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## UKFCG E-NEWS

**MAY 2018**

- **UKWAS v4**
- **Data Protection**
- **Charcoal Sales**
- **Annual Audit**
- **FISA Updates**
- **Timber Stacks – new guidance**

### **UKWAS v4**

Please see attached the final print ready version of UKWAS v4 along with a document which cross references v3.1 and v4. UKWAS v4 came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April and will be the version used for the forthcoming external audit in July of UKFCG members. **Please make sure you are familiar with the requirements of v4.** Our assessment is there will be no problems with ongoing compliance to the new version of UKWAS despite the changes that have been made from v3.1. Phil and Paul are now busy working through our member's checklists and transferring the information we have gathered in recent years onto our new v4 checklist. If we identify any gaps we will contact you for further information or wait until we see you on our next visit. We have been running a parallel v4 checklist for all new members and five year re-evaluations since April 2017, all those members are already fully checked against v4 requirements. If you have any questions or concerns regarding compliance with UKWAS v4, please let us know.

### **General Data Protection Regulations [GDPR]**

We are sure you have all been inundated with e-mails and letters over the last few weeks in the lead up to the GDPR deadline of 25<sup>th</sup> May. We have also been reviewing our procedures and would like to provide you with a summary of our position in respect of GDPR.

- As UKFCG members you have already agreed to our Group Rules by signing the application to join UKFCG.
- We only contact you with certification information, generally through our e-newsletter communications.
- We do not contact you to try and sell you things, and we never sell on your information to third parties.
- We have prepared a privacy policy which reflects the requirements of GDPR, if you would like a copy of the policy please let us know and this will be sent to you by e-mail attachment.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **Charcoal Sales**

In recent years FSC have experienced some global difficulties in relation to allegations of false claims of charcoal production with FSC claims. As a result FSC placed additional reporting requirements on Certifiers which in due course filtered down to certificate holders who had charcoal included as a product type in their scope of their certificate. Automatic non-conformities were threatened if annual charcoal sales were not notified to the Certifier at relatively short notice. This led us to review whether we needed charcoal to be in the scope of our certificate. In the absence of any FSC claims being made on sales of charcoal by our members we decided to have charcoal removed from our certificate. **We would like to confirm that FSC claims in respect of charcoal sales can no longer be made by UKFCG members.** In the event that any sales claims of this nature may be required in the future, please contact UKFCG to inform us and we will make the necessary arrangements and advise you of the record keeping and reporting which will be required.

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### UKFCG External audit by Soil Association 2018

We have been notified by SA of the forests they have selected for this year's external audit, we are now in contact with the audit team to establish dates when they are available. As soon as we have agreed and drafted an itinerary we will be contacting individual owners or managers to make appointments. Trying to plan travel and appointment logistics is a major undertaking and we hope you will be as flexible as possible to enable a smooth programme of visits to be finalised in the near future.

### FISA updates

#### FISA Forest Haulage Safety Manual

The new updated FISA Forest Haulage Safety Manual 2018 is now available.

Download it for free from <https://www.ukfisa.com/safety-information/safety-library/haulage.html>

The new **FISA Safety Guide 706 Timber Haulage** is also available on the FISA website.

#### FISA Safety Alerts

A number of FISA Safety Alerts have been added to the website at <https://www.ukfisa.com/safety-information/safety-alerts1.html>

- Falling Tree
- Skyline near miss

Learning outcomes and key reminders are included in each one.

### Timber Stacks

As a result of new guidance in the FISA Forest Haulage Safety Manual, UKFCG contacted FISA to seek clarification regarding contradictory advice about timber stacks which appeared in the FISA guide 503 Extraction by Forwarder.

The FISA guide 503 has now been revised to reflect the guidance given in the Forest Haulage Safety Manual on the subject of timber stack heights. Please download the new FISA 503 from the FISA website, please note the following new guidance:

#### STACKING

- **24** Stacks of timber should always be made and maintained in a safe and stable condition. They should be sited on firm level ground or on bearers.
- **25** Generally ***stacks heights should not exceed product length and should not exceed the height for a haulier to be able to see across the top of the stack. Where site specific conditions dictate that stack heights need to be more than product length then extra precautions must be put in place around the stack. The agreed stack height should be included in the site risk assessment. If circumstances change the risks must be reassessed.***
- **26** Hauliers must leave stacks in a safe and stable condition after loading.
- **27** Where manual handling takes place the height of the stacked timber should not exceed about 1m and never above 2m.
- **28** 'Do not climb on timber stack' signs should be erected near stacks. Take special care in areas with high public access. Additional signs may be required or the stacking site enclosed with barriers or hazard warning tape.

UKFCG's Briefing Note on the subject of Timber Stacks will be revised to reflect the new guidance.

### Phil has moved

Please note new address in the footer below. If anyone has a note of Phil's old Inverness (01463) number, please delete this from your records and use mobile number if you wish to make contact. Phil continues to have a foothold in The Highlands and a resulting in-depth knowledge of the A9 and M74

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