

**Minutes of the
Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum**
Chartered Institute of Wastes Management - Northampton
28 September 2004

Present:

Trevor Hay (HSE) Chair
Geoff Smallwood (CIWM)
Jane Gilbert (Composting Association)
Toni Gladding (CIWM)
Vincent Borg (TUC)
David Buxton (CHEM)
David Rawlinson (ESA)
George Wedgwood (BMRA)
Howard Bluck (BMRA)
John McClean (TUC)
Bob Mason (Local Government Employers)
Lawrence Strong (WAMITAB)

Apologies:

Andrew Ainsworth (Secretary)
Chris Jones (ESA)
***EA position on WISH still
vacant***

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

Passed as a true record.

2. Matters arising

Local authorities are now represented on WISH by Mr Mason.

Lecture notes of the Cardiff conference for LAs were distributed.

Papers by Geoff Smallwood following his HSE Health Unit meeting on asbestos were tabled for information.

The HSE Waste Management and Recycling website was now live.

Sheeting and Unsheeting of Tipper Lorries guidance is now on the HSE website.

ESA's Board of Directors formally launched their Accident Reduction Charter and the accompanying Action Plan on Thursday 8 July 2004. Judith Hackitt, Health and Safety Commissioner attended.

3. Transport best practice guidance

Now available on HSE website. Authors Trevor Hay and Geoff Smallwood anticipate suggestions for inclusion, such as guidance on vehicle extraction on landfill sites.

Action: Trevor Hay to collate comments and action for inclusion by 1 Jan 2005.

4. Other Best Practice Guides

David Rawlinson reported back on the progress of these documents on Manual Handling and Street Collection. They are to be tabled before ESA shortly prior to being eventually tabled to WISH for comments.

Action: David Rawlinson to report back on progress at next WISH meeting.

5. Civic Amenity Sites Guidance

Trevor Hay (author) indicated that this distributed discussion document will appear on the HSE website by 28 October 2004 and invited comments by Xmas 2004.

Lawrence Strong informed WISH of the collaborative work of CIWM and the National Household Hazardous Waste Forum working group. It was agreed that this group should be approached and invited to take account of the health and safety implications of their work.

Action: Lawrence Strong to furnish Trevor Hay with details of the group and their work.

Trevor Hay to contact the group before Xmas 2004 and report back to WISH at the next meeting.

6. Machinery Guarding

Discussion on machinery still being a major contributor to accidents. Of particular note were failures of some manufacturers to make equipment which conforms to essential safety requirements and provide information on how to control residual risks, especially during maintenance.

Compactors/balers and conveyors were identified as of concern.

Action: Geoff Smallwood to furnish a copy of the draft compactors and balers guidance to David Buxton for discussion and comment at the next WISH meeting.

7. Ergonomics at MRF materials sorting

A new guidance document is due on the HSE website shortly addressing ergonomic aspects of working at conveyor belts. Much of its content is directly applicable to MRFs.

Action: Trevor Hay to distribute the power point presentation document to members via the secretary.

8. Implementation

Discussion held on how to implement best practice throughout the industry to achieve a measurable reduction in the accident incidence rate. The local CASH group's "10 Commitments" was discussed.

Discussion held on how to influence policy makers.

WAMITAB are currently cascading information on best practice via their assessors.

Decided that implementation would be improved by:

- i) Continuing establishment of standard-setting aims and supporting guidance

- ii) The establishment of a “Recent Incidents Newsflash” webpage
- iii) Improving access of working staffs to essential information (e.g. toolbox talks and possibly information from/via TUs).
- iv) Devising and implementing a coherent communications strategy.
- v) Closer working with DeFRA
- vi) An inventory of the current work of the many independent groups working on waste and recycling strategies and improved liaison with them

Action: Geoff Smallwood and Trevor Hay to produce standard setting aims for adoption at the next meeting.

Trevor Hay to investigate HSE resource, research and communications strategy and report back at the next meeting.

9. End of Life Vehicles

Discussion on the hazards proposed by ELVs and solutions. Risks of exposure to human pathogens to vehicle dismantlers from abandoned and crash damaged vehicles discussed.

BMRA and CIWM may consider a meeting to discuss conflicts within ELV disposal.

Action: George Wedgwood to contact BMRA and CIWM to explore possible solutions and report back at next meeting.

10. Handling Green Waste

HSL had been approached to prepare a short advisory sheet on best practice in collecting and handling green waste for refuse collectors.

11. Guide to the Disposal of Empty Aerosols etc.

The BAMA guide to the Disposal of Empty Aerosols etc. was discussed. WISH declined to support this document because it failed to address many issues, including WRULDs, identification of, and exposure to, aerosol contents etc.

Action: Trevor Hay to indicate this to HSE’s Process, Materials and Systems Safety Group by Xmas 2004.

12. DSEAR and Landfill Gas

Issues discussed. There were still compliance concerns within the industry. HSE Fire and Explosion Specialists may be able to run a day seminar on the subject for interested parties.

Action: Trevor Hay and Geoff Smallwood to raise the possibility with Sam Summerfield by Xmas 2004 and report back at next WISH meeting.

13. Monitoring and working at height

Issue of monitoring at stacks discussed. Agreed that access by ladder presented risks and was inappropriate. Alternative methods exist (e.g. remote sensing) should monitoring be required.

Action: None

14. Dates of Next meetings

Thanks were expressed to CIWM for hosting the meeting.

Next meetings:

- 1 25th January 2005 - CIWM Northampton 10am.**
- 2 14th April 2005**