

Minutes of Health and Safety Group

Wednesday 22 October 1:00pm

Teams Meeting

**Present:**

Bobby Ball (BB) - Chair	VHNZ
Kevin Hart (KH)	NZWEA
Steve Tilling (ST)	Technical Rigging Services
Kenn Wood (KW)	Contact Energy
Dale Nicholls (DN)	Vestas
Warren Meldrum (WM)	Meridian Energy

Apologies:

Received from Karl Cromarty - Technical Rigging Services, Tony Rovers – Contact, Darryl George – Pioneer and Ian Boslem who is no longer working at Siemens Gamesa.

1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, and welcomed new members Dale Nicholls, Vestas, and Warren Melddum, Meridian Energy to the NZWEA Health and Safety Working Group.

2 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Kevin Hart and Kenn Wood.

3 Safety Moment

DN shared that the major concern at the moment in both NZ and Australia is the increase in driving incidents around wind farm sites. People driving to and from work, long distances, roading conditions, and wildlife (more prevalent in Australia), are factors for the increases.

KH acknowledges that given the extreme heightened weather conditions occurring (high wind and fire risk), it is a timely reminder to ensure sites are secured and employees are extra vigilant in high-risk areas.

4 Guest Speakers

Nick Grace, 3M, Safety Division, and Dylan McCombe, 3M, Regional Sales Manager (NZ), were welcomed as guest speakers. They provided an update on the Australian and NZ standards for industrial fall-arrest systems and devices revisions by Standards New Zealand and Standards Australia.

From these new standards, 3M have developed new devices to comply with the various standards.

A discussion was had, where members felt that the new standards were trying to fix a problem that shouldn't be an issue, as some of the practices should not be being used, and contractors should be trained out of the practices and habits.

Considering concerns, the Chair sees this as an opportunity of the NZWEA HSE Working Group for shared learnings and a potential to fix the issue – an awareness of attaching to an anchor point. ST volunteered to work with the Chair on this.

The Chair thanked Nick Grace and Dylan McCombe for their time and insights.

5 First Aid Requirements - GWO

Stuart McIntosh asked the Chair to highlight that HSE(UK) considers that for a person to be fully trained in first aid working in wind they must have completed the GWO Enhanced First Aid (EFA) course, or equivalent.

DN (Vestas) informed the group that Vestas follow the full GWO Enhanced First Aid Training equivalent through PHEC and add on through their own emergency training program.

BB informed the group that currently there is not a huge market demand for the GWO Enhanced First Aid the equivalent is the PHEC (Pre-Hospital Emergency Care) course. VHNZ & Peak do offer this, and the contact time is 3 days. The GWO Enhanced First Aid is 21 hours so very similar. Personally, highly recommend the course and it is particularly useful for people who have an advanced first aid role or responsibility in an organisation or work in high-risk situations. I.e. remote wind farms.

6 Members Roundtable

KH highlighted that NZWEA has been approached by The Workforce Development Council (WDC) to review the current NZQA qualified New Zealand Certificate in Wind Farm Maintenance qualifications levels 3 and 4. The review process will assess if they are fit for purpose, are meeting the needs of industry, and whether there are opportunities to improve them. KH's observation of the qualifications is having to be prerequisite of being employed in the electrical industry before being able to participate in the certification is acting as a barrier to entry. The level 2 course is not promoted and could act as an entry-point for new talent entering the workforce.

DN noted that with trying to fill positions people aged 18 – mid 20's, they don't have the awareness or trade background, and the wind industry doesn't currently have the scope to train them well compared to other industries. The training in the wind industry is very narrow. KH agreed that the industry needs to attract people with the right skills and we need a more robust training system, hence a robust and promoted level 2 program may act as the catalyst to this skills gap.

ST noted dissatisfaction of the standards discussed in agenda item 4 and has been working with WDC on full protection and rope access standards and has proposed 12 changes to clarify mitigating risks.

KH provided an update on the NZ Wind Energy Summit which was well received by delegates in the post Summit survey.

BB attended the Global Wind Organisation (GWO) Conference, and the GWO Awards, where the Vertical Horizonz GWO team were finalists in Training Team of the Year Award. The members congratulated Vertical Horizonz on this achievement.

7 Closure

The meeting closed at 2:15pm.

Summary of Action Items

Subject	Action	Who/When
Next meeting date	▪ Send meeting invitation	Chair