

# Minutes of Meeting

Document No CO-1445-14

Subject	<b>CO Sub Group</b>	Circulation	All members
Date	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2014	Circulation Date	4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2014
Location	CoGDEM offices Hitchin	Circulation by	Website & email

## Attendees

Leigh Greenham - CoGDEM  
John Saffell - Alphasense  
Colin Mitchell - Ei Electronics  
Peter Philpott - TPI  
Adrian Keats - Honeywell Analytics  
Peter Walsh - HSL/HSE  
Graham McKay - BSI Global  
Jonathan Kane - Kane International  
Chris Nicholson - Testo  
Alan Henderson - Gas Sensing Solutions  
Ian Ballinger - Sprue Safety  
Andy Burnett - Kidde Safety  
Crystal Robinson - Kidde Safety  
Kevin Miles - Gas & Env Services  
Brendan Simpson - FireBlitz  
Neil Perdell - Aico  
Martyn Walley - Aico  
Tom Gurd - City Technology  
Jonathan Gilby - City Technology  
Paul Walton - Shawcity  
Clive Tester - CSA/Sira  
Zoe Forman - Mandeville Marketing

## Apologies

Mike Byrne - Ei Electronics  
Ian Robertson - Analox (retired)  
Andy Avenell - Crowcon  
Louise Early - Crowcon  
Dean Kavanagh - Geotech  
Damian Cairns - Anton  
Grant Bleakley - Anton  
Tim Jack - Honeywell Analytics  
John Sonley - JMS Consultants  
Jeff Regan - JMS Consultants  
Tony Banfield - EXL/31/1 Chairman  
John Balague - GfG  
Hans Hubner - GfG  
Richard King - Honeywell Analytics  
Mike Murley - Testo  
Mike Hemingway - HSL/HSE  
Kevin Honner - Draeger  
Simon Jones - Kidde Safety  
Arthur Burnley - Alphasense

## Agenda

- 1) Apologies and member introductions
- 2) Approval of previous minutes and matters arising
- 3) Lobbying activities (inc. All Party Group, GSR, CFA, Ofgem)
- 4) CO-Be Alarmed, Public Health Wales and other publicity update (Zoe Forman)
- 5) CO alarms standards review (inc. EN 50291-1 & -2, EN 50292 update, combined smoke/CO alarms, market surveillance testing)
- 6) Flue Gas Analysis (inc. BS 7967 update, calibration competence)
- 7) Non-compliant CO alarms update, inc. Detectagas
- 8) AOB (including LJM project, updates from HSE, GISG, helpline)
- 9) Dates of 2015 meetings – Tues 24 Feb 2015, Tues 16 June 2015, Tues 13 Oct 2015

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### 1 Apologies and member introductions

The above list of apologies was read out, and members introduced themselves around the table. Mike Byrne was at a German fire detection event, so LG chaired this morning's meeting.

### 2 Approval of previous minutes and matters arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting (10<sup>th</sup> June 2014, CO1444-14) were read and accepted. Comment was made that the IGEM/HSL report was still not available from the first phase of the GST-funded project looking at sealed homes (see below). Other matters arising were to be covered during the rest of the agenda.

### 3 Lobbying (inc. All Party Group, GSR, CFOA, Ofgem)

#### All Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group (APPCOG):

LG and ZF gave an update on the group's recent activities including sub-group meetings for CO helplines, the home-MoT event, the new Science and Technology sub-group that LG recently attended, and updates were given from recent Steering Group meetings. CoGDEM's ongoing funding of the group is expected to continue into 2015 at the same rate as previously (£5k p.a.).

This year's key activity remains the review of the major inquiry that the group conducted in 2010/2011 which produced the Baroness Finlay report. Relevant CoGDEM members attended a smoke alarm/CO alarm knowledge transfer event in the House of Lords in September, ostensibly to discuss the behaviour change of consumers, although the Baroness also asked questions of the cost of building CO alarms and whether these could be made cheaper so that GP's could prescribe free alarms to patients presenting with relevant symptoms.

Publication of the MAIB report on the Lake District boat CO fatality has been delayed due to the court case which starts in mid-November, so the APPCOG event on boat CO safety will be delayed until the report can be openly discussed. The boat diesel heater CO emission tests that CoGDEM has been asked to assist by loaning professional monitoring equipment has been delayed until 2015.

The All Party Group continues to broker discussions between Energy UK, ENA and the victims groups in order to pool resources on future consumer awareness campaigns. This may be the only way for TV advertising to be feasible.

#### IGEM

As reported in Matters Arising, we still await formal publication of the first part of the HSL report on the effects of air-tightness on domestic properties containing fossil-fuel burning appliances, commissioned by IGEM and funded by Gas Safety Trust. Peter Walsh updated us that the practical work is about to commence, at this stage just with gas appliances, other fuelled appliances may follow.

CoGDEM and many member companies attended the IGEM CO Conference in London on 9<sup>th</sup> July. Although it was useful, there was not much new since the previous year's event in Derby. We have yet to hear if there will be a 2015 conference.

#### Gas Safe Register

CoGDEM remains a member of the National Stakeholder Group and LG attended a meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> Oct, at which a review of Gas Safety week was given, the most successful so far. A cartoon gas hero (Doug) was created this year, emerging from a yellow and black phone box. Zoe also had a separate meeting at GSR just prior to the Week to arrange a supply of CO alarms for giveaways at publicity events. Other snippets from the Stakeholders' meeting included HHIC mentioning that 2013/14 has been the best year for boiler sales for many years (possibly due to the 'Warm Homes' initiative), BS EN 50292 will be amongst standards downloadable by GSR engineers from their website, and 37% of all the gas fires inspected by GSR inspectors are found to be dangerous. A review of the Stakeholder Group is to take place as it no longer attracts the same number of meeting attendees as when it was established in 2009 just after the register changed hands from CORGI.

#### UK Fire & Rescue Services

LG represents CoGDEM on the Chief Fire Officers Association's CO Advisory Forum, which next meets on 18<sup>th</sup> November to keep Chief Fire Officers in touch with CO initiatives being undertaken by others. We will be updated on the status and changed shape of the Blue Watch scheme since Capita withdrew earlier this year.

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### Gas Safety Trust

The GST-sponsored RIDDOR report has just been published, written by Downstream Gas. The GST managers allowed LG to see a copy for comment prior to publication, as CoGDEM has been critical of other reports that have been published by DG. Our reasonable feedback about CO fatalities (piped vs bottled LPG) was accepted by GST, but ignored by DG. GST was disappointed with DG's attitude and will now be putting future project work out to tender, rather than automatically giving the work to DG.

This led to a discussion of the possibility of GST creating a more comprehensive CO incident report, including near-misses and alarm activations reported via CO alarm manufacturers' helplines. LG will pursue this with GST, and potentially create a template for call data to be submitted by manufacturers.

### Victims' charities

The previously reported situation with Molly Maher and Consumer Safety International, has improved following a Westminster meeting attended by LG and Adrian Keats to present the facts about CO alarm reliability, including the 2011 HSE report which was unknown to most attendees and a copy was requested by Baroness Hayter.

Molly and her advisor Stephen Hadley are involved in a court case with John Stones of Detectagas, so it is hoped that CSI will no longer refer to the spurious reports that he has supplied them. They tipped us off about the QVC advert by Detectagas, see item 7 below.

Lynn Griffiths charity will be publicising CO-Awareness Week starting Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2014, but there seems to be no launch event by the charity. Zoe will be helping PHE with a Bristol event on that day.

Stacey Rodgers is putting together an international group of mothers of CO victims. She has been nominated for a National Women's Award.

### Europe

Zoe outlined a meeting she had in Brussels in July with Mr Katajisto of the European Commission (DG Enterprise), primarily to get CO alarms mentioned in the new Gas Appliance Regulations which now does mention the risks of carbon monoxide. We need to ensure there is no crossover with the work done by Graham McKay and Jonathan Kane and the meetings already held with Mr Katajisto and his colleagues. Zoe will arrange a separate discussion with relevant CoGDEM members. GM mentioned a meeting he will attend to discuss the GAD/GAR on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. JK mentioned the Sector Forum Gas Utilisation workload which may be beneficial in the promotion of best practice across European gas industries (see section 6 below).

Zoe also mentioned the ongoing project headed by Linda McAvan MEP, who was re-elected this year. She has produced a Green Paper on tourism safety which includes CO risks, this is out for consultation until 30<sup>th</sup> November before a report is produced in 2015. She is aware of CoGDEM and supports the work we do.

### Consultations

CoGDEM submitted responses via the APPCOG to the Government consultation (DGLG and Ofgem) on safety issues affecting the private rented sector.

## 4 CO-Be Alarmed campaign and other publicity

Zoe Forman gave a presentation of the various activities that she has been involved with since our last meeting, including the APPCOG, GSR and European events already mentioned above.

The shape of the coming winter consumer campaign '**CO-Be Alarmed**' is yet to be finalised, but Energy UK confirms there will be a campaign and they will inform us of the main media launch date as soon as it is known.

**Public Health Wales** – Their CO initiatives continue to raise awareness, and regular meetings in Cardiff are attended by ZF or LG. Welsh campaigns about holiday/camping risks were conducted this summer. CoGDEM members generously donated a quantity of domestic CO alarms for the Castlelands project in Wales, PHW has just announced another project where they have funding to purchase 1440 domestic CO alarms and 24 personal alarm monitors. Contact details will be sent to those CoGDEM members who wish to tender their products.

Zoe continues to give '**Lunch & Learn**' CO talks for larger companies, with between 80-300 employees attending. She has four in the pipeline: Nationwide, Dyson, Westleigh and Sovereign Housing Associations.

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The **Wolseley/Plumb Center 'Make it Law' 'No to CO'** campaign is attempting to get 100,000 signatures on an e-petition to force a Westminster debate on a mandate that all British homes should be fitted with CO alarms, but they have only got 3,000 signatures so far. They have joined forces with the Katie Haines Memorial Trust to promote their new video, see: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3aCJ9BBW\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3aCJ9BBW_s)

The **Gas Industry Safety Group (GISG)** has now published the previously mentioned comic books, designed to grab the attention of school age children about safety in the home. The first of four storylines introduces a silent monster called 'Monox' who appears from faulty heating appliances, but the children in the house are protected by a superhero called 'Alarmo'. Hard copies of the comic were distributed to CoGDEM members, additional copies can be provided by GISG.

The 2015 **HETAS Guide** is now in preparation so the alarm and FGA manufacturers who list their products in the Guide will be asked to update their 2014 listings soon. HETAS can now include pictures of the listed products, and manufacturers agreed this was a good initiative. The distinction between replaceable and sealed battery versions as discussed at the last CoGDEM meeting was outlined to HETAS when they enquired about the actual wording in the guidance within Doc J of the Building Regs (England and Wales).

Alan Henderson (GSS) mentioned how his company had been featured on the **BBC One Show**, and he would be willing to share contact details with Zoe.

### **5 CO alarms Standards review (including EN 50291-1 & -2, combined smoke/CO alarms, market surveillance testing)**

**EN 50291-1** – Tony Banfield couldn't attend today, but had sent the following update:

*EN 50291-1: I sent our answer to the Mandate (M/109, prepared by Mike Byrne) to CEN/CENELEC in September and received an acknowledgement 2 weeks later. Our answer has been passed to the construction consultant to M/109 (Giancarlo Bedotti) and we await a further reply. Mike Byrne will be able to update you regarding further progress with the standard itself.*

Mike Byrne also sent in an update:

*I've been in contact with Ciaran Costelloe, the convenor for EN 50291-1. We are planning on having a meeting this month to review the public comments. TC 216 and TC 72 have agreed to liaise on items of mutual interest, starting with a standard for combined Smoke and CO Alarms. However this work will probably start next year after the EN 14604 and EN 50291-1 current revisions are completed.*

*There are three EN 54 fire detection standards about to be approved which use CO sensors for detection (e.g. EN54-26 for Fire Alarms using only a CO sensor). It would be logical that the performances & reliability tests for the CO sensors in these standards and toxic gas standards such as EN 50291-1 should be similar if not identical. The liaison as it develops should probably address this.*

Discussion on this last point included the concern raised by Jonathan Gilby that the sensitivity requirements for the CO sensors used in fire detection may be quite different to those used in domestic CO alarms, so it may be inappropriate for the tests to be identical.

**New standard for combined smoke/CO alarms** – as mentioned in Mike's notes above, a Working Group has been assembled by the two relevant CENELEC committees TC216 (gas detectors) and TC72 (smoke detectors). Jason Perrins attended a scoping meeting and will keep us informed of progress.

**Market surveillance of CO alarms** - Graham McKay of BSI updated us that BSI has completed its testing of 3 samples of 26 different alarms from the retail chains in eight European countries. He is unable to share exact details yet, but the BSI report has been complimented by ProSafe, whom GM will be meeting this month. There were generally very good results from the certified alarms, but uncertified alarms showed some faults and manufacturing issues.

Andy Burnett added that in France, a national investigation had been launched after 4 of 11 tested CO alarms did not pass relevant tests, it is expected that an investigation report will appear on the DGCCRF website in November 2014, following their intervention.

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### 6 Flue Gas Analysis (inc. new boiler testing and adverts, calibration consistency)

**Standards:** Kevin Miles on informed us that 51 comments (including those supplied by Testo via CoGDEN) have been received on the draft of **BS 7967** that was circulated earlier this year, and these have now been finalised by the Working Group. Graham McKay mentioned there is a UK court case in progress with the manufacturer of an imported gas cooker which fails to meet the CO emission requirements in BS7967 yet meets the European Standard for such products. This may have repercussions for the effectiveness of the guidance contained within BS 7967.

The European Technical Specification **TS 50612** which was published in December 2013 covering the use of FGAs for the combustion testing of gas fired central heating boilers is to have its scope expanded to also cover independent space heaters, water heaters, cooking appliances and gas-fired air heaters. This will require the European gas detection committee TC 216 working with the relevant Technical Committees for the other (non-boiler) heating/cooking appliances, and TC 49 (gas fires) has signed up, with liaison via Liam Doyle (Eire).

Jonathan Kane mentioned the European activities under the Sector Forum Gas Utilisation working group. This covers the safety of gas installations and could be an overarching document to apply across Europe. It is thought that GSE/33 is the responsible UK committee, and we are awaiting a draft for circulation and comments, hopefully by the end of the year.

#### Calibration and competence

Just prior to the meeting, Kevin Miles on distributed another revised version of the original document created by Jonathan Kane, taking into account the latest suggestions, including those from Anton who couldn't be present today. The last few concerns (software access, labelling, calibration frequency) were discussed and ironed out, so that the final version should be able to be distributed in a few days.

With this document in place, we can then consider tailored PR for the technical press. Peter Philpott pointed out that some of the detail was only relevant for the manufacturers, so PR for heating engineers will have to be selective.

#### Commercial catering installations (CO and CO<sub>2</sub>)

We should soon receive a copy of the latest IGEN document UP19, covering gas safety in commercial catering installations. CoGDEN is represented by Graham McKay and Phil Wild, both of whom have pointed out that ventilation fan-failure monitoring seems to be the preferred choice of the Working Group, rather than atmospheric monitoring using fixed gas detectors.

LG thanked members for their response to the question of the need for Intrinsically Safe pressure instruments for use on domestic LPG systems. IGEN failed to provide an authoritative answer.

### 7 Non-compliant CO alarms update

No new sightings of 'black spot' colour indicator patches have been reported, although we did see a surprising press release from Imperial College which shows they are working with a Spanish university to produce a new type of colour change material. LG pointed out some of the potential weaknesses of this approach to the scientists, and his comments and the press release and video can be seen at:

[http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news\\_15-9-2014-11-32-7](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/newsandeventspggrp/imperialcollege/newssummary/news_15-9-2014-11-32-7)

Molly Maher's charity Consumer Safety International (see section 3 above) had informed us that Detectagas was being sold by the TV shopping channel QVC, in a package combined with a Detecta10 CO alarm that looked like a branded version of the Arctic Products COA1. The QVC video showed John Stones demonstrating his gas on his alarm and then removing a battery to silence the alarm, which looked an odd thing to do instead of pressing the 'hush' button.

Honeywell and Ei each bought a QVC package and both found that the CO alarm went into 'fault' mode (yellow LED) when exposed to Detectagas, rather than going into 'alarm' mode (red LED). Sira was asked to do an independent test of the alarm and they found the same symptom; when exposed to high levels of CO the alarm would latch into its fault mode and could only be silenced by removing a battery. The CO alarm therefore is not compliant with EN 50291 despite the supplier's claims. We need to establish if the current COA1 alarm has the same failure mode. The Detecta10/Detectagas results were submitted to Molly who has been in contact with QVC and Flintshire Trading Standards. Molly has a solicitor defending her against legal action which has been started by John Stones.

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### 8 AOB (including LJMU project, updates from HSE, GISG, helpline)

#### a) Liverpool John Moores University Project

We await an update from Dr Andy Shaw, who has expressed disappointed with the pace of the project and had unsuccessfully hoped to have some preliminary findings for presentation at the IGEM conference in July. The equipment supplied by CoGDEM members has been distributed amongst the Fire & Rescue Services taking part in the project.

#### b) HSE

Peter Walsh had already mentioned the IGEM/Gas Safety Trust project that HSE/HSL is conducting on sealed homes and the impact on CO production. This is reported in the IGEM section of the minutes above. Peter will be making a presentation on 40 years of the Health & Safety at Work Act to this afternoon's meeting, repeated at the WWEM exhibition in November.

#### c) GASG

The next meeting of the Gas Analysis and Sensing Group will be covering gas sensing in the oil and gas supply industries (so is likely to mention domestic CO) and will take place at the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining at Carlton House Terrace in Westminster on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014. CoGDEM is arranging a speaker from Scotia Gas Networks.

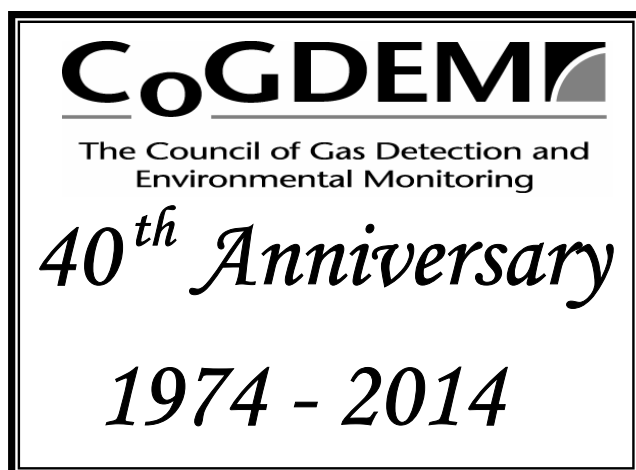
#### d) CoGDEM's CO Helpline

LG highlighted some of the more unusual calls received in the last few months, including a caller suffering medical symptoms after a failed suicide attempt by using a charcoal barbecue in a confined space.

A housing association renovating a property had a CO alarm activation in the middle of the night when no appliances were active. After discussion, LG concluded this was another example of hydrogen production after a freshly screeded concrete floor had been in contact with the aluminium layer on the insulation material under the screed. CO alarm manufacturers were asked to include this scenario in their instructions. The same cross-sensitivity to hydrogen also affected the CO sensor within the PPE worn by the emergency gas worker called in, so he also could not understand where the 'CO' was apparently coming from.

#### e) CoGDEM's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Ei Electronics was again thanked for their generous supply in June of CoGDEM 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary branded CO alarms to protect our members in their homes.



We are still encouraging all members to attend the WWEM 2014 Gala Dinner on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in Telford. Members of the CO subgroup might be interested to tour the exhibition in the afternoon to see the types of equipment and technology offered by their colleagues from the Industrial Sub Group.

### 9 Dates of 2015 CoGDEM meetings – Tues 24 Feb 2015, Tues 16 June 2015, Tues 13 Oct 2015