

Minutes of the Safety Group Fife

Held on Monday 8th December 2008 at

Dunfermline Building Society, Caledonia House, Carnegie Avenue, Dunfermline

Present

Peter Ager	Fife Council
John Greenhalgh	Exxonmobil
William Miller	Strath Safety
David Cant	Carnegie College
Ian Norton	North British Distillery
Mark Russell	Dunfermline Building Society
John Johnston	FMC Technologies
Neil Holden	Forbo-Nairn
Nicola McLean	Alliance PS
Martin Brown	ARCO
Andy Martin	Fife Health & Safety Consultants

Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Sally Eddington, David Birrell, Cathy Welsh, Alan Harwood, Steve Blyth and David Jones

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Davie Cant opened the meeting by welcoming everyone along, he apologised to the speaker for the poor turnout and assured her that this was not normal representation of the group.

DC introduced Nicola McLean, an Architect with Alliance PS (Planning Supervisors), Nicola's presentation was on the CDM Regulations 2007. Nicola commented that her presentation was produced to update and walk some existing clients through the changes within the Regulations.

The key element within the recent changes was that it forced businesses to integrate the management of health and safety into projects from conception.

Nicola mentioned that requirement for notification to the HSE for Demolition works had been removed. She also highlighted that the client is responsible for ensuring that sufficient time is allowed to prepare the health and safety information prior to the F10 Form being submitted, the days of Planning Supervisors being forced into submitting F10's without sufficient time or planning on the documentation should be a thing of the past.

The Client or his representative is obliged to sign a declaration that they are aware of their duties as a Client under the Regulations. Nicola highlighted that it is essential that the Client signs this and not a representative, that way there can be no dispute as to who is ultimately responsible.

Nicola commented that the time allocated to health and safety planning should be relative to the size of the project, one size doesn't fit all. The Clients duties are to co-ordinate all works and safety and ensure reasonable management for health and safety is in place.

Nicola highlighted that it was the clients responsibility to ensure that all workplace construction should comply with the Work Place Regulations. She also stated that a CDM Co-ordinator needed to be appointed at the planning stage of a project (although this doesn't always happen).

The CDM Co-ordinator role is to provide the Client with advice on construction health and safety risk management, identify and collect pre-construction information and advise the client on any additional survey's that may be required.

Nicola went on to comment that competent designers only, should be used in CDM, at the very least clients should check health and safety policy's and arrangements as well as checking the suitability of skills and knowledge.

At this point Nicola concluded her presentation and opened the floor for questions, a general discussion followed.

DC thanked Nicola for her presentation.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of 13th November 2008 were approved.

AOB

DC highlighted a recent health and safety prosecution in the Nevis Range, an employee (a Gondola Operator) was fined £1,000 under section 7 of the HASAW Act and the company fined £2,000 when two Gondola's collided.

MR passed on a note from Cathy Welch which updated the group on the ongoing issue of hand, arm vibration exposure limits for under 18's, Caroline Herschell, Corporate Health and Safety Manager with Fife Council has formally raised the matter with the HSE and is looking for further clarification.

MR reported that unfortunately a decision had been taken to cancel the SCOS Conference for 2009, the decision was taken in light of the current financial climate.

MR passed out leaflets for the Green Business Fife Awards, the awards are open to businesses based in Fife, final date for entries is 31 January 2009, further details can be found at www.greenbusinessfife.co.uk

MR highlighted that SCOS were planning to have a schools poster competition, MR to distribute details of competition to Executive Committee. SCOS were still looking for entries into the Lord Cullen Awards for 2009.

JJ updated that he was still developing the website and that he continued to have some issues with Bravenet.

An issue was raised about some RAF Resettlement Placements looking for work placements to gain industry experience as part of their NEBOSH courses. The RAF cover the cost of these placements. Neil Holden commented that he had benefited from one of these placements when he had left the Services, he stated that the placement had been invaluable and endorsed the programme.

With no other business raised DC concluded the meeting.

Date and time of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 12th January 2009, the speaker for the evening will be Mr Alan Harwood of FMC Technologies who will be discussing a recent safety case.

Mark Russell
Secretary
Safety Group Fife