

**Minutes of the 32nd Packaging in Equipment Acquisition & Support (PEAS) Forum
Meeting held on 11th June 2019, at Team Defence, Briarlands Office Park, Bristol**

Attendees:

Mr B Deary (BD)	MOD DES SEOC SCG-SCEng-Pkg	Chairman
Mr B Read (BR)	MOD DES WpnsEng-Pkg1	
Mr P Redwood (PR)	MOD DES Waterguard-EUTxSp1	
Mr M Salt (MS)	AFNOR	
Mr I Smith (IS)	Allan Webb Ltd (AWL)	Secretary
Mr F Haibatan (FH)	CADPAK	
Mr D Conway (DC)	Conway Packing Services Ltd	
Mr D Rogers (DR)	Camcode	
Mr T Judge (TJ)	EPS Logistics Technology	
Mr N Kennedy (NK)	John Pipe Ltd.	
Mr A Guppy (AG)	Kuehne + Nagel (K+N)	
Mr O Sylvester (OS)	MacFarlane Packaging	
Mr S Bassett (SB)	MBDA	
Mr M Andrews (MA)	MSA Foams Ltd	
Mr N Turner (NT)	NQA	
Mr R Baker (RB)	Portsmouth Aviation Ltd	
Mr S Goode (SG)	Safran	

Apologies:

Mr S Levy	DES DStan
Mr J Gibb	Advanced Certification
Mrs D Rollins	BAE Blackburn
Mr G Elwell	Bureau Veritas
Mr D Selmes	Bureau Veritas
Mr P Gillion	Daher
Mr J Nolan	Daher
Mr C Bennett	Dynamic Packaging
Mr J Goode	Good Packing
Mr C Skuse	Gordano
Mr I Bowbrick	IoM ³ /The Packaging Society
Mr D Etheridge	Leonard Gould
Mr D Jones	Polyformes
Mr B Smith	Stadium Export Services
Mr I Lockyer	Wincanton

1. Welcome

BD welcomed everyone to the 32nd meeting of the PEAS Forum. Health, Safety and Fire Evacuation Procedures were briefed. Bob thanked Team Defence for once again hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

2. Introductions and Apologies

BD opened the meeting thanking all those present for attending, around the table introductions took place. BD read out the list of apologies and welcomed first time attendees; Paul Redwood DE&S, Mark Salt AFNOR and David Rogers Camcode. BD apologised for restricting attendance at this Forum to one representative per company however interest in the meeting had outstripped the room capacity.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The previous meeting minutes were agreed. BD reported on the following actions carried over from the 31st meeting:

Action No.	Task	Actioner	Progress	Status
30/1	DC to provide information on non-MPAS Registered company undertaking MLP for BD to follow-up.	DC/BD	Info. provided by DC post-meeting. BD has established contact with Land OC and presented evidence. Land OC content with Caterpillar, no feedback on LH.	In-progress
30/4	Corrugated Sub-Group to undertake review of associated Def Stans. OS to organise and Chair Sub-Group Meeting. BD to assist.	OS/BD	Inaugural meeting scheduled for 5 th June at DS Smith, Hinckley.	In-progress

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31/1	Investigate adding Munitions content to MPAS.	BR/BD	BR & BD in discussion.	In-progress
31/2	Monitor for any increase in timescale for MPAS audit by Certification Bodies.	All	No further examples provided since the last meeting.	Close as an action
31/3	Consider the feasibility of a Buyers Group.	DC	Feasibility still being considered.	Re-gauge level of interest.
31/4	Establish a Materials Technical Committee.	All	To follow-on from Corrugated Sub-Group?	Remain open
31/5	Next meeting to include an extra session to brainstorm a 'Vision' and Strategy for PEAS.	BD	Extra session scheduled for 11 th June PEAS meeting.	Close
31/6	Continue to use Code 39 barcodes whilst investigating capability to print PDF 417s	All	Seek update from MPAS members at next PEAS meeting.	On-going

A discussion on point 30/1 ensued. While it is very likely to be a case of ignorance over fraud, DC reported that while they do sell the packing cases used by the company in question, they took no part in the actual manufacture and packing process. It was in-correct that LH could include Conway to satisfy the MPAS requirement on the contract. Consensus around the table agreed that these issues are important to ensure policy is enforced to prevent any

undermining of the MPAS system. BD requested the DC provide a statement to highlight their limited role in this example and he would continue his dialogue with Land OC.

Action 30/1 (On-Going) – DC to provide further information regarding Caterpillar & LH Plant.

4. Defence Packaging

4.1 General Update

BD reported that Hd. of SEOC Steve Glass is moving to a new role 'Director Support' in DE&S reporting into DG Commercial Nick Elliot. This is part of an overall strategy involving SEOC morphing into a new Support structure in conjunction with the creation of a new Defence Support Operating Model (DSOM), and the formation of a 3* led Support Pillar. This builds on the increased prominence of Support within DE&S and the wider MOD, and recognition of where the greatest spend is. BD added that this may result in changes to email tallies.

BD added that an internal vacancy for an assistant has gone live however so far there has been no interest. OS asked what will happen if no one applies. BD replied that it may go to an open recruitment campaign however the likelihood is that anyone appointed may not have prior packaging experience.

4.2 MPAS

BD reported that Pt. 1 has now been up-issued. He added that a Pt. 3 up-issue is in preparation to include a new Certification Body (AFNOR) and a scope upgrade for K+N Yeovil to include Design (may be delayed until September).

BD requested that if anyone had any further updates they should inform him as soon as possible.

4.3 SPIS management

BD reported that there was nothing significant to report from his perspective. He added that unfortunately he was no longer able to offer SPIS uploads due to time constraints.

IS added that in a previous meeting the question of RLI availability to industry had been brought into question however no impact was identified. He stated that recently the Allan Webb IT Head had mentioned that with a new RLI hosting solution there may be changes that are not yet known. It should be established via official channels if there will be changes to RLI access for industry.

Post-Meeting Note: BD has been advised that RLI access remains 'as is'.

4.4 Environmental Update

BD reported that there were no significant updates or communications since the last meeting. Various conferences & seminars are on offer however none appear to have any real in-depth content and are primarily aimed at the FMCG market. He stated that while prominent in the public-eye this topic does not seem to have had any real traction in the Defence/Industrial packaging space. This maybe because industrial packaging is about protecting the product and not 'selling' it? BD will continue to monitor and report to this group.

4.5 Def Stans (General)

BD reported that a personnel change at DSTAN had taken effect and the attendee at PEAS would now be Stephen Levy. Stephen was unable to attend today's meeting. BD reported that routine work on Def Stans remains limited. The only planned future work is the up-lifting of Standards when the review date is approached. Any technical updates will prove challenging to accommodate at present unless assistance is forthcoming.

BR added that Glasgow Staff reductions and the new STANMIS system presents some challenges in getting Standards amended. QX Munitions related Standards have had their ownership transferred to the Weapons Operating Centre (WOC).

RB asked the question who monitors use of the QX standards. BR responded that the expertise does not really exist within the MOD. Engagement with material expertise is needed and the standards maintained from a design viewpoint.

Post-Meeting Note: - DSTAN responsibility for Packaging Def Stans has now transferred to Gary Paterson.

4.6 Corrugated Project

BD reported that an initial meeting was held 5th June at DS Smith, Hinckley attended by Conway, John Pipe, MSA Foams & Ports. Aviation. He thanked OS for organising and DC for offering to work with DS Smith to present revised technical proposals/content. OS gave a short report on the sub-committee meeting. A million square meters of board is used for the Def Stan grade material. This is not a large amount and is at risk when the cost of production and storage out ways the benefit to the manufacturers.

Commercial industry has moved away from grammage and more towards performance of the board when specifying. Choices for MOD exist to rewrite the standards to match commercial practice in performance. DC added he had contacted a local converter company to provide a mapping from Defence grade to commercial performance. He will circulate the evidence of this when

completed in conjunction with mapping provided by DS Smith. He added that amendment could be driven by matched performance for a cost saving model.

RB asked if it is worth sending a questionnaire out to see what cardboards are used to then provide a detailed matrix to ensure performance is matched. This was received well and will be actioned via the Sub-Group.

Action 30/4 (On-Going) – Sub-Group to continue activity.

4.7 DEF STANS – PDF 417s

BD reminded the group that Def Stan 81-041 Pt. 6 was up-issued last year bringing in the requirement for PDF 417s. The reasoning for this and the current state of affairs regarding still printing Code 39s has been previously discussed. PR added that the Leidos warehouse control systems are due to be updated in July. This should mean that from August PDF 417s can be scanned and read. BD reminded everyone that they should check their contracts via each customer. PR added a further change to 81-41 Pt. 6 will be raised soon centred around re-packaging of items. DR gave a short presentation (will be circulated separately when in receipt) around the work carried out by the Unique Marking Project including the use of PDF 417s.

4.8 MOD Munitions and Explosives Packing

BR reported that there were no specific updates – some people may be interested in attending the Munitions Working Group. Interested parties should liaise with him.

5. Packaging Training & CPD

5.1 General Update

IS reported that there had been one Expert Level course delivered since the last PEAS which resulted in one pass and one fail. There are currently three other companies interested in the course and currently undertaking the Practitioner Level modules. There are likely to be two more Expert Level courses this calendar year.

SB asked if the Practitioner level could be transformed into a classroom-based course. IS replied that while he is always conscious not to use PEAS as a “sales pitch” opportunity, that Webb’s were happy to discuss options for tailored training. They have in the past delivered one-day workshops for companies and Certification Bodies to help with the audit process and could create custom training packages. It should be remembered however that the current format was designed to be a value for money replacement of the three-week MPCAS course.

The online modules have already been expanded to reduce the classroom based Expert level. Any training delivered in the classroom will always be considerably more expensive than online training. If anyone was interested in any training packages IS would be happy to discuss in more detail offline.

BD added that re-configuring of internally facing MOD training has reached completion with the Defence Academy. The next stage should be user testing; he will keep the group updated.

BD also reported that there was nothing significantly new to report on the IoM³ & Packaging Collective. He continues to engage with them and invite them to meetings. This drove a short discussion; whilst the IoM³ accreditation of the training has been a good thing, those attending the meeting, in general, felt that there wasn't enough benefit to be gained from individual membership of The Packaging Society.

6. AOB

BD raised the topic of wanting PEAS to consider the appointment of an Industry Co - Chair. He outlined the following reasons for this:

- To increase the credibility of PEAS within DE&S and provide industry with a direct link to the wider MOD via the DISCOG.
- To bring the group in-line with other working groups in the MOD.

BD envisages the Co-Chair role to include supporting the vision and strategy work. Attending the DISCOG in support of BD to present the annual PEAS report. With PEAS meetings limited short term involvement is envisaged however there may be a greater part to play in coming years depending on continuity within the MOD of the Defence Packaging post. BD requested that anyone interested in this role should make themselves known to him. Depending on the level of interest a vote may be necessary.

Action 32/1 – Anyone interested in the Co-Chair position to advise BD.

BD then went around the table with no additional AOB being raised by the group

7. Closing Statement

BD thanked everyone for their attendance and reiterated his thanks to Team Defence for hosting the Group.

8. Date of Next Meetings

26th November (confirmed) and 24th March (provisional).

PEAS Vision/Strategy Workshop

Following the main meeting there was an informal discussion centered around the vision for the future of the MPAS and the PEAS Group. The following is a brief summary of the topics and consensus reached.

Attendees:

Bob Deary, Paul Snowden (Facilitating), Matt Andrews, Rob Baker, Stuart Bassett, Dave Conway, Stephen Goode (part-time), Tim Judge, Nathan Kennedy, Ian Smith, Owen Sylvester.

Overall Aim – To ensure that MPAS and PEAS are robust and can survive and grow in the future.

Question - What would happen if MPAS/PEAS didn't exist?

- Commercial would drive practice – free for all where companies will provide what they have rather than what MOD needs.
- No Policing of the Scheme without a governing body
- No education undertaken to DTs and OEMs

If no PEAS who keeps Defence Packaging to task, if no Defence Packaging who holds the DTs to Task?

Opportunities Identified:

- Creation of an on-line database of MPAS (part 3)?
- Need to promote good news re MPAS and highlight bad news non-MPAS.
- Revamp materials available in 81-41 and promote those materials.

It should be established that PEAS is the go-to-body for expertise on Military Level Packing. It should also be highlighted to UK MOD that they receive * a significant amount of free consultation from the industry participants. Everyone involved at PEAS is invested in ensuring the Scheme is administered and supported.

*This is possible to quantify and has been done at other working groups by allocation of an average hourly/day rate for participants and calculating how much value the MOD receives from attendance and participation at PEAS.

It should be possible to create a 'vision' statement for PEAS.

Useful Links:

desider Magazine:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/desider-2017>

MoD Contracts:

<https://www.contracts.mod.uk/>

StanMIS:

<http://mou.isg-r.r.mil.uk/StanMIS>

Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining:

www.iom3.org

The Packaging Society:

<http://www.iom3.org/packaging-society>

The Packaging Collective:

<https://www.packagingcollective.org/>