in 2014. Comments have been received on a first draft including concerns regarding noise measurements. These will be considered by the committee. The next meeting of the firewood processor standard has been postponed until September.
10. Correspondence regarding a Prevention of Future Deaths report following the death of an arborist, Mr Paul Daniels, was drawn to the attention of, and will be copied to, AFAG members.

Andrew Turner
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