

Date of Reported Meeting: Thursday 17th May 2018

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 6th September 2018

Seatbelts on Piling Rigs

There was some discussion as to whether seatbelts were protecting a rig operator or whether they were preventing his/her escape during a tipping incident or a fire. No clear conclusion was reached. John Underwood at the HSE has been contacted to gain a steer.

Concrete Blowing Out

The revised FPS Concrete Pumping Guidance now includes as an appendix a procedure used by Expanded on all sites where they use concrete called the concrete blowing out decision tree. It was agreed if no comments were received it would be published to the FPS website.

Mutual Recognition of Rig Driver Qualifications

It was reported that the EFFC is looking to set up a European Rig Operator License that accredits training that meets a common minimum standard. It is expected that this can then be used as the basis for mutually recognising qualifications across borders.

EN16228

It was reported that the second part of the EN16228 has been amended and redrafted by the CEN WG; the redraft proposed lowering the guard height. The standard is now up for comment, it was stated the FPS did not want the guard height to change therefore will vote against the amendment.

Rod and Auger Handling

With regard to the process of automating manual handling, the FPS has taken the position to look at using mechanical aids wherever practicable. Casagrande have reported that they want to talk to others in the industry who are automating manual handling to find out what the interest is, if they receive a positive response they will look to create a prototype. Members have been encouraged to feedback to Casagrande, so they are aware of what members want from the tool.

It was also decided that a working group should be convened to look at manual handling in relation to SFA. Designers and operational people are needed in order to determine a brief that can be passed to manufacturers for consideration. This will require the support of Members in order to ensure there is a real commercial pull to encourage manufacturers to develop the right kind of tools to use.

Apprenticeship for Plant

There was discussion about a Plant apprenticeship as a way of improving the quality of training in the industry. The end goal of the apprenticeship was discussed, and it was decided to come up with role profiles for Plant Technicians and Operators as a basis for designing training. There was much emphasis on the need to attract younger individuals to the industry and to ensure training for upwards progression is made available. It was agreed to remove this from the agenda and focus on advertising the companies in the FPS to potential new entrants to the industry.