

MEMBERS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

17th October 2019 - Commenced at 10:30 (Sydney time).

Base:- 3M

1 Rivett Road, North Ryde, Sydney NSW

DIRECTOR:-

Chairman

Michael Biddle michaelbiddle@rigcomaccess.com

Hi Rise Access

Dave Davis david.davis@hirise.com.au

Saferight

Mack McCormack mack@saferight.com.au

IRATA Australasia

Alistair Merricks alistair@aira.net.au

SafetyLink

Simon Pedretti simon.pedretti@safetylink.com

C.E.O.

Rick Millar ceo@waha.org.au

Secretary

Deborah Chick admin@waha.org.au

09:00am Meeting of Directors - (closed to general members)

10:30am Members Forum - Members and Guests

- Chairmans Report

Michael Biddle

WAHA were recently invited to attend the IRATA International Technical Event and Conference held in Sydney last week; Michael Biddle (Chairman), Richard Millar (CEO) and Deborah Chick (Secretary) attended on behalf of the association.

Ongoing plans for WAHA to share information with IRATA and respectively receive and provide access to IRATA data on the WAHA website. Future opportunities for cooperation are also being explored - how can we help each other achieve our goals yet remain independent.

Proposed modification to the WAHA Constitution; we are in the process of this constitution review and all proposed options to be presented at subsequent meetings with a target date for new membership year.

- CEO Report

Richard Millar

Currently speaking with:

- Department of Education and Training (QLD)
- Building and Construction Commission (QLD)
- Education Department (VIC)

Discussion ongoing about the competency of workers on government assets

During the upcoming meeting in Melbourne; we will be presenting a video by IRATA International on accidents and incidents and how they occur and what the legal ramifications are.

Member and Guest Presentations

10:40am - SafeWork NSW
Laurence Richey - Director of Asbestos and Construction Services

Working at Heights within the Construction Services / SafeWork NSW is within the Work Health and Safety Road Map for NSW 2022 (available on the SafeWork NSW Website).

Vision: To eliminate workplace deaths, serious injuries and illnesses in the NSW building and construction industry.

Mission: To ensure NSW building and construction industry understands and fulfils its work health and safety obligations.

New App developed to allow people on any worksite to upload photos of unsafe working practices, mapping time and dates, for follow up by SafeWork NSW.

From 2013-2016, there were 35 fatalities in construction, while there were 1,208 incidents that resulted in permanent disabilities.

Priority Areas; Falls from height, electrical safety, hit by plant, falling objects, mental health, asbestos, silica dust.

10:55am - SafeWork NSW
Sascha Newton - Manager of Construction Interventions
sascha.newton@safework.nsw.gov.au

“Towards Zero” program, for falls from heights.

Falls from height is the number one killer on NSW construction sites. FFH incidents tripled from 2013-2016. More than half of all FFH incidents are in the construction industry.

Top 10:

1. Ladder
2. Roof (off or through)
3. Scaffold
4. Formwork
5. Penetration or Void
6. Floor (edges, joists, through)
7. Work platform
8. Balcony
9. Plant (mostly cranes)
10. Ceiling (joist, through)

4m and under results in the highest fatalities. Phase 1 of “Operation Scaff-Safe” investigated sites; Phase 2 will investigate companies who had poor compliance during Phase 1.

- Construction Blitz on Falls From Height; undertaken Nov 2017 - Nov 2018. Over 1000 unannounced site visits.
- 43% percent of sites were not using fall restraint where possible; however 90% of sites visited had compliant equipment in use (harnesses, lanyards and associated equipment).
- Evidence of Training for use of harnesses and associated equipment: average of 20% non-compliant.
- From the first blitz 1258 notices were issued; 93 the spot fines of up to \$3,600 per offence.

Within Scaffolding sites visited:

38% missing components

35% altered components by unlicensed workers

40% of sites were issued a non-compliance notice for falls from heights or scaffolding.

Q: would SafeWork NSW consider making “working at heights” part of the ‘High Risk Work Licence’?

A: It is an interest; we’re asking the question, but we’ve yet to determine an answer. Developing evidence based information to build a case.

Q: Evidence of training; was that failure to produce a WAH qualification?

A: They were unable to produce any training evidence at the time, but it doesn’t go into the specifics of what training / course they had attended or received.

11:40am - Rescue’s and the relevance of Training
Mack McCormack - Saferight

Pre-planning on how you get out; comparisons made to the military in terms of planning on access and egress into high-risk regions of the world - there is an evacuation plan.

1 Dimensional System; i.e. Fall Arrest System; construction worker harness based working at height; akin to painting yourself into a corner if the system is all you are working with.

There are self rescue systems available that conform to ASNZS, and can be fitted to any ladder/ tower, these create a two dimensional system.

Rescue planning and rescue training is critical to include in the job planning process.

12:00 Break for Lunch

12:30 - 3M Innovation Centre Tour

13:30 - Administration Report
Deborah Chick

7 members have not renewed their membership, 8 new members have joined the Association. The Association still has four membership categories, and we have simplified the classes down to cover the self-audits (Manufacturer, Installer and Trainer). Possible need to develop a fourth industry code and self audit tool for an Operator category.

A high percentage of the self-audits submitted by members have not been appropriately completed:

Full Members: 3 out of 15

Associate Members: 4 out of 11

Affiliate Members: 6 out of 25

Out of the 13 companies who submitted a self-audit, approximately 70% were submitted with identified non-conformances / opportunities for improvement with no guide as to when these NC’s/OFI’s would be closed out to be compliant.

Companies details on the website: www.waha.org.au/members/

If you company details are not up-to-date, please send an email to admin@waha.org.au

13:45 - Self Audit Presentation
Alistair Merricks

Member driven initiative. The cycle of continuous improvement is Plan - Do - Check - Act; and this cycle is repeated.

Members need to give reference in the ‘Auditee Reference’ column.

The industry code reference is the column that states where a requirement is mentioned in the industry code.

Any business audit is about improvement - it is not about wielding a big stick. The checklist needs to have references, evidence, examples, not substantiated statements. If you highlight a non-conformance, how do you intend to rectify this issue and how will you monitor the effectiveness of the action.

A tick and flick exercise is of no value to anyone. Many of the samples audits would fail a site audit. Whilst ISO 9001 Audits require mostly statements, and industry compliance audit requires the evidence to back up a statement sampled randomly. If you say you are going to do it, show us how you did it, in accordance with your own statement.

14:30 - Standards Australia and How it all Works
(Dr. Mark Bowden - Standards Australia)

Standards help to keep communities connected and all Australians safer. Founded in 1922, independent, not-for-profit and non-governmental organisation. Standards Australia's role is to facilitate the development of international harmonised standards and other solutions that offer a positive contribution to Australia.

Standards are voluntary, except when they are brought up in legislation.

Standards are developed by bringing experts together, across a range of fields, who provide their expertise and capabilities to create Australian Standards through a trusted consensus system.

Project Proposal -> Project Kick off -> Drafting -> Public Comment -> Ballot -> Publication

Committee Constitution

- Committees represent an appropriate balance of interests;
- Membership and representation remains current; and,
- Newly emerging interests are appropriately represented on the committee.

Supplementary to Australian Standards; Technical Specifications and Handbooks.

It is possible to subscribe to Standards Australia eNews on their website: www.standards.org.au

You can get involved in Technical Committees, working group or the NEXTgen program by contacting Stakeholder Engagement Manager.

WAHA have observed some SF-015 members who have not contributed as much as other volunteers, or not at all, but will voice an opinion at the end of document development and produce a negative ballot.

There is a memorandum of understanding between Australian Standards and New Zealand Standards. If a negative ballot is received, it needs a technical justification to be accepted. It is possible to have Standards Australia give training to a nominating organisation, but they cannot control who a nominating organisation present to sit on a committee. A technical writer can be engaged on the drafting process - whilst they are not technical subject matter experts, they are experts in writing draft standards.

Re; 1891 / 5532 - There may be room for the development of a handbook or technical specifications to be worked on by a SF-015 sub-committee.

- Any Other Business
Open Discussion / Members and Guests

The following questions were submitted by members for discussion:

We have been inspecting anchors for a customer for the last 10 years. Previously we tested anchors and certified them under the old 'Industry Standards', which was 'if it looks like the right components for an eye bolt anchor, then you would test it and certify it.

No one provided installation manuals or testing documents, because there weren't any. Skip forward to 2019 - we now need to provide installation manuals and testing documents or at least the details of the anchor, eye nut, 16mm threaded rod, Hilti glue, etc.

If the customer doesn't have the documents and the installer has disappeared or won't provide the documents, where does that leave us?

Do we fail the system and replace it? - cost would be huge

Or do we keep testing as per the standards and certify the system.

This is coming up at a lot of long term customers of ours and is going to become a real problem if we can't get some guidance on it.

The company certifying the anchor system is assuming legal responsibility in on them. Onus could be put back on an engineer.

No real answer was decided upon; other than to encourage clients to engage a WAHA certified installer / certifier, who if they determine a 3rd party engineer needs to come in to certify anchors - then their assessment is adequate.

Can we please confirm the minimum extent of information/ evidence that a manufacturer must provide to satisfy an installer, certifier, owner, third party, etc. that anchorage equipment including individual anchors, lifelines and rails achieves the minimum testing and performance criteria? In light of recent communications regarding the context and validity of AS/NZS 5532, it would be beneficial to clarify what qualifies as satisfactory evidence that products are compliant and suitable for use, e.g. is this a one line statement, a detailed account of all testing results or something in between. My experience is we currently have a mash up of various interpretations and detail within material made available by manufacturers in response to this. Can I propose that a minimum benchmark for written evidence be established that confirms compliance with the relevant standards (AS/NZS 5532, AS/NZS 1891.2, AS/NZS 1891.4).

As an example, if querying the compliance of a system due to method of connection to a substrate or configuration of components, that an established standard level of detail be provided from a manufacturer upon request that confirms firstly; that all factory testing has been completed, and secondly the minimum parameters for installation of that type of system."

The point being that a claim of compliance has to be backed up with a minimum amount of documentation to provide some assurance to people that use, interact or own that equipment that the manufacturer has satisfied their responsibilities.

Consensus that it comes back to manufacturer guidance - documentation needs to be attained from the manufacturer to ensure it is in the configuration it is installed in.

- Meeting Close

NEXT MEETING 12th DECEMBER - MELBOURNE
Host: KASK Australia