



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 14TH JULY 2004

SUBJECT: MACHINERY IN WORKSHOPS IN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LEISURE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to alert Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives to the fact that currently machinery in workshops in comprehensive schools do not comply to the requirements laid out in the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations.

2. THE REPORT

- 2.1 In 2002/2003 Procurement Services let a contract to service and maintain machinery in workshops in comprehensive schools within this Authority. (Procurement Services let the contract on behalf of Bridgend, Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff Local Education Authorities as well as for Caerphilly Authority.)
- 2.2 The successful contractor inspected all the machinery in all comprehensive schools and provided reports for each establishment outlining the defects. The contractor identified that the machinery did not comply to the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations on two counts:-
- 1) A number of pieces of machinery did not have an additional emergency stop fitted.
 - 2) A number of items of machinery did not come to a stop within 10 seconds.
- 2.3 The contractor provided costings to correct the deficiencies that were identified. With some of the costings to provide a braking system (2 above), concern was expressed that it might be cheaper to provide new machinery that complied to latest safety standards (including the braking system) rather than go to the expense of incorporating a braking system on an old machine that had the potential of braking down.
- 2.4 Difficulties were encountered when the contractor initiated some of the repairs in some of the schools. The company were given several opportunities to put right the difficulties that had been encountered, but unfortunately failed to correct them to a satisfactory standard. In the end the Authority had no alternative other than to cease the contract.
- 2.5 In order to progress matters the decision was made for the Authority's electrical team to install the additional emergency stops that were needed to the machinery.
- 2.6 This work has now been completed. It is estimated that the machinery is now 70% compliant with the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations.
- 2.7 In the meantime Procurement Services arranged for the contract to be re-tendered. The contract was eventually let to a second contractor.

- 2.8 The Corporate Safety Unit had concerns initially over the standard of the health & safety documentation that the company had submitted.
- 2.9 To date, the outstanding works in terms of braking systems to the machinery have not yet been carried out.

3. ACTION PLAN

- 3.1 Once assurances have been given for the contractor to commence the inspections, arrangements need to be made for schools in Caerphilly to be inspected in the first instance.
- 3.2 On receipt of the reports, which hopefully will give costings to correct the deficiencies, the works will have to be undertaken so that the machinery complies to the necessary safety standards. The question of financing the necessary repairs may be an issue and will need to be addressed once the details of the costs of correcting the deficiencies is known.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The Committee should be alerted to the fact that currently the machinery in schools does not comply to the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations and note the details of the Action Plan.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that the report be noted.

Author: Greg Price, Administrative Officer – Education and Leisure Personnel Ext No 4858