

Minutes of Meeting

Document No CO-1465-21

Subject Minutes of CoGDEM CO Subgroup

Date 29th June 2021

Location MS Teams

Attendees

Andrew Keenan

Andy Avenal

Andy Speake

Ashley Worthington

Teresa Berry

David Bryant

David Richardson

Glenn Francombe

Alistair Henderson

Ian Ballinger

Ian Goldsbrough

John Saffell

Grzegorz Konieczny

Kevin Dean

Kevin Mileson

Dean Kavendish

Richard king

Peter Philpott

Phil Wild

pull Reenie

Roberts Lyon

Shane Lyons

Bon Sinclair

Steve cook

Suzanne chambers

Tony Powell

Duncan Gooch

Apologies

Alan Doncaster

Adam Miller

Michael Vinis

Sean Green

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1 Apologies and member introductions

A list of the attendees were put up on the screen, and the apologies were noted

2 Approval of previous minutes and matters arising

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

- Matters arising

Manufacturers should be aware of the requirements to mark products to the UK CA mark, any products that needs mandatory recertification will need to be recertified by the end of 2021 and then from the 1st of January 2023 any product that are CE marked will have to have CA marking, this is ambitious, should CoGDEM work with other associations like the FIA to lobby the government for an extension to the time frame, it was note the FIA has already done a lot of work in the area already with little success, but if all industries work together as one voice the government will have to listen, RK will continue to work on this and feedback to the June meeting

RK has been in contact with other associations, there has been a mixture of responses, RK has also contacted BEIS, the response was no extensions as it has been written into law, RK will make representation regarding the time frame as some accreditation bodies are issuing 20 week lead time to gain certification, BIES response was that the are trying to make spare capacity within the industry, RK will keep an eye on the situation and report back as and when more information becomes available, it was pointed out the FIA has also been lobbying against the time scale involved

CoGDEM have had many of enquiries regarding light industrial for example cafes, small kitchen's, small office spaces with regard to monitoring CO this has come about from inspectors predominantly up in the North, carrying out fire and safety inspections and now they are also requesting the need for CO monitors to be installed in premises, at present there isn't any regulation or guidance in place for this section of industry, should CoGDEM look at creating guidance to cover this gap? and possibly work towards putting a case together to relevant standard bodies for either new work item or increasing the scope of existing standards?

Will be discussed in the agenda

The NFCC has sent in a request to CoGDEM

The NFCC would like to see the mandatory introduction of legislation to install smoke, heat and CO alarms in all homes within all parts of the UK. These changes support a proactive stance in favour of reducing fire deaths and injuries in domestic dwellings.

This is the natural next step following the introduction of the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Regulations 2015. This legislation made it mandatory for Private sector landlords to install working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms. The NFCC feels it is the right time now to go one-step further and support the mandatory fitment of alarms in all homes.

NFCC's Home Safety Committee would like to start the dialogue for a consistence approach to detection in all domestic dwellings; ensuring support of all FRS's and key government departments to review legislation change.

We are currently in the 'evidence collection' phase and I would value your thoughts around this work and any evidence you could share to strengthen the case for change.

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CoGDEM will send a reply supporting the work that they are conducting and offering to assist them in anyway possible Action JS/DR

*This action was left open AC to chase up **Action AC***

3 Lobbying activities (inc. All Party Parliamentary CO Group, Landlord Regs)

- **APPCOG**

MHCLG consultation to expand law on CO Alarms

As members will know, MHCLG have proposed to amend both landlord and building regulations so that CO Alarms must be fitted when any new fixed combustion appliance is installed (excluding gas cookers); and in any rooms (in rented accommodation) used as living accommodation with a fixed combustion appliance currently present (excluding gas cookers). The APPCOG broadly welcomes these proposals, but is disappointed at the exclusion of gas cookers, especially in light of the OPSS inquiry which highlights the dangers these appliances can pose.

Following the consultation response submitted by the APPCOG, I have been seeking engagement with officials at MHCLG and finally spoke with the Policy Lead for White Paper Safety Consultations in mid-June Gas Safe Register

Unfortunately he was not able to divulge much information, but he was grateful to be contacted and heard the following points:

- It is now possible to buy a BS EN compliant CO alarm for £12 (the consultation states £20)
- The saving to landlords of not installing CO alarms where there is a gas cooker may be shifted (and possibly outweighed) by the resulting costs to the healthcare system of attempting to treat malaise caused by misdiagnosed sub-lethal CO poisoning.
- There are newer 'smarter' CO alarms (which do cost around £20) that can record the levels of background CO (which is below the level for the alarm to trigger but still potentially harmful) over a period of years; providing a wealth of information to assist consumers, those in the medical profession, industry, and support risk prevention.
- There is imminent research coming from COMed which will be useful for the department to see.

The official responded well, and requested a copy of the research paper I am producing outlining the evidence for harm caused by low level CO exposure. I will keep you updated as this progresses.

3. Health and Social Care Professionals Inquiry – managing carbon monoxide exposure risk in domiciliary health and social care

The inquiry will explore where opportunities lie to increase CO protection for both Health and Social Care Professionals (HSCPs) and those they care for. Current thoughts are that CO safety practices could be well placed with the existing H&S procedures, such as risk assessments, mandatory training and emergency protocol.

The [first parliamentary session](#) of the Health and Social Care Professionals Inquiry was held on 11 May, chaired by Liz Twist. The APPCOG is most grateful for the insightful comments made by attendees, and in particular to the prestigious expert panel:

Nadra Ahmed OBE, Executive Chairman of National Care Association

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Gordon Lishman CBE FRSA, Executive Chair of the Gas Safe Charity

Hilary Bath, Programme Manager, Think CO

Simon Main, Programme Manager, Think CO

5. eBay challenge re: 'black spot' or 'patch indicator' CO detectors

The APPCOG has always been clear that Black Spot Patch Carbon Monoxide Detectors do not offer adequate protection from the risks of CO exposure. These devices make no sound or alerting indication, so they cannot protect residents from CO leaks, as a sleeping person would not be woken if the detector was triggered. In fact even a waking resident may fail to notice that the patch had changed colour for many days, unless they made a point of checking regularly.

A letter to eBay requesting the removal of all adverts and offer for sale of 'black spot' or 'patch indicator' CO detectors, signed by Co-Chairs Barry Sheerman MP and Baroness Finlay, and parliamentary officers Liz Twist MP, Rt. Hon. Mrs Maria Miller MP, and John McNally MP was sent to the Global Head of Customer Service for eBay, Suman Arya. Unfortunately we have not received a response.

The letter has since received further signatures of support from new parliamentary officer Jason McCartney MP and Stephanie Peacock MP. It has now been sent to the generic eBay address for customer complaints and safety concerns. I will keep you informed as correspondence between the APPCOG and eBay progresses. Thanks are due to Tom Critchley, Parliamentary Assistant to Barry Sheerman MP, for his support with this.

- **Gas Safe Register**

Preparation for Gas Safety Week (13-19th September) are underway. The online toolkit for supporters is being prepared and will be available shortly. Given the COVID restrictions it doesn't look like there will be a physical parliamentary reception to launch the week this year but they will be looking to do something with MPs, probably similar to the short video that was done for last year (you can see it here: <https://youtu.be/v50Jfl3fdWs>)

GSR has just published their 'At A Glance' report which gives information about their activities and performance over the last year -

<https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/media/3282/2020-21-gas-safe-register-at-a-glance-report.pdf>

- **IGEM**

Phil Wild Gave a brief overview of IGEMS activities the detailed report can be found at the back the these minutes

He reminded the group the he representative at IGEM on behalf of CoGDEM and vice versa, he would be happy to take raise any topics with IGEM or if there are any specific questions relating to IGEM he will be happy to help

He also stated that a standards library/directory would be very useful and would save so much time looking through different sources

Within IGEMS report the is a APPENDIX table relating to relevant standard committees and the progress of each committee, if you would like more information on any of IGEM activities or the table email info@cogdem.org.uk

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4 Publicity update

- Carbon monoxide safe4summer

The APPCOG has launched the 'Carbon Monoxide Safe 4 Summer' campaign in 2021 to raise awareness of the often unknown risks of carbon monoxide poisoning that arise in the summer months, and inform the public how to stay safe. The campaign will launch on 24 June and run until 30 August 2021.

This year, people across the UK have been making the best of what their own back garden has to offer, investing in garden and outdoor living spaces; pizza ovens and outdoor heaters. Around the country, campsite bookings have soared by 500%; and first time users are renting caravans and boats as their usual foreign holidays are off the cards. This means more BBQs and leisure activities which carry risks of carbon monoxide exposure.

RL has been working with APPCOG to create the campaign safer4summer, RL has had meetings with the GDNs, Energy UK, Gas safe register, Safer tourism foundation and the CO charities.

The APPGOG comms group have set out a program with three main messages

Alarms – taking alarms them with you when away from home, making host's aware of the importance of having them installed

BBQs – Where to use them e.g. well ventilated areas

LPG – Making sure the appliances and fittings are safe

The campaign will also cover topics such as the safe use of Pizza Ovens, DIY activities, the awareness when Camping, and staying away from home such as air B&Bs

More information and Videos can be found at

<https://www.unitedagainstco.com/cosafe4summer>

5 CO alarms standards review

- EN50292

EN50292 is under revision Andy Speake is the convenor, CoGDEM will circulate the document when it is out for public comment

- Light Commercial

CoGDEM have received a number of calls regarding smaller businesses, Cafes, small offices which have been subject to inspection and as part of the report it has been flagged up the no CO alarms have been installed in the seating area of Cafes and what alarms are required,

Should the light commercial sector e.g. small offices and cafes, be covered in 50292?

It is important to note that it was pointed out that because of the ventilation requirements and the interlock on the gas supply in kitchens large and small makes the likely hood of CO build up is very low.

When is a 50291 certified alarm suitable to be used, when does a light commercial premises turn into a commercial premises

It was noted that the German mirror group has also be investigating this but relating more to childcare settings.

More investigation is required AC will explore this topic in more detail and report back to the next CO meeting **Action AC**

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6 Flue Gas Analysis

There are no updates for this meeting, AC will liaise with the FGA for future topics **Action AC**

Note from the AGM (more details are in the breakout room feedback)

7 HSE update

- **HyDeploy**

HyDeploy is looking into introducing 20% Hydrogen into the gas network, the Keele trials has ended now, and are reaching the end point of the next extension process for the public trial in Gateshead which will see 668 homes supplied with natural gas - hydrogen blend this summer. The project is in the final stages of technical work to support a blending across the network

H21 is looking at 100% hydrogen networks to completely replace natural gas, the HSE have been involved in a project looking at domestic hydrogen flammable gas alarms, it is looking at proof of concept/prototype at the moment, once it has reached a advanced stage the HSE will test the alarm, MH has raised the point that present CO alarms could make good hydrogen alarms with a few slight changes in the settings

- **Sample line absorption**

Following a fatal incident using the wrong type of gas detector to measure the atmosphere inside a container, the wrong equipment was used and the toluene got absorbed on to the tube and was not measured. The HSE will be creating a document on this if any Members have any information they would like including please send it to MH **Action ALL**

8 Breakout Rooms (20 mins)

- **Light Commercial / EN50292**

Discussion was had regarding the revision of the EN50292, Germany are pushing to increase the scope of the standard more details will be available at the next CO meeting

- **Flue Gas Analysis**

Discussion were had on Fossil fuel and Bluetooth technologies, AC will include these items on the next Agenda and also discuss these topics in more detail with the FGAs

DR stated he is on the domestic side of the industry and has limited knowledge of the FGA, should we have a sub chair for the CO sub group representing the FGAs, AC will email the FGAs and ask for a representative to support DR **Action AC**

- **CoGDEM Europe**

Continuous monitoring of relevant EU policy discussions and identification of key aspects in particular on the building Renovation Wave initiative and upcoming revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, but also on other relevant developments (e.g. on the decarbonisation of heating/role of hydrogen, and relevant aspects from the sustainable finance/Taxonomy discussions, National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs), and Zero Pollution Action Plan);

Response to the stakeholder consultation on the EPBD review and online submission of detailed questionnaire;

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Monthly CO/gas media monitoring and compilation in 9 countries and compilation of data/findings

Online CO Roundtable on 'Putting Safer Heating and the Heart of Building Renovations' (16 March 2021), co-hosted by MEP Maria Spyraiki (EPP, Greece) and MEP Sean Kelly (EPP, Ireland) -

Dialogue and follow-up with the European Heating Industry association (EHI), to discuss health & (gas/CO) safety in energy efficient buildings, but also to make the case for the adoption by the heating industry of the CoGDDEM-promoted HHIC benchmark for the regular maintenance of gas boilers.

9 Date of next meeting

Next Meeting 2nd November 2021

10 Action Table

Action from and date	Action	Responsibility	Date completed
1263-21 Section 2	The NFCC has sent in a request to CoGDDEM <i>This action was left open AC to chase up Action AC</i>	AC	
1263-21 Section 5	Light Commercial More investigation is required AC will explore this topic in more detail and report back to the next CO meeting Action AC	AC	
1263-21 Section 6	There are no updates for this meeting, AC will liaise with the FGA for future topics Action AC	AC	
1263-21 Section 7	Following a fatal incident using the wrong type of gas detector to measure the atmosphere inside a container, the wrong equipment was used and the toluene got absorbed on to the tube and was not measured. The HSE will be creating a document on this if any Members have any information the would like including please send it to MH Action ALL	ALL	
1263-21 Section 8 FGA Breakout room feedback	DR stated he is on the domestic side of the industry and has limited knowledge of the FGA, should we have a sub chair for the CO sub group representing the FGAs, AC will email the FGAs and ask for a representative to support DR Action AC	AC	