



**A Meeting of the EFFC Health & Safety Working Group  
 held at Hamilton House, London, UK  
 on 17 March 2017 at 09.00**

<b>Present:</b>	Kristóf Nagy	Bauer	Hungary
	Steve Hadley	Central Piling	UK
	Luc Van Hecke	Franki Foundations (in the Chair)	Belgium
	Dejan Lukic	Infra Suisse	Switzerland
	Michal Nowakowski	Keller Polska	Poland
	Henk de Koning	NVAF	Netherlands
	Martin Sonnberger	Porr	Austria
	Jonas Bruneel	Soetaert	Belgium
	Lorenzo Alessi	Soletanche Bachy	France
	Stefano Margozzi	Trevi Spa	Italy

<b>In attendance:</b>	Ciaran Jennings	EFFC Secretary
	Isabelle Etheridge	EFFC Secretariat

No.	Topic	Action
1.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Robert Speakman (Aarsleff), Anja Jensen (Aarsleff), Jindrich Ricica (ADSZS), Javier Vaca (AETESS), Horst Leisering (BG Bau), Fredrik Severin (Geofound), Adrian Botezatu (Terratest) and Carlos Vasquez (Terratest) sent their apologies.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Presentation of New Members</b></p> <p>Steve Hadley, of the FPS Executive, introduced himself and welcomed the group to the UK. He stated the main areas of focus for the FPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Technology and sharing of digital information, BIM</li> <li>ii. Commercial matters, good practice and capping liabilities</li> <li>iii. Post-Brexit; how to cope with the skills shortage; pushing the Government to relax rules</li> <li>iv. Reducing number of injuries to hands and arms</li> <li>v. New apprenticeship scheme and trying to attract a wider group of people</li> <li>vi. Improving work/life balance in industry, which requires buy-in from Government to restrict working hours</li> </ul> <p>Jonas Bruneel introduced himself as Luc Van Hecke's successor. He has worked for 12-13 years as Safety Manager and Prevention Adviser and knows Luc from working on the rig standard together.</p> <p>Kristóf Nagy introduced himself as the new representative for Hungary. He is a Company Manager at Bauer Hungary.</p>	

<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b></p> <p>Luc Van Hecke reiterated the need for the attendance list to be circulated to the H&amp;S Working Group a few days prior to the meeting.</p>	<p><b>EFFC Secretary</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Incident/Accident Reports and Accident Investigation Training</b></p> <p>Lorenzo Alessi reported that he had delivered the first workshop on the previous day. He reflected that the attendees at the workshop were already quite experienced in the field, so he had delivered a pared-down version of his training.</p> <p>Going forward, he felt it was important to target smaller contractors where Health and Safety was a sub function of an operations role. The workshops should be planned further in advance. Furthermore, Ciaran Jennings suggested that Eastern European members are more likely to attend events in central Europe, thus Vienna would be a good option for the next workshop. Lorenzo offered to deliver the training in several languages and proposed Paris as the best location for him.</p> <p>Martin Sonnberger suggested putting the training on the website but Lorenzo felt that this would not be the best strategy. Martin also proposed charging a small fee for delegates to attend, but Lorenzo did not agree and expressed that profit is not the motivation. Both agreed that delegates who had attended the workshop should be in a position to deliver the training to their own staff.</p> <p>A discussion followed on the ramifications of breaking health and safety rules across Europe, which vary depending on the country. Steve Hadley commented that in the UK, some breaking of rules can lead to a prison sentence if the incident is of a serious nature. Stefano Margozzi said that Italy also has this in place but the process is much slower. Martin Sonnberger stated that there are 589 paragraphs on health and safety in Austria, which makes communication and accident analysis very challenging. Regarding European Directives, Ciaran Jennings informed the group that each country takes them and turns them into their own legislation.</p> <p>It was agreed that the training should be promoted to the National Federations in order to canvass interest in holding localised events. Martin and Luc requested a copy of Lorenzo's presentation to the AGM in Milan is provided to them to help them promote the training in Austria and Belgium. A news piece should also be written for the EFFC website.</p> <p>The group agreed with Ciaran, that this is a long-term project as there will always be a need. Luc Van Hecke advised that the next step is to identify where the needs are and who wants to attend the next workshop.</p> <p><b>Post-meeting note:</b> The presentation slides have been circulated to attendees by the Secretariat.</p>	<p><b>EFFC Secretary</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Expert Guidance Documents – Heavy Plant Operations and Manoeuvring</b></p> <p>Ciaran introduced this topic and presented the list of topics previously agreed as being areas on which the group wished to provide expert guidance:</p> <p>Accident/Incident Investigation – As above, Lorenzo's training is underway and is to be delivered across Europe moving forward.</p> <p>Lifting Operations – Ciaran mentioned the website article that had been written on</p>	

	<p>this topic but Lorenzo explained that the group needs to go much further than this and should produce a comprehensive guidance document with lifting plans, risk assessments etc. Stefano Margozzi commented that he thought this should recommend that auxiliary winches are not used on lifting operations.</p> <p>Luc noted that techniques for lifting with a rig differ across Europe. Ciaran suggested that the FPS's "Long Loads Guidance" could be incorporated into the EFFC's work on this. This had been written following an accident involving the unloading of 15m sheet piles, where the Forklift Operator had lost his legs. Dejan added that Switzerland has guidance but it is not specifically for deep foundations.</p> <p>The conversation moved on to how best to effectively address each area. Martin Sonnberger showed an ISSA document to the group to demonstrate the pictorial approach to best practice guidance. He said that pictures are a good use of guidance; they talk a universal language, which is beneficial when you can have 25-30 different languages spoken on one site.</p> <p>It was decided that instead of the site visit during the next H&amp;S meeting in Vienna, members would come prepared with their best practices for lifting operations and meet to review all the materials submitted. This should be the first step to creating a comprehensive document that can be distributed to the EFFC.</p> <p>EFFC Secretary to remind members to bring their best practices to the first day of the Vienna meeting in September. EFFC Secretariat to circulate ISSA document for information.</p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>EFFC Secretary</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Accidents Involving Injuries to Hands</b></p> <p>Focusing mainly on rod handling, members discussed tools that had been adopted in their respective companies and countries to reduce and ultimately eliminate injuries to hands. Lorenzo showed the following, adding that all of Soletanche Bachy's accidents were related to manual handling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Video of an excavator in use. He commented that it is a much safer method, but it is difficult to use in small spaces. Risk is introduced if you have another machine close-by with an Operator. Stefano added that new rigs, such as those produced by Soilmec, have automatic loaders.</li> <li>- The Hand Saver which is used by Soletanche Bachy operatives for guiding and fitting, not for lifting. It is a simple and reasonably-priced product which is designed by a company from Singapore.</li> <li>- The Grabber, a tool available on the market, which is used for handling pipes. It is used horizontally to avoid slippage.</li> <li>- Colombian company, GEO, produce guider tools that maintain distance between operative and machine.</li> <li>- A tool exists which can be put on the drill bit for safe carrying.</li> </ul> <p>Ciaran added that FPS experience proved the benefit of using the correct gloves for manual handling operations. Lorenzo expanded, showing images of green and yellow gloves, which have high impact protection and cost €50 a pair. He showed images of the Mark viii glove, produced by ReSafe, that protect fingers but maintains dexterity. Gloves can be attached to a belt using a clip, also shown to the group by Lorenzo.</p> <p>Lorenzo explained that an award was launched under the "Safety is in your hands" initiative, in recognition of good manual handling processes from all over</p>	

	<p>the world.</p> <p>Luc summarised that the end goal is to create a document which can be shared on the website. Potentially it could contain pictorial guidance, as discussed under item 5. This area can be focused on at the meeting after Vienna. All were asked to submit practice documents on this topic.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Guarding on Rigs – EN16228 and ISO 82 Rock Drilling Equipment Conflict between Standards</b></p> <p>Ciaran provided the context for this issue, explaining that the rig standard went live in October 2014 after a lot of work and investment from the EFFC. The introduction of guards on rigs was a significant part of this. When published, it merged two standards due to a false distinction that had existed previously between mining and drilling equipment. Two companies are not keen to adapt their drilling rigs to adhere to it and have therefore abused the rules and initiated a work item on a rock drilling standard as a work-around.</p> <p>An ISO representative for the Rock Drilling Group of both CEN and ISO presented to the Executive in Amsterdam and was challenged by the group there. He was claiming that in a mining application, there should be different standards including no guards to protect from moving parts.</p> <p>Ciaran laid out the three issues which need addressing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The standard should not be “watered down”. If EN16228 becomes weakened, authorities will enforce against the Machinery Directive. This may lead to situations where contractors have equipment that meets the standard, but the legal authorities expect a higher standard or safety.</li> <li>2. Commercial issue Rigs with guards are more expensive, so there is potentially a commercial advantage to those contractors using unguarded equipment.</li> <li>3. Confined spaces – basements and corners Guards can become impractical when drilling in basements and corners. Steve Hadley explained in the UK additional safety measures are implemented in these cases where the guard needs to be removed. Typically an exclusion zone with physical barriers is set up.</li> </ol> <p>Luc commented that the removal of guards is a big issue as they are CE marked. This means that the contractor becomes exposed to legal risks and problems with the warranty of the rig manufacturer. He believed a technological solution is required as the safety co-ordination on site is generally not good enough to protect workers in these situations.</p> <p>Martin commented that the Machinery Directive requires protection from moving parts. He believed that Manufacturers needed to come up with a ‘plan B’ for protection in these circumstances. Pressure needs to be put on manufacturers to provide solutions. He proposed that a group of people is brought together to put pressure on manufacturers – contractors, insurers and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Ciaran informed the group that ISO are meeting to discuss eliminating the rig standard conflict and that this is the EFFC’s first and best opportunity to influence manufacturers. After that, the EFFC can explore the technical solution. He informed the group that Andreas Körbler is leading on the issue for the EFFC Officers. Luc and Dejan said that the EFFC must have a clear position before progressing. Ciaran noted three observations in relation to this:</p>	

	<p>1. The EFFC has worked hard to achieve this standard with guards included, it should be very careful if it is to move away from this.</p> <p>2. The rig standard is being enforced and it would be difficult, legally, to make changes to it.</p> <p>3. A firm EFFC position is required - Andy Körbler is working on this and it will take to CEN &amp; ISO once approved by the Executive Committee. Luc asked that this is shared with H&amp;S group so that they may comment.</p> <p>On Dejan's suggestion, the group identified the needs of the group as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of techniques – other possibilities for protection from moving (including rotating) parts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- manuals, norms, knowledge of experts (universities &amp; manufacturers), technology that can be used</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identification of stakeholders - manufacturers, education, users, accident insurance companies, H&amp;S inspectors</li> </ul> <p>Next action – Martin agreed to speak to Andreas Körbler and ensure that the H&amp;S group's views are communicated to him.</p> <p>Steve Hadley recommended that the group refer to the "Guarding and Cleaning of Augers" document on FPS website.</p>	<b>M Sonnberger</b>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>EFFC Website</b></p> <p>Steve reflected on the name "Safety Corner", suggesting it could be renamed to give safety more prominence, rather than being limited to a "corner".</p> <p>Luc suggested putting up a summary of Lorenzo's training, which Ciaran offered to write.</p> <p>On the subject of publishing-protocol, raised by Dejan, Luc proposed that members send round their articles to the group and if there are no comments or objections after two weeks, then they get uploaded to the website. Dejan asked for a template for members to use to ensure consistency – the Secretary will produce this.</p> <p>Jonas suggested that there could be some content on the website for newsletter subscribers. Dejan asked for notice of the newsletter being circulated, so that he can promote on social media.</p> <p>The Secretary requested video content from the group. Steve offered his concrete pumping video.</p> <p>Luc asked the group for their experiences of the use of mobile phones on site. Stefano said it should be forbidden as there was a fatality in Italy as a result. Martin acknowledged the challenge of this as smart phones are often used on site for work purposes. It was agreed this topic needed more discussion to establish good working practices for the use of phones and music on site.</p> <p>EFFC Secretary to add mobile phones and music to next meeting's agenda.</p>	<b>Ciaran Jennings</b>  <b>EFFC Secretary</b>  <b>EFFC Secretary</b>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Mutual Recognition of Rig Drivers</b></p> <p>Martin advised that Massimo Calconne is now responsible for SOC 1 (training) and he needs the EFFC to write the paper. Ciaran offered to update the document he had previously produced on the issue.</p>	<b>Ciaran Jennings</b>

	<p>The Secretary reported that Hans Joachim-Bliss was taking responsibility for this issue. Hans has set out a road map with the first step being to collect information from EFFC members about what training is currently available and what is the minimum standard. Luc and Henk De Koning voiced their frustration at the lack of communication from the Executive Committee to the Health &amp; Safety Working Group. The Secretary explained that the decision on this had been taken at the Executive Committee meeting the previous month and it was a positive step as there had not been an agreed plan previously.</p> <p>The Secretary explained that the plan is for the EFFC to set a training standard that the EU will endorse. This can then be taken into each country to work within their existing education system to develop a new qualification, or adapt an existing one. Currently it is a mixed picture across Europe with different training available and different legal requirements.</p> <p>It was felt that an EFFC approach to the issue should be agreed between the Executive and the H&amp;S group. Martin proposed the next action is to get the names of people in companies who have expressed an interest in the issue. These should be brought together to develop a paper and basic standard that can be taken to SOC1. Martin, Dejan and Domenico Campogrande want to be involved.</p> <p>Finally Luc reported that he hopes for the dual approach between Belgium and the Netherlands to be concluded before the end of 2017.</p>	<p><b>Martin Sonnberger Dejan Lukic EFFC Secretary</b></p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Working Platform Certificate Initiative</b></p> <p>At the last AGM Dejan volunteered to collect existing documents on working platform certification and the EFFC's requirements in order to co-ordinate an EFFC position on the issue. He explained that pursuing a European Standard would take too long to achieve. He intended to have a paper ready for the June meeting of the Executive Committee to set out an EFFC approach.</p> <p>Luc showed an ABEF document that gets sent with all offers to clients. The document set out the requirements for the working platform in simple terms. Jonas added that if the client cannot meet the conditions, then the financial offer changes.</p> <p>Henk commented that the EFFC needed to produce a Technical Specification for working platforms similar to the BRE470 document in the UK. This would provide contractors with instructions on how to build an appropriate working platform.</p> <p>Dejan thinks that the EFFC should start with a one or two-page document, which can be built upon over time. This should act as an EFFC statement, as well as advice to main contractors of the EFFC's expectations.</p> <p>Ciaran explained that in the UK main contractors used to ignore these conditions because of their commercial cost. The FPS approached this by having an agreement among its members that no-one would work without a certificated working platform in place. They also gained the support of the HSE authorities.</p> <p>Luc stressed to the group that action is needed now, as 35% of accidents are caused by an unfinished platform, and only 50% of sites are fully-prepared pre-project.</p> <p>Michal reported that he tried to progress this in Poland, initially speaking with piling companies, but they have not really implemented the initiative. He is therefore going to try to educate designers, main contractors, investors and</p>	

	<p>clients as this may bring about change in the situation. He commented that the main contractor wants to be able to make money on the platform and is seeking a flat cost for providing it.</p> <p>Martin proposed that a one page international paper on the issue could be used to take to all stakeholders including designers, main contractors and insurance companies. He added that it can be beneficial to have guidance at European level.</p> <p>Dejan to create a proposal document by June latest. This can then be presented in Vienna and at the next AGM. Henk advised him to look at BR470.</p>	<b>Dejan Lukic</b>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Safety Co-ordination on Sites</b></p> <p>Ciaran advised that there is an article on the website but Henk said it was necessary to go further and create a paper to discuss with authorities.</p> <p>Martin Sonnberger reported that FIEC's project on Earth Moving Machinery is looking at three areas; safe machines, co-ordination of safety and the training of operators. He suggested that the ideas of the group should be brought to the co-ordination part of the agenda. He went on to explain that in Austria VÖBU had carried out a number of activities to address this issue. These included holding a conference to educate clients and main contractors on their legal responsibilities, providing examples of good practice on site and producing papers for different partners in the projects and for different types of project. He agreed to create a presentation on this for the next meeting.</p> <p>Henk commented that the NVAF is producing something similar and hope to have a document for the end of the year.</p> <p>Dejan suggested that the EFFC approaches other associations to ask for their support to multiply the standard across Europe (e.g. Tunneling Association).</p>	<b>M Sonnberger</b>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>EFFC Incident Data</b></p> <p>The Secretary suggested that a different approach was needed should the EFFC want Europe-wide data. However, most group members felt that the data was not needed and that collating it was labour intensive, with double-keying often the case. Dejan asked what the aim of collecting the data is, to which the Secretary replied that it is to identify trends. As an example, Luc noted that he had used the statistics to report to the AGM that 30% of accidents on site were falls.</p> <p>Luc proposed giving this one last push, to ask AGM participants their view and then remove from future agendas if no-one thinks it is needed. Stefano added that each company should continue to gather detail on incidents for their own records.</p>	<b>AGM Agenda</b>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>FIEC SOC 2</b></p> <p>Martin updated the group as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Crystalline Silica</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The European Commission and the Council agreed on a Binding Limit Value of 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for Respirable Crystalline Silica.</li> <li>• The EMPL Committee of the European Parliament proposed to lower the limit value for RCS to 0.05 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (with an implementation period of 10 years).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>The “trilogue” negotiations between the Commission, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament have started with a view to find compromises and to come to an agreement. The objective is to come to a final agreement at the end of May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Psychosocial Risks Project</b> Pressure is increasing on dealing with workplace issues, however it is difficult to address as piling sites are temporary. It is proving difficult to find an appropriate diagnostic technique for the mental health problems that can occur on job sites.</li> <li>• <b>Machinery Safety Project</b> Martin explained that market surveillance is only happening in France (checking that machines are in line with the machinery directive); Luc added that it is happening in Belgium too. Martin stated that visibility and access to machines is identified as being most important on this project. 80% of machines do not meet the directive in terms of visibility, yet no reports make it to Brussels because no one wants to go against big companies such as Liebherr, thus the machines do not get removed or fixed.</li> </ul>	
14.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>i) H&amp;S-WG administration</b> The EFFC Officers have decided that there will be no Secretary presence at future H&amp;S meetings. This is owing to the increased costs of holding an additional Executive meeting. A different member of the Working Group will have to write the minutes each time. Discussion followed about the challenges of this arrangement.</p> <p><b>ii) New Chairman of the H&amp;S-WG from Autumn 2017</b> Martin Sonnberger accepted the role as the new Chairman of the H&amp;S working group and thanked Luc Van Hecke for his leadership and hard work to date. Martin will chair the next meeting in September, in Vienna.</p> <p><b>iii) Michal asked the group if the EFFC would certificate training centres, inspecting quality and offering accreditation. Dejan suggested this might be something that could be offered as an additional activity of the Federation for a fee.</b></p>	
15.	<p><b>Date and Place of Next Meetings</b></p> <p>Vienna, Austria 14 &amp; 15 September</p> <p>Italy 15 &amp; 16 March 2018 This programme will include Lorenzo’s training.</p>	