



BRITISH REFRIGERATION ASSOCIATION - a FETA association

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Registered in England and Wales at the above address.
Registered No 1091391

Minutes of the BRA Training Section meeting held on 29th February 2024 at 10:30am Hybrid meeting

Issued: 11/3/24

F2F attendees in bold

Present

David Sowden	Chair	Chemours
Brian Parker		Adcocks
Simon Cox		Arcus FM
Ryan Handyside		Arcus FM
Steve Padgett		Beijer Ref
Steve Benton		Cool Concerns
Scott Perry		Eastleigh College
John Ellis		Ellis Training
John Skelton		Marks and Spencers
Vanessa Shannon		Polar Pumps
Chris Yates		FETA
Martyn Cooper	Secretary	BRA

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting.

2. FETA Competition Law Guidelines

To note the FETA Competition Law Guidelines available in the meeting room and on www.feta.co.uk/members/events-and-meetings/schedule-of-all-feta-meetings.

- For online attendees, accepting the Outlook meeting notice is taken as acknowledgement of the guideline's existence.
- For actual attendees, signing the attendance book is taken as acknowledgement of the guideline's existence.

3. Review of Minutes from meeting of 11th October 2023

These were agreed.

4. Section priorities

4.1 T Levels

Chris Yates advised that FETA and IOR were planning a joint meeting to discuss various aspects of training, and how we could coordinate.

Scott Perry felt that T levels were a good thing, but there was difficulty getting funding.

John Ellis that T levels were competing with A levels. He wondered what they were preparing students for – Level 2 and 3?? He maintained that learning the basic principles is vital, and T levels may be an attractive option. JE also noted that there is a 50% drop out rate in apprenticeships. John Skelton noted that whilst there is a lot of training available, companies tend to do the bare minimum.

Simon Cox noted that larger companies were developing their own training, but noted it was always a challenge to retain staff after they had completed training. Brian Parker agreed with this point.

4.2 Flammable refrigerant training

The Chair noted, that with the growing numbers of heat pump's being installed with propane, there needed to be an overriding refrigerant handling qualification.

CY noted that the HPA were tackling the issue of flammables training and were developing a guide on this. This could be shared when finalised.

5 Next Steps

This topic was discussed under Item 4, but there was a general question about how people under training found out about the industry. There was a general view that many students had relatives or friends in the industry.

JS noted that there was a lot of information available from IOR, but people needed to be directed to it.

6. AOB

Steve Benton offered some observations:

- The IOR have a lot of guidance notes on training available on their website.
- He agreed that there needs to be focus on basic first principles.
- On T levels there needs to be a clearer map as to where they lead.

John Ellis reiterated his view that we needed better links with C&G (SB has provided a contact)

7. Dates for next meeting

6th June, 17th October

Chair Date