

Forecourt Equipment Federation (FEF)

Task Groups

This note sets out first to explain how and why Task Groups (TG) came into being. There then follows a description of how FEF Member Organisations become members of any given Task Group together with some operational notes.

The precursor to the FEF was the Petrol Pump Manufacturers' Association (PPMA) that, as the name suggests, consisted almost entirely of fuel dispensing equipment manufacturers. As a result of closures, acquisitions and mergers through the 1970s, '80s and '90s the membership base of the PPMA was greatly diminished. In order to re-establish an organisation with a viable membership a decision was taken by the PPMA to create an organisation that was open to, and attractive to, organisations with interests in equipment on petrol filling stations that were not limited to dispensers and sales terminal – and the Forecourt Equipment Federation came into being.

The PPMA members, with somewhat similar product portfolios, had been expected to have rather similar technical interests. These technical interests were addressed by its Technical Committee. This Technical Committee did not have sub-committees dealing with separate technical issues. This organisational method, while satisfactory for the PPMA, was not seen as appropriate for the FEF. It was recognised that with its potentially broader range of interests it was unlikely that all members of the FEF would want to be involved with all of the issues. Lack of technical knowledge, resource limitations are but two of the reasons why some members might not wish to engage with some problems.

In order to put the decisions about involvement with specific issues in the hands of the individual members, rather than with the FEF, it was decided to operate with a series of Task Groups. Task Groups were to be set up to deal with issues that were likely to need detailed continuous surveillance and responses. A Task Group is established under the authority of Council who also appoint a Chair. Each Task Group established in this way is then open to all FEF members.

Those FEF members wishing to join any Task Group then have to opt-in by informing the relevant Chair and the Secretariat. It is a right of all FEF members to join any Task Group. It is only by being a member of a Task Group that an FEF Member will have access to all of the correspondence etc of that Task Group. To operate in any other way would be likely to lead to FEF member organisations receiving potentially significant numbers of unwanted emails. Task Group Chairs are expected to provide either oral or written reports to FEF Council meetings.

From time to time it may be helpful for Task Groups to prepare papers for issue outside of the FEF⁽¹⁾, the procedure by which such papers are approved for release is provided in a separate paper available in the Members section of the FEF website.

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7 February 2008

(1) Code of Practice for Design, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of Stage II Vapour Recovery Systems.