



Thames Valley Health and Safety Group

*The meeting place for Health & Safety Practitioners and everyone interested
in health and safety at work - in the Thames Valley*

www.tvhsg.org

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Minutes of the Meeting Held on 10th January 2012

in St Martin's Place

Present: Louisa Mead, Bill Campbell, Andy Anderson, Alan Carruthers, Bob Beauchamp, Gareth Broughton, Nick Kemp, Aaron Curtis, Chris Craggs, Andrew Price, Alan Songhurst, Malcolm Sutcliffe, Steve Marriott, Lisa Kelly, Damien Egan, Andrew Panting, Howard DeSilva, Denise Fraser, Paul Mvozowski, John Walsh, David Adams.

Apologies: John Ing, Ray Kelly, Ginny Dehaan, Kelly Nichols, Peter Houghton, Tim Large, Victoria Swift, Lisa Kelly.

1. New Members

The following new members were welcomed to the Group:

- John Walsh, Walsh Partnership,
- Denise Fraser, Unilever,
- David Adams, Sypol.

2. Topic of Day

Skin hygiene. Ben Popperwell from Deb Ltd gave an interesting presentation on skin hygiene. There followed a discussion on skin hazards in hairdressing; hand drying; use of gloves; sanitizing gels and foams.

3. Group Business

The next meeting of the Group would be in East Hampstead Park Conference Centre (subject to confirmation).

The meeting was asked to review the Group's constitution and submit any comments at the next meeting.

The meeting was asked for volunteers to join the Committee, particularly now that the Group had over 40 members.

Louisa Mead reported that she had sent out 20 letters to prospective members. There had been a good response.

The survey of members indicated that the majority preferred to keep meetings at this time.

4. HSE's report

"Fee for intervention". From April, the fee would be charged where there had been a "material breach" in an inspector's opinion and form EMM1 completed. The fee had been reduced from £133 per hour to £124 per hour. It was estimated that a letter from the HSE would cost approximately £500.

From 5th January 2012, the independent Regulatory Challenge Panel will look into complaints regarding advice given by HSE or LA inspectors about health and safety, which was thought to be incorrect or goes beyond what is required to control the risk adequately.

The Löfstedt report had been largely accepted by the Government. The HSE was now responding, particularly where separate regulations could be combined. For example, lead and CoSHH.

The Government wanted the ratio of proactive to reactive work by the HSE to change from 60:40 proactive:reactive to 30:70 proactive:reactive. The HSE was likely to target 'high risk' industries, i.e., food and drink/ waste and recycling/ engineering/ woodworking. Plus 'poor' performers, i.e., those with two successive poor HSE reports; a rating score of 5 or 6; two or more complaints from the public or employees; two RIDDOR accidents.

Estates Excellence was to take place in Langley, Slough, before the end of March 2012.

The HSE's spending target (35% spending cut by 2015) had already been met, so there may be local recruitment to the HSE. There was to be a new NEBOSH Diploma for regulators, which should make the recruitment process quicker.

It was noted that there had been a 75% increase in reported accidents, mostly forklift truck accidents and slips, trips, falls.

5. Any Other Business

There was a query about the application of the CDM regulations.

It was noted that British Safety Council's qualifications were not accepted for membership of the Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register (OSHCR).

The Group expressed its thanks to Gareth Broughton for his valued contributions to the Group.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 14th February 2012** at 2.00pm, with sandwiches and coffee available from 1.30pm.