



PPE/Clothing Committee

Minutes
Thursday 9th September 2021
13:00-15:30hrs
Held Virtually Via Teams

In attendance:	Steve Topham – Chair, Brett Egan-Briers Vice Chair, Tina Butler Sarah Walsh, Julia Skinner, Clive Robinson, Steve Vincent, Jayne Moore, Kirk Kelleher Elizabeth Noble
Apologies	Simon Anderson, Scott Wilson
<u>(Item 1)</u>	
1.	1.1 Welcome, introductions, apologies Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and Jayne Moore from Eastern Region was introduced and welcomed to the committee. Apologies from Simon Anderson and Scott Wilson
<u>(Item 2)</u>	
2.	2.1 Minutes and matters from previous meeting Minutes from June's meeting accepted as an accurate reflection of the meeting
<u>(Item 3)</u>	
3.	3.1 Action Log Review Action Log accepted as an accurate reflection of the actions
<u>(Item 4)</u>	
4.	4.1 Cleaning and Maintenance (CO2/Decontamination) VC suggested that this is an area that the committee explore further for a quicker and greener way of cleaning PPE. CO2 Cleaner has been on the market for a while and this is currently being looked at by the UK market. VC has questions around how the engagement with suppliers can happen and if this is something that should be taken forward into cleaning specifications. VC Outlined the benefits of CO2 cleaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Garments not being soaked in water – no drying time• Links into the containments project which suggest that kit is cleaned more often.

	<p>Chair and VC agreed that this is something that sits within both the Specialist PPE group and the Structural PPE working groups</p> <p>Sarah Walsh (SW) offered advice that the market should be explored to determine which suppliers provide CO2 cleaning and if there is any alternative currently available on the market.</p> <p>Chair asked if there was any standard in place, VC confirmed that he was unaware of any specific standard covering this specific cleaning method.</p> <p>VC Suggested taking this to the industry forum to try and gauge where suppliers are on this issue.</p> <p>Clive Robinson (CR) asked VC to explain how CO2 cleaning works. VC explained that CO2 under pressure is a liquid, when the pressure is realised it turns back into a gas taking the dirt and debris with it.</p> <p>TB supported the VC regarding linking with the industry group.</p>
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(Item 5)

5.	<p>5.1 Workplace Site</p> <p>Chair outlined the idea of utilising a workplace site for the committee as a means of communication, it was agreed that Elizabeth Noble and the Chair would pick this up as an action.</p>
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(Item 6)

6.	<p>6.1 Update from Commercial and Procurement Sub Committee</p> <p>Sarah Walsh gave an update on the commercial group, this group is still in need to representatives from a few regions. Sarah has requested that to send an email on behalf of the chair to chiefs to encourage more engagement with this group.</p> <p>Chair confirmed that he was happy for this to happen.</p>
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(Item 7)

7.	<p>7.1 Update from Specialist PPE Sub Committee</p> <p>Scott sent his apologies for this meeting, VC is due to catch up with Scott in the next couple of weeks</p>
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(Item 8)

8.	<p>8.1 Workwear Sub Committee</p> <p>Nigel Williams was not on the call to give an update. VC to follow up with Nigel to ensure he is able to attend future meetings given the importance of the workwear group.</p>
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(Item 9)

9.	<p>9.1 Disposable PPE</p> <p>Dave Lofthouse has emailed out for volunteers there are still spaces within the group that need to be filled.</p>
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	<p>TB has caught up with DL where they discussed the environmental impacts and considerations for disposable PPE and also the importance of modern slavery which is something which can be applied across all working groups.</p>
<u>(Item 10)</u>	
10.	<p>10.1 Structural PPE</p> <p>VC confirmed that the working group is fully populated, the only gap being London, which is a common theme across the working groups.</p> <p>Nicol Thornton who had previously sat on the committee is retiring. CR, confirmed that he is happy to sit on the committee as London representative until such time as a replacement from London is nominated.</p> <p>The working group had planned a meeting but due to availability was cancelled and will be rescheduled as soon as possible.</p>
<u>(Item 11)</u>	
11	<p>11.1 Update from Risk Assessment Sub Committee</p> <p>The first meeting of the risk assessment working group has been held, and the working group terms of reference have been circulated.</p> <p>The previous national risk assessment was shared and comments have been invited from all on the working group as well as health and safety colleagues.</p> <p>The risk assessment document follows guidance issued by ISO EN processes.</p> <p>As mentioned in previous meetings the circulation of standards is difficult as standards are issued under licence to a named person. VC suggested that the NFCC becomes a member to enable the committee to be able to access the standards</p> <p>Currently no indicative costs are available however when previously looked into the cost was based around population of the local authority so a significant amount of money hence the decision to buy standards on an ad hoc basis rather than taking up membership, however, it was agreed that this is something that will be looked into as a committee.</p>
<u>(Item 12)</u>	
12	<p>12.1 Specifications – Update on Market engagement and DPS Framework for Specialist PPE</p> <p>A market engagement event has been held with suppliers focussing around the next phase for the generic Specialist PPE, this covers a number of items which have fallen out of the main Specialist PPE category where there wasn't interest from suppliers. This includes items such as chain saw and hot gas cutting equipment. Other equipment covered are items which are used quite regularly within Fire and rescue services such as Hi Vis jackets, bump helmets, safety shoes etc.</p> <p>The specialist PPE will be let under a DPS, this will give a list under each lot which will allow a service to run a mini competition for their requirements. Following this meeting the specifications which are ready will be circulated for comment.</p> <p>The process will start in January with an estimated award date towards the end of March.</p>
<u>(Item 13)</u>	

13	<p>13.1 NFCTP (Procurement Hub)</p> <p>Tina Butler provided an update on the Procurement Hub. A Paper will be going into NFCC one aspect of this will be looking at how we can generate more support particularly around the programmes that are being run by the programme Mark Hardingham is very supportive of the procurement hub and is looking get more support from colleagues. As a grant funded hub the procurement hub are under scrutiny in terms of the deliverables and that includes the PPE/Clothing committee. Mark Hardingham is very keen for the committee to press ahead and build on the successes that have been achieved so far. One such area being Workwear, there will be conversations regarding the next iteration of the workwear framework and how this can align with the police and standardise with other emergency services.</p> <p>There is a steering group chaired by the Leicestershire Chief Constable working with senior home office advisors, Ann Millington has a seat on the committee which has been given to TB and VC who will be representing the programme and the sector.</p> <p>Chair highlighted that it would appear to be heading towards greater collaboration with other blue light colleagues.</p> <p>TB mentioned Blue Light commercial, which was set up by the home office that has been put in place to take forward the aggregation and standardisation across the PCCS</p> <p>There is an expectation that Fire work with Blue Light Commercial work together as much as possible.</p>
<u>(Item 14)</u>	
14	<p>14.1 Inclusion</p> <p>Kirk Kellegher (KK) raised that they are reviewing Fire and Fire Fighting guidance and asked if the group had anything they would like to add, it was suggested by VC that we send the impact assessment to KK</p>
<u>(Item 15)</u>	
15	<p>15.1 Standards</p> <p>VC started with an item from the action log regarding feedback on Smart Textiles EN 17673, this was circulated to the committee but no feedback was received therefore there will be no comments from NFCC being submitted. Two ISO Meetings have taken place since the last committee meeting; 11999 structural firefighting ensemble standard the equivalent of EN469 10 part standard with various individual elements, VC is working on section 3; Clothing, currently this has 2 levels of protection, which is the same in EN469 but the ISO mandate is to make that one level only for structural firefighting. The relevant documentation will come through the committee as and when it is ready for comment and it is encouraged that committee members share their thoughts on this.</p>

	<p>Working Group 5 Technical Rescue Committee, are currently working on a water rescue ensemble there is no specie standard for water rescue, ISO are looking at putting this in place as an ensemble standard it is in 10 parts and VC is working on clothing specifically on the dry suit standard.</p> <p>The documents will be shared with the committee when they become available for comment.</p>
(Item 16)	
16	<p>16.1 Items for Further Consideration (risks, emerging issues and successes)</p> <p>Julia skinner asked for an update on the specialist water rescue framework due to a requirement for life jackets, Julia understood that the new framework would be available in September.</p> <p>As project Manager on this requirement VC updated that the award date is in November. Unfortunately, during the process none of the suppliers have managed to meet the requirements. Therefore to fill the gap the project are looking at other available frameworks whist also looking at starting the framework again.</p> <p>TB gave a note of caution around the use of other frameworks as specialist water rescue framework is an aggregated framework. During the process it's highlighted the issues of suppliers having the correct accreditation, this risk factor is being taken forward and managed through the framework. VC added that it was disappointing to get to this stage as the specifications have been available to the suppliers for 2 years.</p> <p>VC went on to state the importance of services providing details for frameworks such as indicative volumes, which have recently been requested for the DPS, without this it does cause issues for the project/procurement teams.</p> <p>Steve Vincent raised the issue risk assessments surrounding life jackets as a few years ago there was an issue when one came into contact with flame or heat therefore the specification should be for flame and heat resistant. VC confirmed that this is something that has been incorporated.</p>
(Item 17)	
17	<p>17.1 AOB</p> <p>No items raised</p>
(Item 18)	
18	<p>18.1 Next Meeting</p> <p>16th November 2021 meeting request to follow</p>

