SLIDE 1 – Jonathan Kane

Linda Macaven, Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen – Good Afternoon and thank you for inviting me to this Roundtable.

I’m Jonathan Kane and my company Kane International belongs to CoGDEM, the UK trade association representing suppliers of industrial gas detection equipment, domestic CO alarms & portable flue gas analyser mfrs.

SLIDE 2 – CoGDEM

CoGDEM helped develop CO related safety standards like EN50291 for CO alarms, EN50379 & EN50543 for portable flue gas & ambient air quality analysers and guides like BS7967 & EN TS 50612.

CoGDEM is probably the only industry trade association running a 24/7 consumer safety CO hotline.

SLIDE 3 – How can EU stop threat?

CO is indiscriminate – Everyone & anyone is at risk from any fossil fuel appliance

EU Parliament’s Internal Market & Consumer Protection committee’s report on GAD / GAR is clear:

“CO is the leading cause of death in Europe, when relating to Gas Appliances”

But any appliance can cause death and injury from CO

We must demand best practice from Europe – for example:

Why are all UK gas installers and service techs registered & tested every 5 years but not those from Holland or Germany?

The EU Parliament’s report asks the EU to agree “several amendments .. to strengthen .. consumer safety, .. to avoid .. poisoning .. people by carbon monoxide. “

I ask everyone here to support these amendments.

But it’s still not clear how many people die from CO – There are too many gaps:

Why does France require a blood test on dead bodies but not the UK or Spain?

Why does the UK’s best data source on CO deaths come from an underfunded charity of which I am a director and not industry or Government?

Why is there no EU funded television awareness campaign warning consumers about CO?

The EU must address these issues.

Slide 4 – Can the Gas Industry offer solutions?

The European Gas Industry is large and must take responsibility for preventing CO incidents from its appliances – BUT it also has so much best practice to share for all appliances, however fuelled.

Slide 5 – Gas Appliance Directive / Regulation

I thank the Commission & Parliament for taking time & effort to reduce the CO threat.

The Commission’s Gas Appliance Regulation and Parliament’s amendments will improve consumer safety and reduce the CO threat.

Slide 6 – GAR Recitals 14-17

These EU Parliament amendments highlight:

The importance of consumer safety & health,

The need for trained & certified installers &

The urgency for member states to make their public aware of the dangers of CO poisoning

Slide 7 – GAR ER & Article 4

In these EU Parliament amendments:

Gas Appliance installation manuals must provide information to stop CO incidents &

Installers must assess efficient & safe combustion – critical to reduce risk of CO poisoning, and ensure appliances work as their manufacturers expected.

The report clearly says:

“Portable flue gas analysers are available & installers should be equipped & certified to use them”,

This reflects the UK’s requirement to test new domestic gas condensing boilers using FGAs.

I also welcome new GAR’s Gas Supply Conditions requiring notification by member state of changes to gas types & quality

Slide 8 – Industry Actions

CoGDEM & other associations, including European Heating Industry representatives, published 2 standards:

EN50379 shows installers what type of portable flue gas analyser to buy

&

TS50612 explains how to use them

These actions started after the UK published British Standards 7927 & 7967.

Slide 9 – Industry Actions

TS50612 must extend to all gas appliances. This work may finish this year and then we need help to address other fossil fuelled appliances.

Sector Forum Gas must urgently continue its work on domestic gas installation safety because it offers the best way to harmonise different work practices in Europe.

Slide 10 – wish list

Member states must develop one performance requirement for appliance installers & service techs:

They must be annually registered & regularly tested – just like commercial airline pilots ..

&

They must be publicly visible on a database showing their skills & competence ..

Installers need an equivalent level playing field to gas appliances regulated by GAR.

Member states must collectively publicise dangers of CO & raise public awareness – Because CO is indiscriminate, it really deserves TV advertisements.

Member states must uniformly collect CO incident data – there is too much public ignorance because no one really knows how many people are killed or injured by CO.

Finally,

Member states must protect consumers by requiring CO alarms.

Since CO is indiscriminate, these alarms stop consumers dying through ignorance.

Slide 11 – end

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss simple actions to stop indiscriminate CO poisoning.

Jonathan Kane

End

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