

**Home Builders Federation
Health & safety Committee
Notes from CONIAC meeting 14th March 2012**

- **Summary**

The CONIAC meeting took papers on the CONIAC working groups, Construction Division plan of work 2012-13, Lofstedt Review/ Red tape challenge and CONIAC Reconstitution and verbal updates on Fees for Intervention and CDM Regulations.

- **Working Groups:**

Health Risks Working Group: A HRWG position paper, prepared previously has been updated to take on board union comments. A guidance document Understanding Occupational Health Management in Construction is being prepared and will be published shortly.

WG members are being asked to advise on their top 5 health risks to facilitate discussion over developing self help checklists & tools for SME.

The group received a presentation from Paul Madgwick, on skin cancer raising the awareness of an April 2012 campaign "Sun Safety" (Given Paul's previous work in the Home Build sector, he is willing to attend an HBF meeting if we would wish ?)

Catastrophic Events Working Group: A working group has now formed, with its first meeting on 6th February. Initial topics for consideration include raising the awareness of the original Research Report (RR834) via questionnaires to the top 200 Construction companies, and publicity via New Civil Engineering magazine.

There is no HBF representative in this group.

Safety Working Group: The group continues to work on a long term strategy which seeks to make work at heights socially unacceptable without appropriate controls.

- **Construction Division Plan of work 2012-13**

The Division continues with year 2 of its 3 year plan which continues with only minor adjustments. The targeted areas remain small sites (30%) Refurbishment (25%), Asbestos (20%), Major Projects/ large contractors (10%) and local priorities (15%)

New work for 2013 includes:

Review of the agreement with Building Control Alliance

40 Timber frame structure interventions (separation distance)

Revision of HSG 150 & 47 (underground services)

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Review findings in respect of Emerging energy technology.

- **Lofstedt/ Red tape challenge**

The meeting was updated on the current progress on these matters. This did not introduce any new information not currently in the public domain.

- **CONIAC Reconstitution**

The Chief Inspector of Construction has confirmed that CONIAC will be reconstituted for a further 3 years once its current term expires in March 2013. Requests for nominations will be issued to stakeholders in July 2012 in order to appoint nominees by November 2012.

- **Fees for Intervention**

A short presentation summarised the current position in respect of Ffl. It was noted that exclusion exist in respect of Local Authority enforcement, Employers Liability Compulsory Insurance & Fire RRO.

Subsequent announcement have indicated that the initiative will not now commence until October 2012.

- **CDM Regulations**

The meeting was advised that progress had been prevented largely due to external factors including Lofstedt and Red tape challenge. Gold plating continues to be put forward by HSE as an increasing concern, in respect of ministerial support for any amendments.

It is unclear how HSE are expecting the CDM WG to take the review process forward. However the evaluation findings (both Frontline & WG) will be published in April. No time scale has been established for the group thereafter. It is unlikely this WG will be active before 2012 H2.

Conversely it is increasingly apparent that the Pye Tait competency research and the PAS/91 review will also overlap into the continuing work of this group.

Copies of the papers and the presentation for this meeting are available on the HSE website.

- **Post meeting developments**

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The HSE have now published the Research report on the CDM 2007 Regulations review. It is available at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr920.htm> . The HSE Board has asked CONIAC to report back by the end of the year with proposals for a revised CDM Regulatory package. In carrying out this work any proposals for change endorsed by the Board would be subject to extensive public consultation.

HSE has begun a 3-month public consultation exercise on a proposal to repeal 14 pieces of health and safety legislation that it believes are either redundant, have been overtaken by more up-to-date Regulations or do not deliver their expected benefits.

HSE would welcome your/your organisations' views on the proposals, two of which may be of particular interest to CONIAC members:

- the Construction (Head Protection) Regulations 1989; and
- the Notification of Conventional Tower Cranes Regulations 2010 (as amended).

The consultation document can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd239.htm> Please consider using the online questionnaire for any responses (by no later than 4 July).

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17 March 2012