**PLANT SAFETY GROUP REPORT FOR PRESENTATION AT THE QUARTERLY MEETING ON 20TH OCTOBER 2017**

**Date of Reported Meeting:** Wednesday 27th September 2017

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 16th November 2017

**Terms of Reference**

Phil Hines has produced the Terms of Reference for the Safety and Training and Plant Safety Working groups which have been circulated to the Executive committee for approval at the Quarterly meeting. Once approved the terms will be adopted and circulated to appropriate members.

**Concrete Blowing Out**

A small working group convened in order to put in place a recommended practice in the FPS Concrete Pumping Guidance for blowing out, responses have been integrated and minor tweaks are required before submission to the Quarterly Committee.

**CEN/TC 151 WG3 – Rig Safety Standard EN16228**

There is currently a conflict between the EN16228 standard and one being developed at ISO level for “Rock Drilling Rigs”, which is likely to take the mining machinery out of the rig standard. This has been driven by particular manufacturers not wanting to affix guards to their rigs. The EFFC is concerned this will lead to a situation where unguarded “rock drilling” equipment will be used on geotechnical sites and expose contractors to greater safety and legal risks. Currently there are different levels of enforcement happening across Europe in relation to the standard. Following a fatality in France relating to the moving parts of a rig, the French authorities are enforcing strongly against the Machinery Directive and now requires all machines to be guarded, however in eastern Europe there is little awareness of the standard’s requirements.

**Training Opportunities**

Both Bauer Equipment and Casagrande UK have delivered presentations on Training courses they offer, all members are encouraged to utilise these opportunities. Both companies are able to offer bespoke training and in-depth operator training that will allow them to safely experience rigs tipping for example.

**BIM Models/Instrumentation**

It has been agreed that more education and interest is required before members adopt BIM.

**Rod and Tool Handling**

The group have produced a position statement on the use of automated rod handling systems in place of manual handling processes. The paper has been presented to the Quarterly Committee for adoption. This paper will also be incorporated into the FPS Audit in 2018.

**Concrete Pump Hoses**

A non FPS member wrote to the group asking for advice on damaged concrete pump hoses which he felt should ultimately be replaced. One member offered to investigate further with IVG, who were not particularly forthcoming on what maintenance and inspection standard should be adhered to. However it was concluded the hoses in question were not up to expectation. All members were asked to take this on board and to check the condition of their hoses.

**Innovation in Rig Technology and Design**

New innovations in Rig Technology and Design include Soilmec introducing changes to their instrumentation system, Casagrande are introducing a new fleet management system and ABI Equipment recently purchasing a new Delmag rig which has achieved a noise reduction of 5db.

**Chairmanship**

Steve Joynson has decided to step down as Chair of the group and Dorian Rixon (BAM Ritchies/Nuttall) has agreed to take up the position.