

EXPORT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 10.30 AM

By videoconference



1923 - 2023

Chair:	Mark Sanderson	Advanced Healthcare Ltd
Present	Michael Farrow Jodie Maslin Simon Payne Alex Storey Peter Wheeler	SDI Dental Innovations Ltd Kement DD Perfection Plus Ethoss Regeneration
In attendance:	Edmund Proffitt Darryl Moore Adam Stanley	Chief Executive Marketing & Communications Manager Policy & Public Affairs Manager

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Alec Hilton, Anu Kataria, Alistair Mayoh and Jenny Perkins.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2024 were approved.

4. **BDIA EXPORT BRANDING**

The Export Committee noted the BDIA export leaflet for IDEM Singapore that had been circulated following discussions at the previous meeting. It was noted, however, that the design had not been finalised in time for companies to take printed copies to the exhibition and it was agreed that the design would be further refined and updated for future events.

It was agreed that the revised design should further emphasise the meaning of BDIA membership in order to further build the international recognition of the BDIA brand. Future utilisation of this branding could help to boost the presence of UK companies at international exhibitions, offering an option for shared branding that could be used even in the absence of a UK Pavilion.

It was agreed that a revised version of the document would be circulated to members.

5. **BDIA REGULATORY ACTIVITY UPDATE**

MHRA future regulations and international recognition

The Chief Executive and Policy & Public Affairs Manager reported on updates regarding medical device regulation and the Association's engagement with the MHRA. It was noted that the BDIA had been engaging with the MHRA on a confidential basis as a member of its Trusted Advisor Group, providing input on a broad range of topics relating to the future revision of the UK's medical device regulatory framework, including plans for a new international recognition pathway. The BDIA's membership of this group meant that it was unable to comment on specific details of the MHRA's proposals, however.

Members welcomed, in principle, the introduction of an international recognition framework. However, it was seen as important that this was also combined with efforts for the UKCA mark to be recognised in other markets.

The role of UK Approved Bodies was noted as a key factor in any future international recognition pathway and as something that the MHRA would need to consider carefully to ensure that adequate domestic certification capacity was maintained while also navigating concerns over assuming liability for devices certified elsewhere, as well as ensuring that any additional audit requirements were proportionate.

It was noted that the MHRA had indicated that an outline framework of its plans for international recognition was due to be published in May.

EU amalgam phase-out

The Chief Executive and Policy & Public Affairs Manager reported on the EU's announced phase-out of dental amalgam. It was noted that the final legislative text had been softened compared to the initial proposed, and included additional derogations and extension periods. While the phase-out would apply from 1st January 2025, a derogation had been included for continued use until 30th June 2026 "where treatment with dental amalgam is the only publicly reimbursed material at a rate of at least 90% under national law, while this is not yet possible for mercury-free alternatives as of 1 January 2025". This measure was accompanied by provision for continued manufacture and import of dental amalgam in order to support the above usage, until 30th June 2026. From 1st July 2026 "manufacturing and import should still be possible only to cover specific medical need".

The Chief Dental Officer for England had indicated that the UK did not intend to mirror the EU phase-out, instead continuing to follow the Minamata Convention which, at present, maintained a phase-down approach. However, the EU phase-out would apply directly in Northern Ireland, unless the UK Government were to contest it through the Windsor Framework. It was understood that the application of the phase-out in Northern Ireland would mean that amalgam would not be able to be imported from outside of the EU after the dates specified (unless to cover specific medical need) but that product could still move freely between Northern Ireland and EU Member States.

6 IDEM SINGAPORE 2024

Members shared their feedback of the IDEM Singapore exhibition held from 19-21 April 2024. Feedback was generally positive with the exhibition being seen as well organised, although it was suggested that the event was quieter than what had been seen pre-COVID and that the 2024 event may not have had the same regional draw as in previous years. In addition, some members had indicated that the cost to exhibit had been prohibitive.

7. UK PAVILION ACTIVITY

It agreed that, due to the limited time available and the fact that a number of members had already made independent bookings, BDIA-led UK Pavilions would not be organised for AEEDC and IDS in 2025.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Export Committee would give consideration to planning potential pavilion activity for 2026, in order to coordinate any individual bookings by member companies.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items for discussion.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be circulated by email.