

# Minutes of Meeting

Document No CO-1434-11

Subject	<b>CO Sub Group</b>	Circulation	All members
Date	15 <sup>th</sup> February 2011	Circulation Date	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2011
Location	CoGDEM offices Hitchin	Circulation by	Website & email

## Attendees

John Saffell - Alphasense  
 Leigh Greenham - CoGDEM  
 Jonathan Gilby - City Technology  
 Tom Gurd - City Technology  
 Kevin Stockwell - Trolex  
 Gus Bol - Trolex  
 Louise Early - Crowcon  
 Paul Basham - Crowcon  
 Peter Walsh - HSE/HSL  
 Dave McDonald - JMS Consultants  
 Tony Banfield - GEL/31/19 Chairman  
 Mike Windsor - Anton  
 Mike Byrne - Ei Electronics  
 Colin Mitchell - Ei Electronics  
 Peter Philpott - TPI  
 Roy Taylor - Testo  
 Paul Jordan - Testo  
 Tom Tonkins - Testo  
 Jonathan Kane - Kane International  
 Ian Robertson - Analox  
 Adrian Keats - Honeywell Analytics  
 Richard King - Honeywell Analytics  
 Russell Fear - Heraeus Noblelight  
 Stephen Attwood - Heraeus Noblelight  
 Kevin Honner - Draeger  
 Simon Jones - Kidde  
 Ian Ballinger - BRK-Dicon/Sprue  
 Paul Walton - Shawcity/Ion Science  
 Gavin Boorman - GfG  
 Hans Hubner - GfG  
 Zoe Forman - Mandeville Marketing  
 Bob Nicol - Shell (guest)

## Apologies

Raxa Chauhan - Crowcon  
 Dean Kavanagh - Geotech  
 Steve Billingham - Geotech  
 Arthur Burnley - Alphasense  
 Martin Harrop - General Monitors  
 Eddie Quigley - QMI  
 Pat Roberts - Envin  
 John Sonley - JMS Consultants  
 Jeff Regan - JMS Consultants  
 John Walsh - FireAngel/Sprue  
 Andy Burnett - Kidde Safety  
 Gerald Jones - Kidde Safety  
 Gavin Peacock - Draeger  
 John Lewis - Seagull Safety  
 Carl Ritzberger - Honeywell Analytics  
 Greig Thomson - MSA  
 George McGregor - GMI  
 Stewart Forbes - Detronics  
 Alan Henderson - GSS  
 Phil Wild - Duomo  
 Bernard Thomas - Kidde

## Agenda

- 1) Apologies and member introductions
- 2) Approval of previous minutes and matters arising
- 3) Lobbying activities (inc. All Party Group, Ofgem, Charity agendas)
- 4) CO-Be Alarmed campaign, COCAA update, CO TV coverage
- 5) CO alarms Standards review (including EN 50291 proposals, EN 50292 update)
- 6) Flue Gas Analysis (inc. EN 50379 update, sensor modules)
- 7) Gas Industry Safety Group update (GISG), 2010 Safety Award outcomes
- 8) Gas Safe Register update
- 9) Boats and leisure vehicles (presentation of test results to APPGSG)
- 10) AOB (including updates from HSE, HHIC, helpline)
- 11) Date of next meeting (+AGM) – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011

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## 1 Apologies and member introductions

The above list of apologies was read out. Members introduced themselves, and we welcomed a few new faces around the table, including Heraeus as a new member and Bob Nicol of Shell as a guest.

## 2 Approval of previous minutes and matters arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting (19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010) were read and accepted (Doc no. CO1433-10). Matters arising were covered during the rest of the agenda.

## 3 Lobbying (inc. All Party Group, Ofgem, Charity agendas)

**All Party Parliamentary Gas Safety Group (APPGSG):** The Group continues to be more active than it was under its previous administration. The December meeting (suggested by CoGDEM) on caravan and boat safety was very useful, and put pressure on the National Caravan Council to consider the conclusions of the tests that we conducted last May (see agenda item 9 below). LG had a meeting with Adrian McConnell, the Manager of the APPGSG in January at which he outlined the Group's plans for the first half of 2011, including their 'Inquiry' into a multi-agency reporting system for near-miss CO events which currently go unrecorded. He is also planning a spring event to focus on methods to increase the population of domestic CO alarms.

**Ofgem CO Working Group:** Since our last CoGDEM meeting, we have attended three meetings at Ofgem, and slow but firm pressure on the Gas Distribution Networks is now bearing fruit. Their plans to conduct some trials on the free issue of CO alarms to vulnerable consumers are taking shape, and 3 of the 4 GDNs are now intending to trial CO detection instruments with their field staff, most likely to be Intrinsically Safe instruments usually seen in the industrial sector.

**Charities:** CO-Gas Safety held a prize-giving event in the House of Lords for the 2010 schools' poster competition, with some worthwhile speeches to the impressive audience (2 Lords, 2 Baronesses, several MPs, dozens of CO stakeholders). CoGDEM members donated some alarms as prizes.

CO-Awareness has invited CoGDEM to be involved in the project being run by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Liverpool John Moores University and Coventry City Council to add CO to their fire safety checks, and to report various statistics on their findings. Colin Mitchell has had an initial meeting with the MFRS and was impressed, so he and LG will attend a more formal meeting of the project team then will report back to the CO alarm manufacturers at a separate meeting. **Action: LG/ZF to arrange meeting of CO alarm manufacturers**

We have also had conversations with the CO-Awareness trustees about the negative messaging being put out by one of their trustees, John Stones of Detectagas. At the forthcoming AGM of the charity, they hope to make progress with this issue, and we should discuss this at the CO alarm meeting.

The CO Angels were launched at a November APPGSG event, and have the key message that CO alarms would have saved the lives of their three loved ones. Stacey Rodgers is one of the Angels.

**HPA:** CoGDEM presented at the HPA CO workshop in Sheffield in November, and continues to liaise with the HPA over any health-related calls to our helpline (see agenda item 10 below).

**Trading Standards:** over the last two months we have been dealing with two suppliers of non-compliant CO alarms from China, and we are feeding Trading Standards with data to help them resolve the issue with one of these.

**Flues in Voids:** CoGDEM is part of the team tasked with publicising this problem area, so we have been ensuring the messages are correct about the need to provide CO alarms in premises where the flues cannot be fully inspected. The HSE has identified that of the 7 fatalities due to hidden flues, 3 or 4 have occurred in bathrooms, so CoGDEM has identified an alarm that can be mounted in a bathroom. There is also an opportunity to use wireless-linked alarms to trigger the shutdown of a boiler if CO is detected in the void itself.

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### 4 CO-Be Alarmed campaign, COCAA update, CO TV coverage

Zoe Forman gave an update on this year's major media campaign, 'CO-Be Alarmed' and her PowerPoint presentation is available for non-attendees if required. The key success was a slot on ITV's 'This Morning' that nicely mentioned EN 50291, which stimulated a few calls to our helpline on that subject. Ongoing lobbying and magazine articles will be seen from the campaign team throughout the winter. The Charlotte Church near-miss gained lots of publicity in the tabloids, and LG took part in a BBC Radio Wales interview in February, arranged by the campaign team. Last year's campaign won the Gas Industry Safety Group's award for best publicity campaign.

The BBC EastEnders CO storyline airs this week, with Heather poisoned due a faulty boiler that she could not afford to get repaired.

Next week, the Channel 4 Roman Villa series has its final episode (24<sup>th</sup> Feb), with LG conducting a CO survey of the rooms with traditional Roman heating, and there will be close-up shots of a CO detecting instrument and domestic alarms. (Viewable on 4OD)

COCAA (Carbon Monoxide Consumer Awareness Alliance) remains in limbo currently, while the Gas Safe Charity decides whether to take over the administration, now that the Gas Safety Trust has been persuaded to release its hold on the Alliance.

### 5 CO alarms Standards review (including EN 50291 proposals, EN 50292 update)

The UK's national gas detection committee (GEL/31/19) met in February to review our input to the European committee TC216, which meets in Paris in March. Both committees are chaired by Tony Banfield, who was at today's CoGDEM meeting. Our proposals for new items to be included in the two CO alarm standards are:

EN 50291:

- Consistent approach to the use of visual indicators for non-alarm events such as low battery, fault, end-of-working life.
- Improved battery testing to take into account sealed-for-life batteries
- Test of auto reset of alarm mute function

EN 50292:

- Placement suggestions for CO alarms in boats and caravans, similar to those for bedsits
- Comments about the use of CO alarms with displays for those who need protection against low concentrations
- Inclusion of comments by Jamie Cooper of Gas Safe Register
- Inclusion of hydrogen to the section on interfering gases
- New comments by LG and Peter Walsh to help the Irish committee's concerns with automatic end-of-working-life feature, modification of section 7.7 on lifetimes so that it now reads: *Carbon monoxide detectors are available which automatically alert the user at the end of their working life. If the detector does not have this functionality, the user should be advised of the manufacturer's recommendations of the detector's lifetime, by means of an indication on the apparatus, visible in the installed position, of the date when the replacement indicated by the manufacturer will be due.*

The March meeting in Paris will also determine whether other European countries agree that there is a requirement for a new standard for combined smoke and CO alarms, as reported at the last CoGDEM meeting.

Mike Byrne will attend the Paris meeting wearing two hats, a member of GEL/31/19 by virtue of his chairing CoGDEM's CO Sub Group, and an invitee of the Irish national gas detection standards committee. Also attending will be Jonathan Gilby, Jonathan Kane and Peter Walsh.

### 6 Flue Gas Analysis (inc. EN 50379 update, sensor modules)

Three standards are now up for review:- EN 50379 is the standard that governs the performance of Flue Gas Analysers, BS 7967 (the UK guide for the use of FGAs), and the draft of a new European version of BS 7967.

When discussing these standards today, strong opinions were voiced by three FGA manufacturers about their lack of inclusion prior to a kick-off meeting on changes to BS 7967, a meeting where CoGDEM was represented

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by Eddie Quigley in January, who reported back the areas which the heating appliance manufacturers wanted to see changed. As EQ could not be present today, it was decided that a separate meeting of the FGA manufacturers should be held ASAP and certainly before the next BS 7967 meeting. After a vocal exchange of views where members were reminded that members sitting on committees do so in an un-biased nature, it was decided that all other related FGA issues would be discussed at a separate meeting, including:

- EN 50379 – humidity testing and Paul Basham now on European Working Group
- Pre-calibrated sensor modules and annual calibration requirements
- HHIC project to create an electronic Benchmark reporting system for appliance commissioning.

**Action: LG to make arrangements for separate FGA meeting at Hitchin on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011**

### 7 Gas Industry Safety Group (GISG), 2010 Safety Awards outcomes

The Gas Industry Safety Group celebrated its tenth anniversary with an awards event in November 2010, at which Honeywell won the award for best safety product and the CO-Be Alarmed campaign won best publicity campaign.

These successes made LG wonder if CoGDDEM should be publicising any other relevant industry awards for which members may wish to nominate products, services or other activities. Mike Windsor volunteered to provide a list of 2011 awards for inclusion in these minutes:-

**H&V Awards** – Laura Armstrong - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April - <http://www.handvawards.com/>

**SBGI Awards** – Claire Pitt - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May - [http://www.sbgi.org.uk/events/content/2209/sbgiigem\\_gas\\_industry\\_awards\\_lunch](http://www.sbgi.org.uk/events/content/2209/sbgiigem_gas_industry_awards_lunch)

**Installer Live Awards** – Becky Golland - Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October - <http://www.installerlive.com/>

**Oftec Awards** - Lorraine Taylor – date TBA - <http://www.oftec.org/oftec-awards.asp>

**Renewable Road Show Awards** – Dan Caesar – date TBA - <http://renewables-roadshow.co.uk/exhibitor/>

### 8 Gas Safe Register update

CoGDDEM attended the third National Stakeholder Group meeting at which Gas Safe Register gave an update on current issues, such as the Competence Review and the safety campaign for the over-65s, which involved some apparently successful CO alarm giveaways.

We had asked for an update on the number of registered engineers who are now qualified to CPA1, to be told 55,000 are so-equipped. CMDDA1 is still not available yet, but colleges and training centres should be able to offer this assessment imminently.

Interestingly, GSR claimed to have little knowledge of the intended project activities of the Gas Safe Charity.

### 9 Boats and leisure vehicles (presentation of test results to APPGSG)

As stated in agenda item 3 above, CoGDDEM suggested that the APPGSG might have a meeting to focus on gas safety issues related to caravans and boats, and such a meeting took place in December at Westminster. LG gave a presentation to the Group covering the tests that we undertook in a caravan in Hull last May, and the results which showed that significant concentrations of CO could be generated from a cooking appliance. The National Caravan Council also gave a presentation, and Group discussion at the end concluded that CO alarms ought to be fitted to all caravans and motorhomes.

Within a few weeks of the APPGSG meeting, the NCC reached the conclusion that it will make the fitting of CO alarms compulsory from the next model year onwards. They will also create a new leaflet for owners (similar to a leaflet that they created for park home owners some years ago) and they have asked us to proof read this prior to publication.

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Also at the APPGSG meeting, Graham Watts of the Boat Safety Scheme gave a presentation about gas safety on board inland waterway craft, and he will also be presenting at the GASG April event (see below). As well as CO detection, the BSS has an interest in the detection of flammable gases and vapours aboard boats, and Kevin Stockwell is CoGDEM's expert to assist them with advice.

### 10 AOB

#### a) HSE CO alarm tests

As reported at previous meetings, the HSE/HSL tests on old CO alarms retrieved from peoples' homes by Gas Safe Register inspectors, have now been concluded. The final report showed that only a single alarm out of the 100 tested failed to respond to gas while outwardly appearing to work OK. This unit worked when returned to the manufacturer, so may have had an intermittent fault. Six alarms were received by HSL with depleted batteries that the users had failed to replace when necessary, and four failed to respond to the push button test, possibly because they were outside of their manufacturer's stated working life. The report is expected to be downloadable from the HSE website at the end of February.

#### b) GASG seminar 'Gas Sensors in Marine Applications'

The next Gas Analysis and Sensing Group seminar will cover gas detection on boats of all sizes, taking place in Portsmouth on 7 April 2011. Graham Watts from the Boat Safety Scheme is one of the presenters, so CO alarms will inevitably feature. Other presentations will be of more relevance to the Industrial Sub Group members, as they relate to larger cargo vessels. The following GASG event will be on 21<sup>st</sup> July at Kings College Cambridge, with the title 'Gas Sensors for New Energy Sources'.

#### c) CoGDEM's CO Helpline

LG gave an update on recent calls to the helpline, including questions from purchasers of the Lloydspharmacy UL 2034 alarms who were prompted by ITV's 'This Morning' programme to check that they were using alarms compliant with EN 50291.

One caller with a sick son was told by NHS Direct that his symptoms could not be CO poisoning as the only heating appliance in the house was a wood-burning stove and these do not produce CO. This led to a flurry of calls between CoGDEM and the HPA to correct the NHS guidance. The winter snow brought down a gutter which blocked the flue terminal of a Gas Safe engineer's house, so he was worried about the health of a young resident.

Activated alarms often generate calls, such as a young guy who was cooking pasta, during the call we discovered that his cooker had been cleaned that day and the 'crown' was repositioned incorrectly, blocking most of the jets. A junior doctor with a pregnant partner suffered mild poisoning from his neighbour's boiler, only discovered after the landlord had installed CO alarms the day before. The neighbour had taken the batteries out of his alarm as it kept going off and annoying him! The helpline gets an average of 2 calls a day during the winter season.

#### d) Gas Safety Trust

The DIDR report is now available from the Gas Safety Trust's website, as they have funded it. From this year, it will now include CO incidents from all fuels, not just gas. The Gas Safety Trust will be helping to fund a project with BRE in Watford, looking into the low concentration CO problems in modern sealed homes. CoGDEM has been invited to attend a project planning meeting at the end of March.

#### e) Electrical Harmonics

Through our membership of GEL/31/19, we have been asked whether members with mains-powered apparatus will be worried if the regulations which limit the amount of 'noise' on the mains supply are relaxed. Any members with concerns should contact LG.

#### f) London Marathon

Zoe Forman mentioned that she will be doing her one and only London Marathon this year, and anyone wishing to sponsor her for the British Heart Foundation can do so via <http://original.justgiving.com/zoeforman>

11 Date of next meeting - Tuesday 21st June 2011, 10am start, then Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011