

Minutes of Meeting

Document No CO-1439-12

Subject	CO Sub Group	Circulation	All members
Date	16 th Oct 2012	Circulation Date	16 th Nov 2012
Location	CoGDEM offices Hitchin	Circulation by	Website & email

Attendees

John Saffell - Alphasense
Leigh Greenham - CoGDEM
Mike Byrne - Ei Electronics
Brendan Simpson - FireBlitz
Gavin Boorman - GfG
Bernard Thomas - Kidde Safety
Clive Tester - Sira
Paul Basham - Crowcon
Jason Perrins - FireBlitz
Arthur Burnley - Alphasense
Neil O'Regan - Shawcity
Jonathan Gilby - City Technology
Colin Mitchell - Ei Electronics
Neil Perde - Aico
Steve Utley - GDS
Peter Philpott - TPI
James Whale - Testo
Tony Bleakley - Anton
Kevin Honner - Draeger
Adrian Keats - Honeywell Analytics (Domestic)
Ian Ballinger - Sprue Safety
Kevin Miles - GES
Zoe Forman - Mandeville Marketing

Apologies

Andy Burnett - Kidde Safety
Roy Taylor - Testo
Mike Murley - Testo
Hans Hubner - GfG
Roger Riley - Geotech
Steve Billingham - Geotech
Louise Early - Crowcon
Peter Walsh - HSE/HSL
Noor Ali - Air Products
Richard King - Honeywell Analytics
Tony Banfield - EXL/31/1 etc
John Walsh - Sprue Safety
Nigel Hasted - BOC Linde
John Sonley - JMS Consultants
Jeff Regan - JMS Consultants
Stephen Mellor - Air Products
Graham McKay - BSI (new member)

Agenda

- 1) Apologies and member introductions
- 2) Approval of previous minutes and matters arising
- 3) Lobbying activities (inc. All Party Group funding and launch, HHIC, HSE, GAD)
- 4) CO-Be Alarmed campaign and other publicity, inc Coronation Street (Zoe Forman)
- 5) CO alarms Standards review (including EN 50291-1 & -2, EN 50292 update, BSI visit)
- 6) Flue Gas Analysis (inc. standards, new boiler testing, new European initiatives)
- 7) Gas Safe Register/CoGDEM meeting proposal, consumer behaviour change
- 8) Non-compliant CO alarms update
- 9) AOB (including updates from HSE, GISG, GASG, helpline)
- 10) Dates of 2013 meetings – Tues 12 Feb, Tues 11 June, Tues 15 Oct 2013

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1 Apologies and member introductions

The above list of apologies was read out. Members introduced themselves, and LG mentioned that although they could not attend today, BSI had recently joined CoGDEM. Jason Perrins was welcomed back from the wilderness, he is now MD at FireBlitz.

2 Approval of previous minutes and matters arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting (26th June 2012, CO1438-12) were read and accepted. Matters arising were covered during the rest of the agenda.

3 Lobbying (inc. All Party Group funding & launch, HHIC, HSE, GAD)

All Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group (APPCOG):

The Group has changed its name to the All Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group (APPCOG) instead of 'Gas Safety' to better reflect its focus on CO from any sources and any fuels. The funding is in place from Gas Safe Charity, Gas Safety Trust and GISG.

Yesterday saw the launch of the subservient 'Carbon Monoxide All Fuels Action Forum' at an event in Parliament, which is the industry group intended to enact the recommendations contained within the APPCOG's Inquiry report. The Forum has separate funding sources to the APPCOG, CoGDEM has 'volunteered' to co-fund it with other bodies such as Oftec, HETAS and UKLPG. Seven CoGDEM members have agreed to share the £5k costs (5 alarm manufacturers, 1 FGA manufacturer and 1 sensor manufacturer). The launch event started with a showing of a new and very professional video by the Katie Haines Trust, and members were encouraged to download and use the video. Further events will be held monthly, not all of these will be relevant to the sponsors.

HHIC:

HHIC (the gas heating appliance manufacturers' trade association) has been busy with several relevant issues, and continues to invite CoGDEM to participate in these. In December, the boiler manufacturers will start to publicise and explain their compulsory combustion tests after the installation of every new boiler, as agreed with HSE and BIS, in which the tests become 'recommended' from 2013 and 'compulsory' from 2014. CoGDEM has been asked to contribute to this publicity by writing an article about the maintenance, recalibration and servicing of FGAs, so LG has requested relevant input from CoGDEM's FGA manufacturers/suppliers.

Action: FGA manufacturers/suppliers

The Flues-in-Voids Working Group is working with GSR and HSE to allow an alternative technique if an inspection hatch cannot be installed, which will permit a CO monitoring system to be installed in the void. It was pointed out that a flue leakage system could be more effective if it was monitoring CO₂ in the void, rather than CO, but this is not currently practical. GSR's Technical Bulletin on the subject of FiV, TB 008, has an appendix on CO alarms, LG has suggested changes so that it is up to date.

Thirdly, the gas industry's Approved Code of Practice under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations is being reviewed by HSE, who are encouraging input from stakeholders, so CoGDEM is ensuring that correct mention of FGAs and carbon monoxide alarms is considered.

GAD (Gas Appliance Directive)

Following their meetings with the EU Commission and ANEC in June, Jonathan Kane and Gordon Anderson wrote to the retained consultant on GAD, who happens to be based in Norfolk. He subsequently provided to the EU a cost/benefit analysis which shows that compulsory combustion tests on gas-fired appliances have no economic benefit when considering the cost of fatalities from CO across Europe. The consultant's work contained errors, including a failure to include the cost of injuries and ill-health related to CO. This has been pointed out, but it is now down to the Commission whether or not to include a mention of combustion performance testing and CO alarms.

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Merseyside FRS project. LG reported that since the May dissemination event, there has been little output from the team, and it appears there has been a slight loss of momentum. The Liverpool John Moores University lecturer Dr Andy Shaw has said the final report should be published in mid-November, hopefully to coincide with CO-Awareness Week. Nothing has yet come of the potential collaboration with Cranfield University, and ideas are still being discussed for Phase 3 of the project and its funding.

The Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) continues to develop ideas for its related project, with the potential creation of a 'Fire Safe Register', perhaps administered by GSR. This scheme would allow relevant tradesmen to receive basic fire safety training but to include an awareness of CO, with CO alarm fitting during a subsequent Home Fire Safety Visit by the local Fire Brigade, when prompted by the tradesman. There would be cheap membership for tradesman, so that cost is not an issue.

Gavin Boorman (GfG) mentioned that this CFOA initiative could help the cause of getting Fire & Rescue Services fully equipped with gas detectors as PPE. Colin Mitchell added that CFOA has lost some central funding recently, so this new initiative may have a strong commercial driver.

4 CO-Be Alarmed campaign and other publicity

Zoe Forman gave members a brief update on the plans that were underway for this year's CO-Be Alarmed campaign, which started on 31st October. This will be the 5th year of the campaign, funded by the gas retail companies under their trade association Energy UK. Kirstie Allsopp has again be retained as a media spokesperson, as the year she did this before was the most successful at getting the subject into the mass-media. A new campaign video is being produced, showing a Gas Safe Register engineer servicing a boiler using an FGA and installing a CO alarm. Another video featuring Stacey Rodgers will tell her story of Dominic. A supporting survey undertaken by the campaign team apparently showed a theoretical 40% alarm population, CoGDEM has pointed out that this should be corrected to state <20%.

Zoe also discussed the forthcoming CO storyline in the ITV soap Coronation Street, where one of the main characters (Fizz) will be poisoned by CO after her faulty boiler is tampered with by a well-meaning friend. The scriptwriters have been working with Gas Safe Register and the HSE to get their facts right, with the main focus being to only use GSR tradesmen to service your boiler. It is not clear whether CO alarms and FGAs will be seen on-screen, but viewers will at least be encouraged to visit the GSR website, which has good coverage of CO alarms and the need to check for EN 50291 compliance. Although details are embargoed, we believe the story will air in early January.

5 CO alarms Standards review (including EN 50291-1 & -2, EN 50292 update)

We still await the circulation of the draft revision of EN 50291-1, put together by the Working Group convened by the Irish (WG9). The active person within NSAI who kicked off the project, Fergal Finn, has now left the organisation. The French standards organisation AFNOR is also active on issues related to this standard, and seems to want to write some French national requirements that might sit 'on top' of EN 50291. LG has recently received an email from them enquiring about sensor lifetime testing, and he has replied helpfully, but pointing out that if they feel the standard needs to be amended, they should be doing this as part of WG9, rather than work in isolation.

LG and Peter Walsh made a visit to BSI test laboratory in Loughborough, part of what used to be the Advantica facility. This was triggered by questions as to how certain tests within the recreational vehicle CO alarm standard EN 50291-2 could be performed. During the visit, BSI showed and discussed the imminent changes to their laboratory set-up, some new test rigs and equipment, a plan to write a proposal for the difficult tests in -2, new staff and an intention to join CoGDEM (now done). Post meeting note:- one of CoGDEM's CO alarm manufacturers has told LG that they have successfully had a new alarm tested by BSI for compliance with -2, and this will be launched once stock arrives in the UK.

The standard for guidance on the use of CO alarms, EN 50292 has been further redrafted by Tony Banfield, Peter Walsh and LG after receipt of all the European comments, This is now awaiting a 'sanity check' before circulation.

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6 Flue Gas Analysis (inc. standards, new boiler testing, new European initiatives)

EN 50379 is the standard that governs the performance of Flue Gas Analysers, the 2012 edition has now been published, so this can be off our agenda until future revisions are required.

BS 7967 is the UK guide for the use of FGAs, and the Working Group, chaired by Dave Bendle of British Gas, is now active again. Kevin Milesen of GES attended a meeting on 24th Sep, he reported that nothing of relevance to FGA manufacturers was covered, but may be at the next meeting. As reported above in the HHIC section, the three issues under discussion there (Flues in Voids, mandatory boiler combustion tests at installation, changes to ACoP) may affect BS 7967, so Mark Rolfe of Gas Safe Register has undertaken to ensure continuity between all documents, as he is involved with all these issues.

A new European version of BS 7967

JK reported that the draft of the European equivalent of BS 7967 (use of Flue Gas Analysers) is now an IEC document (prepared by BSI) with various editorial and some substantive points noted for the committee's review. This has gone to the JWG and the three relevant documents including the draft would be circulated to the relevant CoGDEM members immediately after today's meeting (done).

Assuming the JWG agree with the recommendations within a month, the document will go out for its statutory six-month consultation hopefully before the end of this year. If we are very lucky, the JWG may finish this draft standard for approval by CENELEC TC216 & CEN TC109 in late summer 2013.

CMDDA1

Kevin Milesen says GES should be able to offer training and assessment by December, there is also a 'train-the-trainer' course available. The cost of the course is likely to be £350 for two days, this has been kept deliberately low, so is not very profitable for the training centre as it needs to be one assessor per trainee. It is hoped that a list of CMDDA1-equipped engineers can be made available to those organisations with help-lines which receive calls from people wanting their homes checked for CO emissions from appliances or migration from neighbouring properties.

7 Gas Safe Register/CoGDEM meeting proposal, consumer behaviour change

At the request of HSE, Gas Safe Register has undertaken a large project to categorise gas-consumers with regard to their awareness of safety, and how GSR might influence and change the behaviour the consumer takes. This work is to be published and presented to the All Party Group. LG had suggested to GSR a meeting at their HQ on Tues 20th Nov (within CO-Awareness Week) to allow the CO alarm manufacturers to hear and comment on the findings. For example, the biggest category of consumers was those who are aware of the safety risk yet still take no action, perhaps the CO alarm manufacturers can use their experience of smoke alarm awareness to update GSR with ideas. There was a good response from our membership to this suggestion, so LG will organise the event with Sarah Hill from GSR.

8 Non-compliant CO alarms and colour-patch update

Nothing more heard on Arctic Products or Detectagas alarms, which have dubious claims to EN 50291 compliance.

Recently LG had spotted an alarm with external devices for the hard of hearing being promoted by RNID, made by the Scandinavian company Deltronic Security, which members suggested was actually the Homewatch product, probably having genuine EN compliance despite the somewhat poor instruction leaflet.

9 AOB (including updates from HSE, GISG, GASG, helpline)

a) HSE

Peter Walsh apologised for his absence and declared no current issues of relevance to this sub group apart from the EN 50292 progress recorded above.

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b) GISG

CoGDEM is a member of the Gas Industry Safety Group, and meetings are held every other month. GISG continues to fund various safety initiatives, including the core costs of the APPGSG, see 3 above.

c) GASG

The Gas Analysis and Sensing Group runs three colloquia a year, usually of most interest to the Industrial Sub Group, but their 6th December event in London may interest CO Sub Group members. The subject matter will be gas detection apparatus used by the emergency services, and CoGDEM is arranging for Andy Humber of London Ambulance to talk of their CO detection apparatus and its usage. Gavin Boorman has arranged for a presentation by London Fire Brigade/Bureau Veritas.

d) CoGDEM's CO Helpline

LG reported on four recent unusual calls, including the CO risk from burning plastic on open fires, a user not understanding why their CO alarm sounded some time after a bottled-gas heater had been used, another user asking if the display of 45ppm on an alarm after 2 hours of cooking was putting them in danger, and a reader of a motorhome enthusiasts' magazine concerned at the advice to mount CO alarms in the wrong place. LG pointed out that Zoe would be looking after the helpline during the second half of October while he was abroad.

e) Barbecues and camping incidents

Despite Martin Ling's initial tests, as reported at our previous meeting and submitted to the Caravanning & Camping Club and Cranfield University, the initial enthusiasm shown by both organisations to conduct some formal tests seems to have subsided. This will be chased.

f) Detectagas

The gas-canister product now has 'CORGI Approval' and LG asked CORGI Technical Services what this means. Detectagas paid CRE at GasTec (Cheltenham) to produce a flattering report to issue to CORGI, but when LG was sent a copy, he spotted various flaws which he has asked GasTec to comment on before he circulates the report.

g) CORGI Forums

Adrian Keats pointed out that the North West Gas Users Forum, facilitated by CORGI but run locally by Detectagas, was disbanding, it had been seen as a Detectagas promotion vehicle. LG was approached in September by Eddie Stanton of CORGI asking us to present at other regional forums, but then stating an attendance cost of around £600 would be charged. We said we had never paid to give an educational presentation and were not about to start, so the fee idea was dropped, but despite chasing, CORGI has gone quiet since that call.

h) Directives

Jonathan Gilby keeps a watching eye on relevant EU Directives.

RoHS: BS EN 50581 'Technical documentation for the assessment of electrical and electronic products with respect to the Restrictions of Hazardous Substances' will be listed in the EU Official Journal as a harmonised standard under the RoHS Directive. Most companies will therefore use this documented approach to demonstrate compliance to the Directive.

WEEE Recast: The new Directive 2012/19/EU was published in the Official Journal on 4th July 2012. The Directive came 'into force' on 24th July and the old Directive will be removed on 15th February 2014.

i) Gas appliance fatalities

Jonathan Kane reported that there had been nil fatalities due to CO from piped gas fuelled appliances in the past year. It will be interesting to see how the gas industry publicises this, and also to see how the non-gas fuel industries react.

j) CO alarm donations

LG thanked the CO alarm manufacturers for their ongoing generosity in donating alarms to good causes and responding to the various requests that CoGDEM receives via himself or Zoe. This year the donations include alarms for Gas Safe Register, WRVS, medical students, MPs and the CO-Be Alarmed campaign.

10 Date of 2013 meetings – Tues 12 Feb, Tues 11 June, Tues 15 Oct 2013