

Professional Organisations in Occupational Safety and Health (POOSH)

Key Objectives and Achievements

'POOSH exists to promote the continuous improvement of the practice of Occupational Safety and Health through education, communication and the encouragement of co-operation between all persons and agencies involved in the provision of a safe and healthy working environment'.

2002 - 2003

Objectives	Achievements
Exchange views, knowledge and information on matters of mutual professional interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through three scheduled meetings a year. • Topica discussion board. • Diary of events. • Definition of common terminologies – an ILO publication on Barbour called "OH&S glossary – words and expressions used in safety and health at work".
Consider and offer comments on consultative documents and national strategies concerned with relevant Occupational Safety and Health issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through three scheduled meetings a year. • All POOSH organisations are aware of documents up for consultation. • With POOSH peer review and support IOSH has published "Professionals in Partnership", providing guidance on occupational health matters. • The CIEH, together with the TUC and ASH, were lobbying government for the production of a "no smoking" ACOP with POOSH endorsement. The policy then changed to a campaign for a totally smoke-free workplace. • Owen Tudor (Health and Safety Commissioner) asked for suggestions as to how the HSC could raise its profile with members of the POOSH group – a formal meeting has been suggested to present the POOSH group to the HSC. • HSE and HSC consultative documents for comments. POOSH responded to two documents.
Discuss, develop, and agree on common initiatives and policies (or policy positions) for consideration by UK Government, EU and relevant international bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through three scheduled meetings a year. • The group is updated on member European networks, including: ENSHPO, IOHA, FOHNEU, IEA, ESRA, EUMS and the International Association of Environmental Health. • POOSH contributes to the UK national forum for ENSHPO, but no financial commitment. • All POOSH member organisations cover Northern Ireland with the exception of the HSE. • POOSH Event during European Week for Safety and Health at Work 2002, lead by AOHNP on the theme of stress. • POOSH Event during European Week for Safety and Health at Work 2003, lead by BOHS on the theme of occupational asthma.
Promote professional standards and competencies of all Safety and Health Practitioners, and appropriate qualifications and continuing professional development schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through three scheduled meetings a year.

Promotion, Publicity and Communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All members continue to give publicity to the POOSH group via magazines, web pages etc. David Bloor registered www.poosh.org and set up the website and Topica discussion board. A link between POOSH and the Inter-Institutional Group on Health and Safety (IIG) was agreed. To be progressed.
Membership shall be representatives of those practitioner organisations concerned with the standards of OHS practise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS) was invited to join POOSH. Each member organisation would seek to publicise the POOSH group as widely as possible so that other eligible bodies hopefully request membership. Group membership was reviewed to ensure that those represented reflected all those practitioner organisations concerned with occupational health and safety practice.

2004 – 2005

Objectives	How to achieve
Exchange views, knowledge and information on matters of mutual professional interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through three scheduled meetings a year. Topica discussion board. Diary of events. Prepare common statement to each of the POOSH organisations.
Consider and offer comments on consultative documents and national strategies concerned with relevant Occupational Safety and Health issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through three scheduled meetings a year. To ensure all POOSH organisations are aware of all documents up for consultation.
Discuss, develop, and agree on common initiatives and policies (or policy positions) for consideration by UK Government, EU and relevant international bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through three scheduled meetings a year. The group to continue updates on member European networks, including: ENSHPO, IOHA, FOHNEU, IEA, ESRA, EUMS and the International Association of Environmental Health. POOSH to continue contributing to the UK national forum for ENSHPO, but no financial commitment. Competencies Guide.
Promote professional standards and competencies of all Safety and Health Practitioners, and appropriate qualifications and continuing professional development schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through three scheduled meetings a year. POOSH organisations could flag up any new standards they are aware of and inform each other. Competencies Guide.
Promotion and Publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All members to continue to give publicity to the POOSH group via magazines, web pages etc. The administrator of POOSH updates the website: www.poosh.org and Topica discussion board.

Membership shall be representatives of those practitioner organisations concerned with the standards of OHS practise.

- Each member organisation to continue to publicise the POOSH group as widely as possible so that other eligible bodies hopefully request membership.