

Minutes of Meeting

Document No CO-1425-08

Subject	CO Sub Group	Circulation	All members
Date	29 January 2008	Circulation Date	20 Feb 2008
Location	CoGDEM offices Hitchin	Circulation by	Website & email

Attendees

Jason Perrins - Dicon/BRK
Jonathan Gilby - City Tech
Leigh Greenham - CoGDEM
Stefan Kukula - Crowcon
Kevin Honner - Crowcon
James Clark - CryoService
Simon Jones - Kidde
Rob Poulsen - Sensotec 4 Warn
Richard Lane – e2v technologies
John Walsh - FireAngel
Steve Lower - Sira Certification
Richard King – Sira Environmental
Roy Taylor - Testo
Simon Tebb - TSI
Colin Mitchell - Ei Electronics
Mike Byrne - Ei Electronics
Kevin Stockwell - BW Europe
John Sonley - JMS Consulting
Peter Walsh - HSL/HSE
Steve Hamilton - Honeywell Analytics
Steve Sutton - Honeywell Analytics
Nick Ludlam - FM Approvals
Andrew Was - FM Approvals
Lionel Witrant - ISC
George McGregor - GMI

Apologies

Peter Woods - NPL
Arthur Burnley - Alphasense
Adrian Keats - Honeywell SF
John Saffell - Alphasense
Richard Whiteside - Land Inst/Ametek
David Woods - General Monitors
Zoe Forman - PR Consultant
Ismail Mansoor - Invensys
Jonathan Kane - Kane Int.
Derrick Jepson - TSI
Eddie Quigley - TPI Europe
Andy Burnett - Kidde
Gerald Jones - Kidde
Craig Anderson - Qtronics
Kevin Brown - e2v technologies
Terry Brown – e2v technologies
Phillip Wild – Duomo (guest)
Bernard Thomas - Invensys

Agenda

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Approval of previous minutes and matters arising
- 3) All Party Parliamentary Gas Safety Group, CO in school buildings
- 4) Gas Industry Safety Group (GISG) and Industrial Liaison Group
- 5) Flue Gas Analysis (including meetings with CORGI and Ofgem)
- 6) CORGI CO Consumer Awareness Alliance (COCAA)
- 7) Standards review (including EN50291 becoming mandatory, agenda for Barcelona)
- 8) Report on non-compliant Chinese alarms
- 9) Boats and leisure vehicles (CO dispersion)
- 10) Publicity (Zoë Forman's project)
- 11) AOB
- 12) Date of next meeting – Tuesday 24 June, then 21 Oct

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1 Apologies

The above list of apologies was read out. Simon Jones was representing Kidde today as their usual attendees were involved with integration activities following the acquisition by their parent company UTC of the FireX division of Invensys, which probably also accounted for today's absence of Bernard Thomas.

2 Approval of previous minutes and matters arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting (23 October 07) were read and accepted (Doc no. CO1424-07). Actions arising were covered during the rest of the agenda, except that LG stated that regarding CO poisoning studies, he and Zoe would be attending a meeting organised by CORGI Trust, the sponsors of the CENSY research project being conducted by UCL (including Ben Croxford). It is expected that early results will be presented on 13 Feb, possibly showing that actual incidents of 'low-level' CO poisoning are higher than previously reported figures.

3 All Party Parliamentary Gas Safety Group, CO in school buildings

The APPGSG has not met since last summer, but through its Chairman Barry Sheerman MP, it was active during CO-Awareness Week 2007. They have held meetings with COCAA, and we will be writing to them for advice on how to proceed with a suggested lower rate of VAT to be applied to domestic CO alarms.

Regarding CO detection in schools, we have received the following note from DCSF to HSE in late Oct 2007:

"We are planning to produce a short guidance note for schools and LEAs on SchoolsWeb with help from CORGI, HSE, HPA, etc on precautions to take re CO in schools and may widen this to include advice on maintenance of gas appliances.

I have not had much time to progress this yet but am working on an early draft and convened an initial stakeholder meeting at which Julia Soave of HSE, CORGI, COGDEM and HPA were present and existing guidance material was provided to me. I have also collected the views of the members of the Society of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers serving Local Government (SCEME) on CO detection in schools.

A section was included in the soon to be published (w/b 22 October) Building Bulletin 100 Design for fire safety in schools on CO Detectors in boiler rooms in the context of automatic fire detection shut-off systems. "

4 Gas Industry Safety Group (GISG) and Industrial Liaison Group

CoGDEM will attempt to get value for money from our membership of the GISG by enlisting their help and proactive support regarding FGA usage throughout the gas industry. David Wilson, who is the Executive Director of GISG is also the Secretary of the ACS (Accredited Certification Scheme for gas operatives), so he should be influential in getting new assessments in place (following BS 7967), which will be to the benefit of our FGA manufacturing members. We have also asked for their support with the project to get the Gas Emergency Service Providers (ESPs) to carry equipment for detecting CO when they have been called out to a report of fumes or CO alarm activation.

The GISG AGM takes place on 15 Feb and CoGDEM will be represented by Eddie Quigley, who will report back.

Post-meeting note: Eddie reports that the GISG AGM was quite useful, and specifically discussed their support for the new ACS assessment for FGA usage, as well as the need for ESPs to carry CO detectors. There was also an update on general CO issues, and discussion on non compliant products entering the UK marketplace, not just domestic CO alarms, but FGAs and gas valves and fittings.

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5 Flue Gas Analysis (including meetings with CORGI and Ofgem)

A meeting was held between CoGDEM's FGA manufacturers and CORGI in December 2007, discussing the new ACS assessment covering the use of FGAs for servicing work, and recommending a new assessment (CMDDA1) for the correct use of FGAs for CO investigations. We have contacted relevant bodies (including GISG, see item 4 above) to follow up on points raised at the meeting.

Although good progress was made in the OFGEM meeting held on 18 Oct, at which the historic refusal of the gas Emergency Service Providers to carry CO detecting instruments was discussed and there was broad agreement that CO detectors of some kind should be given to ESP workers, the Minutes of that meeting did not reflect this so strongly. It had been suggested that a working group would be formed to assess the most appropriate type of instrument to be used. CoGDEM wrote to Ofgem expressing our willingness to be part of the work-group, or even co-ordinate it. We received a positive reply just pre-Christmas and an update by phone just prior to today's meeting, stating that Ofgem will be writing to stakeholders in Feb, inviting interested parties to join the work-group for its first meeting, probably in April.

6 CO Consumer Awareness Alliance (COCAA)

CoGDEM is a full and active member of this Alliance and its steering group which meets monthly, attended by LG and Zoe Forman. The full group meets quarterly.



The Alliance was formed early in 2007 and is coordinated by CORGI, giving it the great advantage of calling on funds and resources from the CORGI Trust. The website is now running at www.becarbonmonoxideaware.com. The steering group has picked five key issues to attack in 2008, with one of these being to increase the population of audible CO alarms in UK dwellings. LG and ZF are leading this particular initiative.

An activity plan for 2008 is now being created, so that members of the Alliance can factor this into their PR budgets, and it is hoped that at least one news-worthy event per month can be undertaken. For example, February 08 will see the Solid Fuel Association's CO competition, where the winner happened to be a deaf person who will be awarded a CO detector with extra accessories (beacon, vibrating pads etc), as well as a campaign by Lloyds Pharmacy to highlight CO symptoms. March 08 should see the publication of the CENSY survey results (see item 2 above). In April, the chimney sweeps' event will feature CO (see item 10 below).

COCAA attempts to manage the tricky relationships with the various victims' support groups, who are all now part of the Alliance. Stacey Rogers (Dominic Rogers Trust) has been given a part-time contract to work with the COCAA steering group. Lynn Griffiths has unanimously decided that "her" CO-Awareness Week 2008 will commence on Mon 15 Nov, but COCAA will attempt to bring this forward into October. Stephanie Trotter's organisation CO-Gas Safety is concentrating on her schools' poster campaign, to which CoGDEM has previously pledged a donation of 100 free CO alarms as prizes.

7 Standards Review (including EN50291 becoming mandatory, agenda for Barcelona)

John Sonley would be chairing a meeting of the GEL/31/19 BSi committee on gas detectors the day after today's CoGDEM meeting. The prime purpose for calling the meeting is to look through the proposed agenda of the imminent TC216 CENELEC committee meeting in Barcelona on 26/27 February 2008, to be attended by John, Jason Perrins, Jonathan Gilby, Peter Walsh and Tony Banfield (Sira).

EN 50194-1 Domestic Flammable Performance Std: Minor editorial corrections required.

EN50291-1 CO in domestic premises Performance Std: UK will push for this standard to be published in the OJ, so that it becomes a mandatory standard for CE marking. Probable best fit is with Construction Products Directive. Spain definitely wants this to happen. UK will comment again on the desire to include long term testing.

EN50291-2 CO in Recreational Vehicles Performance Std: Peter Walsh's comments on the draft to be discussed in Barcelona.

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EN 50292 CO in Domestic Premises & Recreational Vehicles - Guide for Use: Peter Walsh will also raise his concerns about the stated definitions of 'Recreational Vehicles'.

ISO/TC188 CO for small boats. Manufacturers didn't like the proposal, based on UL2034. UK not keen to progress.

At last year's CENELEC TC216 meeting, Jason Perrins put forward the case for the domestic CO alarm performance standards to allow for the monitoring of low levels of CO, chronic rather than acute conditions. This was rejected by other countries, as the cornerstone for such a standard needs to be medical evidence of concentration levels necessary to induce chronic attack - not yet available, but perhaps the CENSY results in mid-Feb might provide relevant data.

Italy and Spain have drafted a standard for the detection of carbon monoxide in car parks and tunnels that was circulated in Nov 2007. An initial assessment of the draft by the UK delegation questioned the inclusion of NO₂ and other gases which would over-complicate the testing requirements of the Standard. However, without these gases, the Standard would only be appropriate for vehicles that have an emission of CO, potentially excluding diesel engines that emit only small quantities of CO but plenty of NO_x.

The UK delegation plans to ask the other European delegates if they have an interest in the work undertaken in recent times by the UK in the development of a Standard for portable carbon-dioxide gas detectors - BS 8494 and also the series of Flue Gas Analyser Standards - BS 7967 Parts 1-4; if interest is shown in such work, it could form the basis of a new work item.

The work under GSE/30/21 to complete Part 5 of BS 7967 continues. The committee will meet in mid-Feb, Jonathan Kane is CoGDEN's representative and will report back.

The HSE is interested in the possibility of combined CO and smoke alarms being able to comply with the relevant EU Standards. At present, the conflict of Ingress Protection requirements and placement precludes this, yet in the US, it is possible for combined alarms to be certified to both of the two relevant UL Standards. Perhaps UK certification bodies could be approached to see if there is some room for flexibility in their interpretation of the EU standards for domestic smoke detectors and CO alarms.

8 Report on non-compliant Chinese alarms

The Chinese device supplied by MKM Leisure to the caravan industry has had its electronics completely redesigned to include software which now allows it to have alarm threshold levels in accordance with those set in EN 50291, although one of two samples tested was not within this spec. Asda withdrew their branded Garvan unit after complaints from British Gas about false alarms. Jason Perrins brought another cheap unit to the meeting having the same innards as the original MKM and the Braun units. This has a single point alarm, so cannot meet its claim to be tested in accordance to EN 50291. It also claims to be tested to a Chinese standard for flammable gas detectors CJ 3057, proving how inaccurate their claims are.

It is hoped that mandatory performance testing to EN 50291 prior to CE marking will help to eradicate such shoddy and unsafe products from the market (see item 6 above).

9 Boats and leisure vehicles (CO dispersion)

Peter Walsh reported that there had been little progress with the suggested project to assess the dispersal of CO in boats, as the funding agreement still needs to be put in place, potentially with help from the CORGI Trust. Peter mentioned that the Boat Safety Scheme has responded with some useful comments on EN 50291-2.

CoGDEN has had several communications with the National Caravan Council (Stephen Jowitt) who is keen to instigate an "MOT" test for caravans, to include a safety check on gas burning appliances. We recommended the use of FGAs, and to follow similar tests as specified in BS 7967, with additional checks on the integrity of pipes, connections, vents and flues, due to the vibration and shock that caravans undergo. The NCC suggested a reciprocal membership idea, where they would be a non-voting member of CoGDEN and vice-versa. After discussion, we declined, as it was felt inappropriate for an organisation representing our customers to sit in at our meetings, but we have volunteered to visit NCC every so often to update them on gas safety issues, and expect to see them in March.

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10 Publicity (Zoe Forman's project)

Colin Mitchell complimented Zoe and Leigh for the volume of the ongoing publicity work being done, especially getting CoGDEM such high level representation on the COCAA steering group. Through COCAA, we have been asked to help organise the Builders Merchants' Federation CO campaign in the autumn. Zoe and Leigh will attend a planning meeting at the BMF London HQ in late-Feb. We have also been asked to advise members that they can exhibit at the National Association of Chimney Sweeps (NACS) event in Harrogate at the end of April, where CO will be a focus.

At the end of November 2007, Zoe attended the IPHE CO conference in Derby where she gave a presentation on CO alarms. She has been asked to do the same for two IPHE events in Wales and possibly Scotland later this year. Also, the Cheshire Landlords' Technical Group (contact via Lynn Griffiths) have asked Zoe to attend their next meeting due April/May for a 30 minute slot on CO alarms in social housing, covering six local council areas.

11 AOB

HETAS Guide inclusions: LG reminded CO alarm and FGA manufacturers of the imminent deadline for the submission of product data to be included in this year's solid fuel industry guide. It was hoped that there would be eight CoGDEM members included.

Two British Gas service engineers are to be prosecuted on manslaughter charges following the Angela Pinkney death in Oxford in 2005. CO from a poor installation of a gas boiler was the cause, but the engineers failed to rectify the problem, and indeed deliberately caused a safety device to malfunction.

12	Dates of next Meetings:	Tuesday 24 June 2008
		Tuesday 21 October 2008