

FEDERATION OF PILING SPECIALISTS

Minutes of the Plant Safety Group Meeting held at the Derby Conference Centre, London Road, Alvaston, Derby DE24 8UX on Wednesday 28th March 2018 at 10.00 am.

Present:

Keith Bolton	Bachy Soletanche
Dorian Rixon	BAM Nuttall (In the Chair)
Roy Jackson	BAM Ritches
Les Hall	Bauer
Warren Arnold	Bauer
Scott Reynolds	BBGE
Giuliano Peressini	Casagrande
John Neal	Casagrande UK
Chris Atkey	Casagrande UK
Phil Matthews	Cementation Skanska
Steve Smith	Cementation Skanska
Roger Cox	Central Piling
Richard Nicholls	Expanded
Jonathan Pearson	FK Lowry
Alan Waite	JRL Civil Engineering
Brian Kellaheer	Keller
Mark West	Liebherr
Ellen Barrett	Murphy GE
Christopher Fox	Murphy GE
Neil Harris	Roger Bullivant
Owen Pritchard	Soilmec
Mark Nelson	Soilmec
Gary Levers	Van Elle

In attendance:

Ciaran Jennings	FPS Secretariat
Aimee McDermott	FPS Administrator

No.	Topic	
1.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Andrew Eggesdon (Bachy Soletanche), Damien Shephard (Premier Concrete Pumping), Lee Cain (Keltbray), John Bradley (Martello Piling), Paul Doyle (Bauer), Michael Finch (Casagrande), Steve Wilkinson (Aarsleff), Rob Wain (Premier Concrete Pumping Ltd.), Mark Lee (ABI Equipment Ltd.), Steve Ako (Bachy Soletanche) and Peter Haliwell (BBGE).</p>	
2.	<p>Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th November 2017</p> <p>Gary Levers contested point 3b) in the previous minutes. Gary disagreed with the comment that the FPS's position on seatbelts in piling rigs is that they are not legally required. Gary stated that if a rig is sat on a pile then a seatbelt is not required, but whilst travelling in the rig an operator should be wearing a seatbelt. He also added that enclosed cabs should not require seatbelts unless there is a chance of the operator getting hurt.</p> <p>Keith Bolton commented that manufacturers are producing machines to a particular standard and that the machinery directive says seatbelts are not a requirement.</p>	

	<p>There was some discussion about the positive and negatives of fitting seatbelts within rigs as well as whether they are required for use when stationary or just when in transit. There were conflicting views on some of the issues.</p> <p>Dorian Rixon proposed that there needs to be agreement on some sort of standard regarding this. Keith Bolton suggested getting advice from John Underwood at HSE.</p> <p>Dorian Rixon asked the group if John Underwood advised seatbelts should be fitted, would they be willing to accept this. Chris Atkey commented that if manufacturers were asked to fit seatbelts then they would. There was a general agreement that gaining John Underwood's advice was a clear next step in dealing with the issue of seatbelts in rigs.</p>	FPS Secretary
3.	<p>Matters Arising (not covered elsewhere)</p> <p>a) Revision of Concrete Pumping Guidance</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported that John Chick from Expanded was happy for their concrete blowing out decision tree to be circulated to Members.</p> <p>There was some discussion about whether the Concrete Pumping Guidance document should be used as a code of practice, which would give expectations of being legally enforceable, or whether the document should remain as guidance, which would give companies freedom to use other methods.</p> <p>Keith Bolton commented that the guidance should state that manufacturer's requirements should be used over the recommendation on pipe widths within the guidance. It was requested that Keith amend the guidance document to reflect this as he has a clearer understanding of the details.</p> <p>b) Principal Contractors Fitting Seatbelts to Piling Rigs – See Item 2 above.</p> <p>c) Apprenticeship Scheme – This subject was discussed under item 7 below.</p>	Keith Bolton
4.	<p>FPS Guidance in Development</p> <p>Published to the FPS website</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
5.	<p>Rod and Auger Handling – see presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casagrande Presentation: Universal Handler for rods, casings and augers <p>Giuliano Peressini from Casagrande gave a presentation on their equipment for automating manual handling processes around casings and augers. He gave a short presentation highlighting the three key areas that Casagrande have focused on; safe, modular, and universal.</p> <p>Giuliano commented that automation should be used wherever possible for safety reasons. He reported that it is important for the tool to be modular in order for it to handle rods and casings at the same time. Universality was the most essential theme. Giuliano emphasised the importance of the tool being adaptable to different jobs and set ups.</p> <p>There was some discussion about how this tool could be adapted and automated further however it was concluded that this would then affect its universality.</p>	
6.	<p>Access Platforms on rigs</p> <p>Dorian Rixon reported upon the need for a small working group to be created to deal with the problems associated with access platforms on rigs. It was first decided that the issues relating to this topic needed to be identified.</p> <p>Alan Waite commented that one issue with access platforms on rigs was tight access sites. He noted that on sites where access was restricted, platform walkways blocked the site and led to a reluctance to install them.</p> <p>There was some discussion about the issues with access platforms. Chris Atkey commented that walkways are usually bigger than tracks and that manufacturers make their own walkways which are fitted to rigs to aid access. Keith Bolton</p>	

	<p>commented that walkways are necessary for getting out of the cab safely if a machine fails.</p> <p>Dorian Rixon ended the discussion by noting that all issues need to be identified before a solution can be found. He requested that members send any more issues they know of to FPS.</p>	All
<p>7.</p>	<p>Apprenticeship for Plant</p> <p>At the previous Plant Safety meeting a Plant apprenticeship had been discussed as a way of improving the quality of training in the industry.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings explained that work is currently being carried out on the new Trailblazer Piling apprenticeship. The Trailblazer is a new government apprenticeship scheme; in order to create an apprenticeship an industry needs 10 employers to support the scheme and gain government approval. Once granted, standards need to be set and then an end point assessment defined, as well as separate training and assessment facilities identified. Ciaran commented that the problems currently being faced with the Piling apprenticeship were getting government approval of standards and finding a training organisation.</p> <p>Ciaran advised that developing a Plant apprenticeship will involve an approximately 2-year process, requiring members participation to set standards and define skills to be trained. He suggested that to start the process, the end goal of the training needs to be defined. Should the apprenticeship be aimed at training rig operators or training technicians for maintenance and fitting.</p> <p>Warren Arnold commented that in Germany operators must do an apprenticeship first to understand how the machine works. He stated that it is important that those operating the rig understand what is going on around it first. Roy Jackson commented that one of the main criticisms he has found is that current newly trained operators do not have enough practical knowledge of rigs to understand what they are doing.</p> <p>Ciaran advised that currently in the UK, to become an operator an NVQ3 course is required. There was some discussion about the type of training and earlier exposure to site.</p> <p>Dorian Rixon commented that the industry needs to entice people to join. Richard Nicholls agreed that individuals must want to be in the industry in order for training to work. Warren Arnold added to this, stating that the industry needs to train people sooner rather than later.</p> <p>There was some discussion about training on site and how this tends to be carried out on a more ad-hoc basis. There were also comments about how there is often not time for training on site as production is prioritised. It was felt that there is a need to determine best practice for trainers and formalise training on site.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported that the FPS is looking to set up a Learning and Development Forum. He advised that this will aid in mapping out the training already available and will highlight any gaps. John Chick, who will be leading the group, intends to talk to manufacturers about what they already have in place.</p> <p>Dorian Rixon suggested a role profile for Plant technicians may be a necessary starting point.</p> <p>Brian Kellaher commented that an apprenticeship scheme would need to streamline people and aim at getting them into the industry earlier. He stated that there will always be people who want to remain as fitters but that there will also be individuals who want to progress upwards. Brian emphasised that this should be a long-term programme and that it is something that will take time. Employers will benefit in the future and need to take the initiative now to invest in people.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the incentive for people to reach higher levels in the industry is low and that there is a need for recognition in the industry to encourage upwards progression.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Safety Alerts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SA261 - EMEA Safety Alert Red • SA262 – Crushed Finger Whilst Lifting a Heavy Weight 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SA263 – Tool Damage Trying to Remove Rebar • SA264 – Electric Cable Strike • SA265 – Injured Hand • SA266 – Plant Collision • SA267 – Unsafe Unloading • SA268 – RIDDOR Major Injury • SA269 – Gas Cylinders • SA270 – Fire Precautions Bulletin • SA271 – Jetwash Injury • SA272 – Kellybar Pin Failure • SA273 – Abrasive Wheels • SA274 – Exhaust Fumes • SA275 – Falling Debris <p>No comments.</p>	
10.	<p>Rig Bearing Pressure Spreadsheet</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported on the Rig Bearing Pressure Spreadsheet. He explained that the tool was created to help with the design of working platforms. Ciaran advised that annual training is available to those interested, helping to keep knowledge at a good level in the industry.</p> <p>Warren Arnold commented that he had been on the course but felt there was not enough time for the trainer to answer questions. Ciaran advised that he would feedback to the trainer.</p> <p>Anyone interested in attending the course should let the FPS Secretariat know.</p>	All
11.	<p>EN16228</p> <p>a) Proposed changes re guarding heights</p> <p>Dorian Rixon commented that Steve Ako, not present at the meeting, had been working on some updates about changes to guarding heights.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported that a rig standard was released in 2014 that introduced guarding as a requirement. Whilst the UK use this as standard, there are several European countries that do not and who are still resistant to change. France are proposing to reduce the height from EN16228's standard of 1500, however the UK is looking to reject this. Ciaran noted that this would cause an issue as from speaking to John Underwood at HSE, it is only possible to enforce height at the level set in the standard, however he has also stated that he does not wish to see UK standards weakened by this.</p> <p>Ciaran informed the group that technical solutions to putting guards on rigs are being looked at. He stated that current regulation is to protect the worker from machinery and that there will be greater risk if the guard is reduced. It is up to the Safety and Training Forum as to which position they would like Steve to take.</p>	
12.	<p>BFPA – Update</p> <p>a) Common Standard for Hydraulic Systems used on Piling sites</p> <p>Keith Bolton reported that Bachy have created a course for hydraulic systems in piling that is currently going to the Bachy Executives for review. They currently have two courses for hydraulic systems already accredited. Keith agreed to send around their course standard for the group to review at the next meeting.</p>	Keith Bolton
13.	<p>Mutual Recognition of Rig Driver Qualifications</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported on the EFFC's decision to set up a European Rig Drivers License. He commented that the EFFC will be looking into existing standards and using these to set up a new one, so the scheme can be adopted into each member country.</p>	

	<p>Ciaran advised that once this has been set up, the scheme can be taken to the CPCSCS/CSCS and used to show that it covers the competencies required by the schemes.</p> <p>Ciaran informed the group that a working group is being created in the EFFC to manage this issue and to define a minimum standard. The group is being led by Hans Bliss of Bauer Germany and Martin Sonnberger of Porr in Austria.</p>	
14.	<p>Environmental Issues/Trends</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
15.	<p>Report as Necessary</p> <p>a) EFFC See section 13. b) Safety & Training Forum Nothing to report.</p>	
16.	<p>Associate Members Discussion Points and Issues</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
17.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Les Hall commented on FORS (Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme). There was some discussion about the scheme and what level of compliance Members require and adhere to themselves.</p> <p>The scheme is governed by the client as some clients expect different things. Chris Atkey reported that Casagrande do not use FORS but have not faced many issues because of this.</p> <p>Ellen Barrett commented that using FORS on sites is an aspect of sustainability and is important for educating everybody, creating a better attitude to cyclists and vehicles on the road.</p> <p>Richard Nicholls raised the question of fire extinguishers on piling rigs. The response to this was positive with members agreeing that if there is room within a rig for a fire extinguisher then there should be one present.</p> <p>Chris Fox commented on the lack of recognised training and licensing for rig drivers in Ireland. He stated that there is a need for the Irish authorities to come up with a version of piling operator qualifications.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings responded that this is something the FPS could help with. Ciaran stated that the EFFC rig operator license could form the basis of this but that it would also be worth creating an official FPS letter to raise awareness about this on site. He requested that Chris email FPS to discuss this further.</p>	Chris Fox
18.	<p>Dates of 2018 Meetings</p> <p>All meetings will be held at the Derby Conference Centre, London Road, Alvaston, Derby, DE24 8UX.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 17th May 2018 at 14:00pm • Thursday 6th September 2018 at 10:00am • Thursday 1st November 2018 at 14:00pm 	