

# Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

## Stakeholder activity in specific sectors

### Issue

1. To inform members about the activity of health and safety stakeholder initiatives in the offshore oil and gas, fisheries and aquaculture, and construction, sectors.

### Recommendations

2. To consider whether the Partnership should make links with these groups to learn about their approaches, and whether it should have a role in facilitating similar initiatives in other specific sectors.
3. To consider inviting representatives from the groups to future meetings of the Partnership to hear about their work in more detail.

### Background

4. Information from three quite different sector-specific partnerships/stakeholder initiatives is attached at Annex 1 to give a flavour of their aims and activity.
5. Step Change in Safety is the UK based partnership – set up after Piper Alpha - with the remit to make the UK the safest Oil and Gas Exploration and Production province in the world by 2010.
6. Site Safe Scotland was set up in 1983 with the aim of promoting and improving health and safety in the construction industry in Scotland. Committee members come from all aspects of the Scottish construction industry and HSE. Site Safe Scotland is independent of HSE.
7. The Fish Farming/Aquaculture Health and Safety Committee (FFAHSC) was formed in 2005 by the Maritime and Coast Guard Agency as a sub-committee of its District Marine Safety Committee (DMSC).

### Action


8. As above, at paras 2 and 3.

May 2007

## ANNEX 1

### Welcome to the Step Change in Safety website

Step Change in Safety is the UK based partnership with the remit to make the UK the safest Oil and Gas Exploration and Production province in the world by 2010.

We are charged with achieving this vision through cooperation and sharing. This website is a key resource in enabling that sharing and, in the spirit of co-operation, we invite all to use the website to share and contribute regardless of industry or country. Anyone may access all parts of the site and read and download resources, but you will need to register to contribute news items or to take part in the discussion forums. Registering will also flag-up those items that we have classified with an Interest type that matches your profile selection by displaying the  symbol adjacent to the item's date of publication whenever you are logged-in.

#### History

Step Change in Safety was founded in 1997 by the Oil and Gas industry trade associations with the aim of reducing all the UK offshore Oil and Gas industry injury rate by 50%.

By 2002 a new vision was created:

**“The UK is the safest place to work  
in the worldwide oil and gas industry by 2010”**

And Step Change moved to operate under the [PILOT](#) umbrella.

Membership of Step Change now includes the UK Health and Safety Executive and the Trade Unions. It is this broad stakeholder base that makes the Step Change group effective across the whole industry.

#### Current Structure

Step Change strategies are set by a leadership team with day to day operations run by the [support team](#).

Engagement with the industry is kept through active networks of:

- Elected Safety representatives;
- Offshore Installation Managers and Supervisors;
- Safety Professionals;
- and company Liaisons.

These are the individuals consulted on what needs to be done and charged with ensuring that the Step Change programme is implemented.

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#### Strategy

By 2005 a new strategy was developed for Step Change to ensure that the vision was achieved. The strategy is represented by a 3 pillar temple model built on a base

of Leadership, Communication and Co-operation. This website is structured around the 3 strategies:

- recognising hazards and reducing risk;
- personal ownership for safety;
- asset integrity.

**Site Safe Scotland (SSS) Meeting Minutes**  
**24<sup>th</sup> January 2007**  
**HSE, Belford House, Edinburgh, 10.00am**

Present

Jim Skilling	HSE (Chair)
Leah Hughes	HSE (Secretary)
Brian Law	APS
Neil Wallace	IOSH
Charles Boyd	LA
Alan Kirkwood	CECA
Ken Smith	Scottish Executive
John Bissett	CITB
Peter Campbell	CITB
Martin Reid	Scottish Building
Jim Purdie	Scottish Building
Harry Frew	UCATT
Andrew Leslie	RIAS
Grahame Barn	FMB
Tom Cairney	MCG
Brian Hume	Bathgate Group
David Forfar	Specialist Contractors

Apologies

Bernard Warden	HSE
Rab Sherry	Amicus
Diane Turner	SCCF
Norman Smith	SBCA
Rod Strachan	RICS
Bobbie McConnachie	LA
Dave McGurk	FMB – Worker Safety Advisor

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

Jim welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were given from the above non attendees.

**2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting (Wednesday 27 September 2006)**

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed. The vast majority of actions had been discharged or were main items for discussion at this meeting but the following was noted:

Action 1 – CSCS Cards

Charles Boyd produced an updated summary of all the responses received from the Councils. There was considerable discussion about the lack of response from 13 councils and about the merits of both CSCS and SCORE.

Action – Jim to write to the Local Authorities who haven't yet responded following discussions with Bernard and Jeanette.

Action 2 – John Sheridan's attendance to the next SSS meeting

Jeanette spoke to John Sheridan at the Scottish Construction Forum meeting on 19 January 2007 and it was agreed that John will attend the next meeting when he will have much to share with the members on actions from the SCF.

Action discharged

Action 3 – Summarised fatal accidents

Jim summarised Jeanette's policy on openness and shared the latest summary of this year's fatal accidents with the members. Jim indicated that there was no need to request attendance by an HSE statistician, in view of this and that these anonymised summaries would continue.

Action discharged.

Action 4 – Shutters on mobile plant

In view of Ritchie McCrae's departure to the Worcester office as an Inspector, this action has not been undertaken yet.

Action ongoing

Action 5 – Site Safe Scotland – Infonet

Jim explained that we were no longer able to use the "Scottish Construction Infonet" as the title for this electronic newssheet. Members put forward several alternative suggestions, which Jim agreed to pass on to Irene Ward and Bernard Warden who are taking forward the next edition.

*(Post meeting note – suggestions passed on as above)*

Action 6 – Chapter 8

Following the Chapter 8 seminar in Edinburgh on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2006, Jim had asked Chris Weston (HSE Specialist Inspector) to liaise with Duncan McNeill from Transport Scotland. Duncan had attended the national meetings concerning the revision of Chapter 8 for the Scottish Executive. This liaison was particularly with reference to the sections of Chapter 8 where there are exclusions for Scotland. This meeting has not so far taken place.

Action – Jim to discuss with Bernard on taking this matter forward as soon as possible.

Action 7 – Work on nets

Bernard has been in touch with HSE Construction Sector but has been unable to arrange a meeting with Tom Cairney since.

Action ongoing

Action 8 – Worker engagement

Jim discussed the launch of the worker engagement initiative in London. There was also a second event in Liverpool. After a considerable amount of debate, it was

agreed that, at this stage, there was no need for a further event in Scotland. A number of members felt it was key to engage in dialogue with the whole workforce, including any migrant workers and a number of good practices were outlined.

Action discharged

#### Action 9 – Designer Awareness

Jim met Brian Law and Andrew Leslie after the meeting to take this matter forward. On the 5<sup>th</sup> February, the three met with Isabelle Martin and Hazel Yuill (2 members of Jim's team) to review the material available and the strategy for taking this matter forward. A pilot workshop will be run in March at RIAS's premises in Edinburgh.

Action ongoing

### **3. Good Practice Exchange**

Scaffolding base cards:

John Bissett is still to attend a further meeting on this and will forward the information when received.

Mobile phones:

David Forfar raised the issue of improper use of mobile phones on construction sites, in particular where images of horseplay have been downloaded to the internet. Thereafter there was considerable debate amongst members regarding the usefulness or otherwise of mobile phones.

They are obviously key to communications but where an individual has no need to use a phone for work purposes, then it was felt that there should be a site policy on such matters.

### **4. Site Safe Scotland Objectives**

#### (i) Employer Engagement Working Group

Brian Law discussed the progress of the working group, which met on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The work is now complete but Brian will re-configure the scenarios and obtain agreement from the working group members before sharing the information with the committee. It was hoped to do this by early February.

(Post meeting note - Jim confirmed that the CDM Q&A is now available electronically)

#### (ii) Schools of Architecture

Jim has written again to the chair of the Heads of Schools meeting but has not yet received a response. This was discussed again at the meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> February with RIAS & APS, where it was agreed to use every opportunity to obtain a presence at this meeting.

## **5. WWT Activities**

### **(i) WWT**

Grahame Barn and Bernard Warden attended a Working Well Together meeting in London on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007 for Site Safe Scotland.

Louise Brearey (Head of HSE Construction Sector) outlined the topics HSE would like to cover with the WWT groups over the next year, these include:

Moving goods safely (to include falls from vehicles)

Launch of CDM and associated events

Fit out – Good order during refurbishment work

WWT events at builders merchants in October – December

Grahame reminded the committee about the Working Well Together Campaign Awards, confirming that an individual, a company or an event can be put forward. Nominations to be sent to Graeme or Bernard before the end of February.

### **(ii) SHADs**

The next event will take place in Ayr on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007, run in conjunction with South Ayrshire Council. A further event in Dumfries has been arranged for 16 May 2007. The Councils in Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannan, together with HSE, will run 2 half day events on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007 at Forthbank Stadium in Stirling. Jim has had discussions with Scottish Water Solutions about holding 2 events, one in the north and the other in the central belt, aimed mainly at their sub contractors.

With all this activity, there needs to be a further meeting of the SHAD Working Group, Jim will circulate a note to members shortly concerning next year's programme.

## **6. HSE Update**

### **(i) Fatals**

At the time of the meeting, there had been 63 fatal accidents reported to HSE in Great Britain. There had been 5 in Scotland, 4 in the East and 1 in the West.

### **(ii) Scaffolding**

Since the last meeting, there had been a major prosecution following a scaffolding collapse in May 2005. The scaffolding contractor was fined £110,000 and the principal contractor fined £22,000. 2 further major scaffolding collapse incidents in Scotland have still to be dealt with by the courts.

A scaffolding/Working Well Together SHAD was run in Kelso on 28 September 2006. 8 weeks later, a scaffolding "blitz" was carried out in the Borders. While enforcement action was taken and a number of sites stopped, none of the SHAD attendees were involved.

### **(iii) Control of Asbestos Regulation**

The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 came into effect on 13 November 2006 amalgamating three sets of regulations into one. Decorative coatings are no longer licensable material, buildings may be demolished with decorative coatings intact and from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007, CCTV is required if no viewing panels are possible.

## **7. Information share**

Brian Law outlined a number of CPD events at which planning supervisors could gain qualifications for the new co-ordinator role.

Alan Kirkwood mentioned the IOSH event on “Culpable Homicide” on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at a cost of £75, Alan to forward the information to Leah.

John Bissett confirmed that the new GE700 Safety Manual is now available.

Andrew Leslie confirmed that RIAS had been running a number of CPD events for architects throughout Scotland and will be sending out CSCS information to members.

Grahame Barn – Chair of Edinburgh Construction Best Practice Club, gave details of their next sessions:

12 <sup>th</sup> February 2007:	Post Project Evaluation
Location:	Royal Scots Club

12 <sup>th</sup> March 2007:	CDM
Location:	Royal Scots Club

## **8. Time and date of next meeting:**

In view of the fact that both HSE conference rooms in Glasgow and Edinburgh are out of action from March until July, Diane Turner has kindly offered her company's premises in Glasgow. So the next meeting will be in the DLA Piper premises at 249 West George Street, Glasgow. Also in view of this the date has been changed to Tuesday 15 May 2007.

## **Health and Safety in the Scottish Aquaculture Industry**

### **Issue**

1. The UK Fish Farming/Aquaculture Health and Safety Committee (FFAHSC) was formed in 2005 to enable HSE to work in partnership with the Scottish aquaculture industry and other regulatory bodies to reduce the incidence of ill health and of serious and fatal injuries in this sector and to contribute to HSE's Fit 3 Programme.

2 FFAHSC aims to do this by acting as a forum that allows the promotion of good health and safety practice throughout the aquaculture industry and by addressing current issues within the industry sector. It also allows the range of regulatory bodies associated with aquaculture industry to work together to address areas of overlap and, where possible, reduce the regulatory burden on the industry while promoting high standards of health and safety.

3. It also aims to support initiatives to enhance the provision of rehabilitation services to those employed in the Scottish aquaculture industry and particularly those in rural (historically hard to reach) communities.

### **Recommendation**

4. At its meeting on the 8/12/05, PHASS offered its formal support to the newly formed UK Fish Farming/Aquaculture Health and Safety Committee (FFAHSC). (See minutes from that meeting and agenda item 5- *Working with the Scottish Aquaculture Industry*).

5. Members of PHASS are invited to note and comment upon the progress already made by FFAHSC and re-affirm their support for the group's work

### **Background**

6. The economic and strategic importance of the aquaculture industry in Scotland is described in more detail in the paper presented to PHASS at their meeting on the 8/12/05 (see minutes for that meeting and agenda item 5 - *Working with the Scottish Aquaculture Industry*). Importantly, the aquaculture sector in Scotland supports employment in rural communities where there are relatively few other job opportunities. In the salmon farming sector alone over 70% of Scottish employment is located within the Highlands and Islands.

7. The aquaculture industry in Scotland also works with a wide range of enforcement agencies and HSE is committed to in partnership with these bodies to ensure that regulatory pressures can be streamlined and minimised as far as possible while improving health and safety standards for employees.

8. The Fish Farming/Aquaculture Health and Safety Committee (FFAHSC) have been working since December 2005 to achieve the above aims. The Committee has already delivered a number of key objectives including:

- i. Highlighting Fit3 topics, such as Work at Height and Musculoskeletal Disease as priority issues for the industry. This has led to the sharing of best practice between industry members, and the current development of a cross cutting project to improve the provision of rehabilitation services to those working in aquaculture with specific reference to rural communities.
- ii. Promoting better understanding of the different roles and jurisdictions of the range of enforcing bodies associated with aquaculture and how this impacts on industry. This has involved joint visits between HSE/MCA/SE Inspectors in partnership with the industry.
- iii. Facilitating discussion with the industry and HSE on the progress and issues associated with FOD Scotland's walkways initiative.
- iv. Highlighting to industry and other relevant stakeholders the importance of appropriate management systems to ensure the risk of failure of life jacket inflation is adequately controlled.
- v. Reduced the regulatory burden on industry through developing a common standard with the MCA as to requirements for Lifejackets/ Buoyancy Life Aids Saving Device on vessels used for fish farming. Previously the industry was required to provide two different standards of life jacket on each vessel to meet the appropriate enforcing authority standards.
- vi. Provided a forum for industry to revise and HSE's current guidance **INDS 28** *Health and Safety on Floating Fish Farms Installations*.
- vii. Development of a web page for aquaculture committee to promote industry specific guidance, encourage input from stakeholders across the industry sector and allow specific projects to be progressed outside the meeting (work ongoing).
- viii. Development and delivery, in partnership with the industry and other enforcing authorities, of Aquaculture Safety and Health Awareness Days for employees and managers to address the issues noted above. These are supported by industry and funded independently of HSE. It is planned to hold these events later this year.

9. Despite the significant progress outlined above FFAHSC has identified and acknowledged the need to develop new ways of working in order to improve the delivery of other key aims and objectives. Therefore, individual project groups will be formed to address specific issues. These will work outside meetings and encourage participation from across the industry, including employees and other organisations. To support this work a strategic communication plan is also being developed by HSE Agriculture and Food Sector to both raise awareness of the Committee's work overall and encourage participation from the industry in specific project groups.

10. HSE's Agriculture and Food Sector are also fully committed to working in partnership with FOD and industry stakeholders to support the work of the FFAHSC and to promote the importance of aquaculture as an industry sector in Scotland. Specific resource has been allocated by the Sector to achieve these aims. In addition, the Sector aims raise awareness of the Scottish aquaculture industry by holding the next meeting of HSC's Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (which is an open meeting) in Scotland with representatives from the Aquaculture Industry and PHASS invited to attend.

**Action.**

11. Members are invited to discuss the progress detailed above and to comment on the proposed initiatives to improve the Committee's delivery of key aims and objectives.

12. Members are also invited to consider inviting an industry representative from FFAHSC to the next PHASS meeting to inform members of the health and safety challenges and major issues facing the aquaculture industry in Scotland.