

# Minutes of Meeting

Document No CO-1431-10

Subject	<b>CO Sub Group</b>	Circulation	All members
Date	23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2010	Circulation Date	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
Location	CoGDEM offices Hitchin	Circulation by	Website & email

## Attendees

John Saffell - Alphasense  
Jason Perrins - Dicon/BRK (CO SG Chair)  
Jonathan Gilby - City Tech  
Kevin Stockwell - Honeywell/BW  
Carl Ritzberger - Honeywell  
Adrian Keats - Honeywell SF  
Gus Bol - Trolex  
Leigh Greenham - CoGDEM  
Alan Thomson - National Semiconduct  
John Walsh - Fire Angel  
Jonathan Kane - Kane International  
Mike Windsor - Anton  
Richard King - Sira Environmental  
Mike Byrne - Ei Electronics  
Colin Mitchell - Ei Electronics  
John Casey - Ei Electronics  
Roy Taylor - Testo  
Arthur Burnley - Alphasense  
Peter Walsh - HSE/HSL  
Ron Webb - FM  
Paul Basham - Crowcon  
Louise Early - Crowcon  
Steve Robinson - Draeger  
Kevin Honner - Draeger  
Zoe Forman - Mandeville Marketing

## Apologies

Deborah Haisman - TSI  
Nick Ludlam - FM  
Tony Bleakley - Anton  
Tony Banfield - GEL/31/19 Chairman  
Lionel Witrant - ISC Oldham  
Rob Poulsen - Sensotec 4-Warn  
Neil O'Reagan - Shawcity for Ion Science  
Mark Stockdale - Ion Science  
Peter Sullivan - Testo  
Philip Wild - Duomo  
John Sonley - JMS Consultants  
Jeff Regan - JMS Consultants  
Peter Philpott - TPI  
Gerald Jones - Kidde Safety  
Andy Burnett - Kidde Safety  
Bernard Thomas - Kidde Safety  
Chris Street - Scientific & Tech Gases  
Rob White - City Tech  
Gavin Peacock - Draeger  
Tim Wilkes - Crowcon  
Gavin Boorman - GfG  
Mark Rowland - Trolex  
Alan Henderson - GSS  
Steve Hamilton - Honeywell  
Peter Upcott - BOC Linde

## Agenda

- 1) Apologies and member introductions
- 2) Approval of previous minutes and matters arising
- 3) Lobbying activities (including Building Regulations (spec of alarms), landlords, HHIC, HSE tests, HPA and Environmental Health)
- 4) COCAA (including media campaigns, new activity report) - ZF
- 5) Standards review (preparation for European meeting in March 2010)
- 6) Flue Gas Analysis (inc. CMDDA 1, pre-calibrated sensor modules) - JK
- 7) Gas Industry Safety Group (GISG) – 2010 Safety Awards - JK
- 8) Gas Safe Register update
- 9) Boats and leisure vehicles update
- 10) AOB (including CO Awareness issues such as end-of-lifetime indications, CoGDEM helpline)
- 11) Date of next meeting – Tuesday 22 June 2010

# Minutes of Meeting

Document/ file: CO1431-10 meeting minutes 23-02-10

## 1 Apologies and member introductions

The above list of apologies was read out. Members introduced themselves around the table.

## 2 Approval of previous minutes and matters arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting (20<sup>th</sup> October 2009) were read and accepted (Doc no. CO1430-09). Matters arising were covered during the rest of the agenda.

## 3 Lobbying (including Building Regulations, landlords, HHIC, HSE tests, HPA & Environmental Health)

**Building Regs:** CoGDDEM has put significant time and effort into our various responses to the proposed changes to Building Regulations Part J which covers combustion appliances. We were also able to check the submission made by others, such as GISG, ENA, Gas Safe Register, HHIC and the COCAA campaign team.

LG and JP managed to arrange then attend a meeting with Brian Martin at DCLG to explain our concerns. These were well-received and we ended up being asked to re-write the relevant sections on DCLG's behalf, so that appropriate wording could be ensured. We were sent the Word version, and modified this in several places:

- Reference to CO alarms earlier in document, irrespective of appliance fuel type (wording from BSi)
- Reference to EN 50292 and alarm manufacturers instructions for location
- Reference to mains-powered (not just battery) units
- Reference to spillage testing for products of combustion, and instruments to EN 50379 used to BS 7967

It is hoped that the revised Building Regs will come into force in Oct 2010, although the General Election may interfere with progress.

**Landlords:** We continue to consider ways to lobby the landlords' associations to improve their knowledge of carbon monoxide risks and how to protect themselves and their tenants. It was suggested that we might have success by contacting tenants associations, and by using the links that Gas Safe Register has. Also, going through University housing officers has been worthwhile.

The pressure on landlords to have to undertake appliance servicing and to fit CO alarms in order to pass the annual gas safety check is mounting, and was evident during this winter's COCAA campaign, outlined below.

**HHIC (Heating and Hotwater Industry Council)** is the trade body for heating appliance manufacturers, and two CoGDDEM companies (Kane and Anton) are members. CoGDDEM held a useful meeting in January with Chris Yates Deputy Director of HHIC, and he agreed to attend today's meeting, see the report later in this document.

**HSE tests:** LG attended the meeting in Bootle in December to press home our concerns about the proposed project to test domestic CO alarms taken from people's homes. All of our points were accepted, unlike most of those raised by John Stones, who attended to represent CO-Awareness, despite being told by that organisation not to attend. The project is now underway, Gas Safe inspectors will collect 100 alarms from the field and send these to the HSE/HSL for laboratory testing by Peter Walsh. The alarms will be replaced by EN units already supplied by CoGDDEM members. Only alarms that are still within their manufacturers' stated working lifetimes will be tested.

It is hoped that the testing will take place during March/April 2010, with results available in May.

**HPA & Environmental Health:** CoGDDEM has a good working relationship with the Health Protection Agency, and we are frequently asked for advice on CO alarms, or to make presentations at their seminars. One such seminar was for Environmental Health Practitioners (mostly for Local Authorities), after which they were requested to produce a printed aid on carbon monoxide, which they have done in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

They wish to print and distribute 4000 copies, and are looking for a funding partner for the £900 cost. CoGDDEM's 5 key CO alarm manufacturers agreed to meet this cost (£180 each). If it is felt that use of the CoGDDEM logo on the leaflet is inappropriate due to us being a trade association, members suggested that using this year's "CO-Be Alarmed" campaign logo would be a good compromise.

## Minutes of Meeting

Document/ file: CO1431-10 meeting minutes 23-02-10

### 4 COCAA (CO Consumer Awareness Alliance) including all media campaigns

Zoe Forman had prepared a PowerPoint update for this meeting, covering the results to-date from the 'Carbon monoxide – Be Alarmed' campaign which had a big TV, radio and media launch on 19<sup>th</sup> January using Kirstie Allsopp as the celebrity spokesperson. This year, the use of 64 case study victims or their relatives gave local media something to focus on in their regions, together with back-up interviews or sound bites from Kirstie, Dr Rob Hicks or LG, who did some regional ITV News interviews.

The campaign has been very successful so far, more TV coverage than the previous year (21 million equivalent viewers), plus a great spread of printed magazine and web coverage, particularly from lifestyle-type media. The MP drop-in event saw 53 attendees, each photographed with a domestic CO alarm. The retail sector had some successful in-store displays, and there was a sales increase as the campaign unfolded. The PayPoint promotion was not successful.

This campaign was funded by the gas supplying companies making up Energy UK (new name for ERA Energy Retailers Association) and it has been confirmed that funding exists for the 2010/11 winter campaign, to be planned during the summer, when the full results from the current campaign are known. It is expected that the change to Building Regs will give a fresh angle, and a new celebrity endorsement will be found, together with new case studies.

COCAA itself still has Steering Group meetings every two months, attended by ZF and LG. The Chairman remains Nigel Dumbrell, although he is given a hard time for the 'ownership' claimed by CORGI Trust, now renamed 'Gas Safety Trust' in a provocative attempt to compete with Gas Safe Register's 'Gas Safe Charity'. Nigel still seems to be visiting stakeholders (and some CoGDEM members) to attempt to prove the need for GST's existence, and to find sources of income for the Trust (not for COCAA).

COCAA has just updated its members Activity Report, which was originally produced in 2007. The glossy A4 booklet was given to CoGDEM members, additional copies available from LG. It shows an impressive amount of CO publicity and activities across many industries. One negative point is that it gives the victims groups another platform from which to broadcast their opinions, this year's CO-Awareness entry shows the effects of John Stones' involvement, with his propaganda on CO alarm testing.

### 5 Standards review, domestic CO alarms (preparation for European meeting in March 2010)

The UK gas detector committee, coordinated under the BSI number GEL/31/19 and chaired by Tony Banfield, met on 4<sup>th</sup> February, and discussed items to be raised during the European meeting (TC 216) to be held in Germany on 18<sup>th</sup> March. CoGDEM is always well-represented at such meetings, with TB, LG, Peter Walsh, and Jonathan Gilby at BSi. Jason Perrins and Jonathan Kane could not attend, but hope to be at the European meeting.

**EN 50291-1 and EN 50291-2:** The revised carbon monoxide alarm performance standards have received a positive vote and will be published in 2010. The French national committee continue to voice their opinion that the alarm thresholds should be reduced, including a proposed 10 ppm 8-hour first trigger point.

Ei Electronics feels that the new generation of sealed-for-life battery units are not sufficiently covered by the standard, and that some form of testing needs to be applied to ensure that the batteries are capable of meeting the alarm manufacturers' claims of very long life.

It has also been stated by users that EN 50291 should specify consistent techniques for identifying fault conditions, such as an amber LED and audible 'chirps' for low battery, end-of-unit's-lifetime, sensor fault. The UK national committee will raise this at the March TC 216 meeting. They will also talk again of ways that the standard may be made a mandatory requirement for units entering the European market. We have failed to achieve this using the avenues available so far. They will also see whether Europe has any interest in developing a new standard for combined CO and smoke alarms, as these are only available with UL compliance at present. The current retail stock of UL-compliant CO alarms (seemingly just BRK and First Alert brands) will be the last ever, according to JP, as the EN certification is now in place.

**EN 50292:** the guide for use of CO alarms needs to be updated, and Peter Walsh hopes that this can occur when input is received from the caravan and boat industries, see item 9 below.

## Minutes of Meeting

Document/ file: CO1431-10 meeting minutes 23-02-10

### 6 Flue Gas Analysis (including CMDDA1, pre-calibrated sensor modules)

Jonathan Kane and LG updated the group, including a summary of their meeting with the HHIC (Heating and Hotwater Industry Council, part of the SBGI) in January, which has led to today's guest speaker (see AOB).

With the CPA1 assessment now being a mandatory requirement for new gas installers to have completed by Feb 2010, FGA suppliers have noticed a pleasing increase in demand. The follow-up qualification for CO incident investigation, CMDDA1, should be available at various colleges or training providers from March.

At our last meeting, LG reported that he had taken a call from Gas Safe about the HSE's interest in pre-calibrated sensor modules for FGAs, and whether users would therefore assume that instruments no longer needed annual calibration if these were fitted. After that meeting, we sent a statement to HSE, which was thought to be acceptable, if a bit long-winded. At today's meeting, it was agreed that members should suggest ways of shortening and simplifying the following statement, and let LG have their suggestions:

#### **Flue Gas Analysers with pre-calibrated sensor modules**

*CoGDEM's member companies supply Flue Gas Analysers that comply with EN 50379 and are to be used for domestic heating applications in compliance with the relevant parts of BS 7967. Part 2 of BS 7967 specifies that the analyser must have a current proof of calibration and be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. These instructions require annual calibration which must be performed by an approved service centre.*

*Some manufacturers have designed their apparatus to be capable of accepting pre-calibrated sensor modules. Such modules are not supplied to end users, only to approved service centres who carry out maintenance, repair and annual calibration activities. Therefore, we do not see any possibility of an end user fitting such a pre-calibrated sensor module himself and then assuming that there is no need for a calibration activity to take place annually. These modules are actually intended for apparatus being used for industrial emissions monitoring, not domestic appliance checking.*

*If a service centre fits such a replacement sensor module, a fresh calibration certificate for the instrument can only be issued if the service centre itself has performed the calibration after the sensor has been replaced.*

*If users have fitted sensors themselves, they must ensure an authorised service centre has issued a fresh calibration certificate to ensure compliance with Part 2 of BS 7967.*

JK updated the meeting on pr EN 50543, the new draft standard for the performance requirements of handheld CO and CO<sub>2</sub> instruments. This is now out across Europe for formal comments, which must be received by the end of April (so a few weeks earlier than that to CoGDEM, please).

### 7 Gas Industry Safety Group (GISG)

Jonathan Kane is the CoGDEM representative on the GISG and at recent meetings has continued to press for support on the following three issues:

- The use of CO detection instruments by the gas emergency service providers, as recommended by the HSE review of gas safety in 2000 and picked up by the Ofgem working group
- The need for a formal feedback mechanism after a Gas Safe engineer has attended a property as a result of a call to the ESP
- The lobbying point that landlords' gas appliances should require an annual service and not just a safety check

The GISG is now finalising its plans for a safety awards dinner event to celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. CoGDEM and its members can nominate products or services for an award, or can sponsor individual awards.

Chris Bielby remains the chair of the GISG, despite parting company with British Gas/Centrica recently, picking up a directorship at Connaught, a favourite contractor of BG's.

## Minutes of Meeting

Document/ file: CO1431-10 meeting minutes 23-02-10

### 8 Gas Safe Register update

CoGDEM's relationship with Gas Safe Register continues to take one step forward then one step backwards. At the January meeting (we have a regular meeting every four months) LG had to again explain our members' concerns about the lack of up-front information about Gas Safe's media campaigns on CO, and in particular, the petty way that LG's comments were reported back to others in the industry. Much of this stems from Gas Safe's absolute desire to keep its distance from COCAA due to the linkage to CORGI and CORGI Trust old and new. As CoGDEM is seen to be very active on the COCAA Steering Group, this does not help our relationship with GSR.

At the January meeting, Jeff Learman updated us about the formation of a National Stakeholders Group and the new Gas Safe Charity, for which there had been a recent Sunday Times advert for Trustees. The charity (not to be confused with the Gas Safety Trust, the new name for the CORGI Trust) will have a Charity Action Group, which will prepare and set directions for projects that the Trustees can then approve. The charity will not be interested in funding smaller projects, such as the HPA Environmental Health datasheet, which they have rejected the application for £900 of funding, despite this then carrying the Gas Safe Register logo.

Jeff confirmed that GSR will not get involved with 'lobbying', as the parent company Capita is too close to Government and the Civil Service in so many projects. Fiona Chapman confirmed that their plans for gas safety publicity during the rest of 2010 will firstly target low awareness groups such as students, the elderly and carers, before a national campaign aimed at the 35 to 54 age group. GSR will attend and exhibit at county shows as well as shopping centres, and most of their messaging will be around the Register and why it matters.

Although it was not declared at the meeting, we have heard that Pete Eldridge is leaving his post as CEO of GSR, so it will be interesting to see who is chosen as his successor.

### 9 Boats and leisure vehicles (CO dispersion etc)

The agreed quick-testing project to look at the scope of CO build up within the confined space of a typical caravan has yet to happen, due to changes of priority within the National Caravan Council. It is now hoped to conduct some testing in May at a caravan manufacturer in the North of England, with LG in attendance to set up some appropriate CO detecting apparatus that will be loaned by one of CoGDEM's Industrial Sub Group (Trolex). John Walsh (FireAngel) is on the NCC's Technical Panel, and is pushing for the scope of these tests to be agreed well beforehand. Peter Walsh has also expressed an interest in taking part in the trials.

Regarding boats, CoGDEM members had previously agreed to fund a new Boat Safety Scheme CO leaflet, but Graham Watts of BSS admitted that this is behind schedule, with a draft now expected at the end of March, with publication in time for an end-of-summer push.

### 10 AOB

#### a) CO alarm purchases by Energy Distribution Networks

In 2009, at one of the Ofgem CO working group meetings, the Energy Networks Association announced that its members intended to purchase a large number of CO alarms for distribution FOC to the more vulnerable consumers that they made contact with. This project had gone quiet, so LG asked Angela Love of the ENA for a progress report, to hear that the relevant companies (thought to include National Grid) have put forward a business case to Ofgem in early February. This is because the cost of procuring the alarms will ultimately have to be recouped from the gas consumer. AL has promised to keep us informed, but we also have a route to Ofgem directly, via Steve Brown.

#### b) CO-Awareness

Lynn Griffiths' charity continues to ask for occasional support and technical advice, with recent requests being for a consistent approach from CO alarm manufacturers to the end-of-lifetime indications given by their products, particularly the mains powered units.

#### c) HETAS Guide

The 2010/2011 issue of the HETAS Guide has now been published, and those CO alarm and FGA manufacturers who chose to have their products listed will find them in the relevant sections.

## Minutes of Meeting

Document/ file: CO1431-10 meeting minutes 23-02-10

### **d) CO-Gas Safety School's Poster competition**

Stephanie Trotter invited CoGDEM to attend the prizegiving event at the House of Lords in January, and we provided a selection of eight CO alarms to be given to prizewinners. The number of posters submitted was low (again) but it appears that the charity will continue with the competition this coming year and will be on the lookout for sponsors.

### **e) HHIC (Heating and Hotwater Industry Council) Guest Speaker**

Following the January meeting between CoGDEM and the HHIC's Deputy Director Chris Yates, it was agreed that he would make a presentation at today's meeting, as the first stage of some suggested collaboration activities. Chris gave an outline of the HHIC and its membership. Many of the appliance manufacturing members are very involved in the detection of combustion gases (CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, NO, NO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>) so they have a great interest in Flue Gas Analysers, both current models and those under development.

As well as describing the challenges faced by the appliance industry as they introduce new fuels (especially renewables), they are lobbying for Government assistance with the up-front financing of long-term payback energy systems, perhaps this could follow the French system where grants are home-based, not person-based. The Government's aim for zero-carbon homes by 2016 is another challenge, and there are safety concerns with new 'airtight' homes, with a lack of fresh air for combustion and potentially poor air quality.

There is scope for collaboration between the HHIC and CoGDEM, prior to projects that individual members may decide to conduct between themselves. Last year's investigation into the condensing boiler problems that caused 7 serious carbon monoxide incidents up to March 2008 has caused HHIC to want safer appliances with foolproof installation and service procedures. Perhaps future FGAs can talk to boilers, compare trends to determine the level of service required, saving costs of warranty? Could there be a common electrical socket to connect to? Is it possible to permanently monitor CO in the flue directly?

It has been agreed that LG will make a presentation to the HHIC's technical panel soon, and he will investigate progress on the flue mounting CO sensor that Advantica presented to us in June 2008. (**Post meeting note:** this sensor is being made by Citizen (Japan) and LG visited Advantica (now re-named GL) on 8<sup>th</sup> March to see samples and meet the Japanese inventors. It is a specialised pellistor, made from a double helix of wire in a catalysed bead structure. Samples will soon be available. LG has more details if required).

### **f) CoGDEM's CO Helpline**

It is noticeable that many of the recent calls have been from tenants, a situation also seen by Gas Safe Register's helpline. Of the more unusual calls, we have had CO incidents due to wood-burning stoves alight with their doors open, oil-fired AGAs due to new fuel specification, a Turkish tobacco pipe at 3am, and a go-kart centre with 60 ppm in the air.

### **g) Detectagas and FireAngel incident**

John Walsh advised members that he had personally visited a Housing Association which had purchased a large number of FireAngel CO alarms through the CO-Awareness charity and had been persuaded to purchase Detectagas to test them. In the first test, the HA found a couple of 'failures' so contacted FireAngel, as they wanted to return the whole batch. JW was able to interrogate the memory of the units that had 'failed to alarm' and found that they had not seen anything like the concentration of CO that is necessary to reach an alarm within the three minute test period, then he applied certified gas to the same alarms and proved that they were working perfectly, to the satisfaction of the HA.

## **11 Dates of next meetings:**

**Tuesday 22 June 2010, 10am start**

**Then Tuesday 19 October 2010**