

Minutes of the Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum 4th October 2006 at Taylors, Kidderminster

Present

Trevor Hay	HSE	Chairman
Geoff Smallwood	CIWM	
Chris Jones	ESA	
Paul Harvey	HSE	
Neil Ferris	Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee	
Bob Mason	Local Government Employers Organisation	
John McClean	TUC	
Vincent Borg	TUC	
Lawrence Strong	WAMITAB	
David Buxton	CHEM	
Toni Gladding	CIWM	
John Galvin	DeFRA	
David Bliss	Environment Agency	
Jeremy Jacobs	Composting Association	

Observers

Andrew Braund	Confederation of Paper Industries
Peter Seggie	Confederation of Paper Industries
Mark Roberts	Egbert H Taylor
Dick Perry	WRAP
Lisa Saunders	CRN
Denise McGlynn	EU Skills

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from David Buxton, Paul Urbonas, Toni Gladding, and Paul Thornber.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Subject to minor changes, the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Membership

Representatives from the Environment Agency and DeFRA were welcomed to the meeting. Taylors were thanked for hosting the meeting.

4. Matters arising

Matters arising from the previous meeting were discussed as agenda itemised issues.

5. Glass Collection

.Dr Tim Ward (HSE) informed the meeting that he had been collecting data on noise exposures obtained during glass collection. Noise levels during glass collection commonly exceeded 80dB.

The collection of glass, at these noise levels, can damage hearing.

A discussion was held regarding immediate remedial measures to reduce the exposure of employees, including:

- a) reduction of noise at source

- b) managerial techniques (systems of work, job rotation etc.)
- c) ear defenders

A discussion was held regarding ear defenders and the potential for increased risks caused by affecting collectors' ability to hear approaching traffic. Different ear defenders were displayed which could be used without increasing this risk.

Action

It was decided to convene a working group to progress this item.

It was agreed that the group should include:

- a) both domestic and trade glass (including bottle banks etc.) collections
- b) further collection of information on noise readings obtained, types of receptacles and vehicles used (including stillage collection vehicles)
- c) methodologies for reducing noise at source
- d) potential for using working practices that reduce the time-weighted exposure to noise

6. Health issues

Guidance on Hazardous Waste to go to HSE studio for publication on the internet.

The meeting was informed that the NHHWF were soon to publish their guidance on clinical waste.

A discussion was held regarding training availability for the handling of clinical waste in the community.

HSE were currently writing a brief Health Information document advising on essential health and hygiene issues

7. Training

The meeting was informed that the CIWM led "Changing Gear" proposal had formed a cross-sectoral steering group to identify how to achieve 'competence' within the industry.

ESA were currently progressing the production of a DVD covering basic induction for new workers.

8. Date of next meetings

Tuesday 30 January 2007, WRAP's offices, Banbury.

Wednesday 16 May 2007 HSE Cardiff