

Minutes of Meeting

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Subject CO Sub Group

Circulation CO Sub Group

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Attendees

Martyn Judd – Invensys Controls
Jonathan Gilby – City Technology
George McGregor - GMI
Leigh Greenham – CoGDEM
Peter Walsh – HSL
John Saffell - Alphasense
Noor Ali - CryoService
Paul Shields – CryoService
Jonathan Kane – Kane Int.
Stefan Kukula - Crowcon

Colin Mitchell – EI Electronics
John Sonley – JMS Consultants
Peter Ball – Sensotec 4-Warn
Ian Drennan – TPI Europe
Derrick Jepson – TSI
Ismail Mansoor – Invensys Controls
Peter Sullivan – Testo Ltd (guest)
Adrian Keats – SF Detection (Honeywell)
Steve Rowe – SGR Consultants (guest)

Apologies

Jason Perrins – Dicon (JP) - Chair
David Riddle - Crowcon
Eddie Quigley – TPI Europe
Richard Wiles – TPI Europe
John Walsh - FireAngel
David Bone - Nemoto
Brian Lelliott – Anglo Nordic
Rob Poulsen - Sensotec 4-Warn

Gerald Jones – Kidde Safety
Kevin Bishop – Kidde Safety
Zoe Forman – BRK
Mike Byrne – EI Electronics
Ken Dawson - Trolex
Laszlo Vukitsevits - STL
Stuart Askew - BOC

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Review of last minutes
3. HSE gas safety sub committees
4. HSE long term testing of CO alarms
5. Gas Industry Safety Group (GISG)
6. Flue Gas Analysis
7. Standards review (including review of Brussels meetings and Calls for Experts)
8. Results of the market survey
9. Publicity
10. Charities and recent meetings with Government
11. Web Site Update Preview
12. AOB

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1 Apologies

Jason Perrins (Chairman of the CO Sub-Group) had to send his apologies at the last moment due to a dental emergency; Martyn Judd kindly chaired the meeting in his absence. Other apologies were noted as listed above. Two guests were welcomed; Steve Rowe of SGR consultants who was to address the ISG on changes to the regulations affecting disposable gas cylinders, and Peter Sullivan of Testo Ltd, who wish to rejoin CoGDEM as from the new financial year (1 April 2006).

2 Review of last minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted (Doc no. CO1416-05). Actions arising were covered during the rest of the agenda.

3 HSE gas safety sub committees

Peter Walsh advised that there was to be an HSE meeting on CO2 the following day, with CoGDEM representation by Eddie Quigley (TPI) and Derrick Jepson (TSI).

There had also been an HSE Gas Safety Stakeholders meeting on 20 Feb attended by Jonathan Kane (Kane Int) and Martyn Judd (Invensys), both representing CoGDEM, and Colin Mitchell representing EI Electronics. The CO Sub Group were informed by the attendees that the HSE still seemed to hold the view that CO alarms are not reliable, and that there are only ~20 deaths per year from CO poisoning. The HSE are trying to relinquish their responsibility for dealing with domestic safety, concentrating on workplace safety. PW added that this was HSE's original remit, which they must focus on now that Governmental funding is tight. The key recommendations on CO detection made by the HSC in 2000 are frustratingly sidelined, although the HSE is talking to Transco about the use of FGAs by their emergency staff, and the duty of care that Transco must show to their employees by equipping them with some form of CO detector/alarm/FGA.

MJ and JK advised that the gas suppliers present at the Stakeholder meeting kept a low profile, and that CO-Gas Safety has a meeting with OFGEM this week, to try and get some funding from the gas companies for CO awareness campaigns.

There had also been an Energy Retailers Association (ERA) roundtable meeting at the House of Commons on 31 Jan 06 on gas safety that MJ had attended as the CoGDEM representative. This was chaired by Barry Sheerman MP, but again failed to get the gas companies to agree funding for CO awareness campaigns. It is suggested that CoGDEM writes to Lord Hunt to advise him that what he said about funding at the meeting in his office that LG attended has not been agreed in the way he stated it would. We should also send correspondence to Barry Sheerman and Front Line Consultants (engaged by HSE to conduct a gas safety review during 2006).

Action JP/LG/MJ

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4 HSE long term testing of CO alarms

Peter Walsh and Tony Banfield are drafting amendments to EN50291 and EN 50292, which will include the CoGDEM proposal for long term testing. It was pointed out that Nicola Wade's comments at the HSE Stakeholders' Meeting suggested the HSE might be becoming more positive about the long-term reliability of CO alarms in the UK.

5 Gas Industry Safety Group (GISG)

MJ did not attend the most recent meeting, as there was to be little discussed of relevance to CoGDEM. Much of this group's focus is on the importation of foreign gas and the safety issues that this raises. MJ will investigate GISG's position on CO detection and report back.

Action MJ

6 Flue Gas Analysis – standards and training course

BS7967 parts 1, 2 and 3 are finally published, although a printing error saw part 3 comprise of an old working draft! Part 4 continues to be worked on (how to interpret readings from an FGA). The inclusion of direct reading CO₂ analysers may become Part 5 of this standard. As mentioned earlier by Peter Walsh, there is to be a meeting on March 1, which may kick-off the creation of a CO₂ performance standard.

CoGDEM should endeavour to publicise the existence of BS7967, as this may raise awareness of the benefits of using FGAs. Prior to Christmas, LG met Downstream Gas to discuss the creation of a "Guide to BS7967" that could be read by heating engineers. DG was about to talk to CORGI on the same subject, so CORGI was subsequently informed of CoGDEM's wish to be involved. DG has now quoted CORGI for the work and awaits their response. LG to remain in regular contact with DG.

Action LG

LG informed the meeting that he had seen no published PR as a result of CO investigation training course that CoGDEM organised at the "gas-elec" training centre in West London in Oct 05. He has approached CORGI, who will feature it in the next edition of their Gas Installer magazine.

7 Standards Review (including review of Brussels meetings and Calls for Experts)

7.1 CEN TC 216 (EN50291 & EN50292) and TC216 WG4

A thorough set of notes on the CEN TC 216 meetings in Brussels in Nov 05 was attached to the previous set of Minutes (thanks to Peter Walsh), so John Sonley gave a brief overview and up date.

It is intended to create a Part 2 for EN 50292 to cover domestic CO alarms for use in recreational vehicles.

The application of EN 50271 (software performance) to domestic CO alarms has been proposed by the Italians and this may have significant implications for manufacturers whose products have embedded code.

JS explained that CoGDEM's CO sub group needs an identified "Expert" who can feed the BSI committee GEL31/19 with the manufacturers' views on domestic CO alarms regulatory issues. This person will be John's main point of contact to help answer the detailed technical

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questions that sometimes arise. The “expert” will be expected to seek his colleagues’ opinions on draft standards and other work-group tasks. Volunteers to LG please. (Post-meeting note: Jason Perrins as Chairman of the CO sub group is willing to be this person)

There is also a Call for Experts in the field of light industrial applications for CO detection, particularly now that there may be a working group established to create a standard for the detection of CO in garages and road tunnels. Volunteers to LG please. **Action Members**

7.2 Domestic Flammable Gas Detectors

JS stated that it has been proposed that the EN50194 standards will be modified to take into account those instruments that have removable/replaceable sensors.

8 Results of the Market Survey

Dave Curtis collects the manufacturers’ data and holds it confidentially at his home. He still awaits data from Dicon, Kidde and EI for their 2004 returns. **Action Dicon, Kidde, EI**

9 Publicity

Colin Mitchell of EI asked to address the sub group. Since the Ben Croxford UCL report was published, the Publicity sub-group has met twice. The Publicity sub-group considers that CoGDEM needs to engage a consultant PR “expert” to educate the market as to the importance of CO alarms.

At their Feb 06 meeting, Zoe Forman announced that she is soon to leave BRK and will set up as an independent PR consultant. She presented a plan as to how she could be CoGDEM’s CO PR “expert”. Manufacturers would continue to do their own individual campaigns, but would club together to fund this joint work.

Colin admitted that this would not be a cheap exercise. He stressed that it would not just benefit the CO alarm manufacturers, but also those involved with FGAs and test-gas suppliers.

LG announced that he has a DVD copy of the five short TV ads that have just been produced by CORGI and RoSPA, featuring the families of victims of CO poisoning. Members can borrow the DVD if required. The ads were only broadcast at non-peak times during Jan and Feb on three digital channels, so got little exposure.

10 Charities and recent meetings with Government

CO-Gas Safety and CO Awareness have been very active in recent months and have arranged meetings with Government Ministers, MPs, HSE, ERA and a future meeting with CORGI (24 Feb 06). CoGDEM has been able to attend most of these meetings. LG gave an update of the Jan 06 meeting with Lord Hunt (Minister with responsibility for HSE/HSC) and suggested further communication with him. Jonathan Kane and Martyn Judd gave updates on the meetings that they had attended. Notes of all relevant meetings had already been sent to CO sub-group members by e-mail.

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11 Web Site Update Preview

Jonathan Gilby continues to develop the new website, which it is hoped will go live within weeks.

12 AOB

12.1 CO alarm availability

Manufacturers were again asked to provide details of retail outlets for their products, so that the CoGDEM CO helpline can give a list to callers.

12.2 WEEE and RoHS Directives Presentation

The lunchtime presentation by Peter Lawson of Gambica/B2B confirmed that most CoGDEM members' products are currently exempt from the RoHS Directive, but this exemption will probably be removed by 2010. Dr Paul Goodman at ERA can be contacted for up-to-date details.

12.3 Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 16 May 2006, 3pm (includes AGM and evening dinner)

Members requiring overnight accommodation after the annual dinner are asked to inform LG as soon as possible.