

## WAMITAB Commits to WISH Strategy 2009-2013

The Board of WAMITAB has committed itself to supporting the WISH Strategy for reducing accidents in the waste management and recycling industries. Dr Lawrence Strong signed the strategy on behalf of WAMITAB at a ceremony held at Rose Court, London on 14 January 2009. Judith Hackitt, chair of the Health and Safety Executive opened the event which was attended by Chris Jones, Chair of WISH and WISH Forum members.



**Dr Strong (left) signs the Charter in the presence of Chris Jones, Chairman of WISH Forum**



**Lawrence Strong and Chris Jones with WAMITAB's Certificate of Commitment**

At this event Judith Hackitt, chair of the Health and Safety Executive said, "It is heartening to see a strategic forum such as WISH commit to reducing the level of workplace accidents and ill health in their sector. This charter will bring WISH member organisations together to share best practice and to focus on a positive, common goal. I am confident that WISH will achieve this."

Chris Jones, Chair of WISH said, "The waste and recycling industry has been a dangerous place to work but by coming together to form this partnership we believe we can make a real difference. We need to continue to work hard on improving the accident rates but we also need to improve the perception and health and safety culture within our workforce."

After the event Lawrence Strong said, "WAMITAB fully supports the WISH Strategic objectives, particularly those that seek to increase the health and safety competence of people employed in the industry. For many years WAMITAB's vocational qualifications have played an important role in this process and our assessors are ideally placed to improve health and safety attitudes and behaviour on the 'front-line'. WAMITAB will continue to focus on H & S issues within the delivery network which includes maintaining the H & S competence of its assessors/verifiers."

## **WAMITAB's Support for WISH Forum: Commitment to Competence**

WISH Forum members have signed up for its *Commitment to Competence* which will:

- *Expect all employers and workers to demonstrate active involvement in improving competence across the industry;*
- *Encourage operators, employers, contractors and others in control of workplaces to ensure that*
  - *Employees are consulted on health, safety and welfare issues, including training;*
  - *Employees are involved and given real opportunities for continuous improvement and development of their competence, and*
  - *Sufficient resources, including training, are made available to improve worker competence*
- *Develop and share good practice in the industry;*
- *Work with the Sector Skills Councils, leading training providers and other relevant organisations to develop suitable frameworks and training opportunities in line with recognised standards and legislative requirements;*
- *Continue to work with relevant bodies to ensure that a common basis for competence development is regularly reviewed and evaluated; and*
- *Expect organisations and companies who support this commitment to competence to clearly demonstrate how their commitment will be implemented, e.g. through a clear and measurable work plan or strategy.*

### **ACTION**

One of the key strategic objectives for the WISH Forum is the commitment to improve H & S competence. WISH *Objective 5* aims to:

*“Increase the level of competence within the industry, in line with the WISH “Commitment to Competence” statement. WISH will establish and task a working group to identify metrics for measuring progress with the Commitment to Competence and agree a competence strategy within 24 months.”*

During the WISH meeting held on 26 January 2009 a small working group was formed to take forward Objective 5 comprising:

- |                        |                 |            |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| • <b>Chairman:</b>     | Lawrence Strong | (WAMITAB)  |
| • <b>Group members</b> | Toni Gladding   | (CIWM)     |
|                        | Richard Johnson | (EUSkills) |
|                        | Paul Thornber   | (ESA)      |

The first meeting of this working group will take place on 17 March 2009.

**L W Strong**  
**11 February 2009**

## **WISH Strategic Objectives**

### **Objective 1: Accident performance**

Reduce the overall RIDDOR reported accident rate by 10% year on year (2005/6 baseline) by December 2013.

### **Objective 2: Number of working days lost**

WISH will produce a standard format for measuring the number of working days lost due to occupational health and safety incidents. This will be used to analyse/ sample performance to promote engagement at company/ organisation level. WISH will establish and task a working group to identify metrics and agree a strategy to reduce the number of working days lost within 24 months.

### **Objective 3: Management of health and safety**

Gain widespread adoption of safety management systems such as those consistent with HSG 65 principles or compliant with OHSAS 18001. Publication of a simple online self assessment checklist could be used to help organisations identify whether they are meet these standards and provide information to help monitor progress with this objective. Large organisations may choose to benchmark themselves on the CHASPI index ([www.chaspi.info-exchange.com](http://www.chaspi.info-exchange.com)).

### **Objective 4: Health and safety climate and attitudes**

Improve attitudes within the workforce to health and safety. Develop and promote a climate survey tool that enables small and medium size organisations to measure the attitudes to health and safety within their workforce and identify areas where improvements can be made.

### **Objective 5: Competence**

Increase the level of competence within the industry, in line with the WISH "Commitment to Competence" statement. WISH will establish and task a working group to identify metrics for measuring progress with the Commitment to competence and agree a competence strategy within 24 months.