

British Horse Council Meeting 25 June 2021

Trade report

Generally trade is fairly buoyant at the moment despite ongoing issues with international trade, in terms of exporting and importing of raw materials. There are currently shortages of finished product imports due to the ongoing production issues in India although there are signs of improvements. China is back to full production although the issue of inflated freight costs still ongoing. We still face delays in production of many UK made products including safety equipment and saddlery.

Due however both to EU Exit, freight costs and raw material availability, prices are likely to continue to rise across the board regardless of whether made overseas or domestically.

International Trade – much of the sector is still experiencing challenges in exporting to Europe and losses of revenue due to either no longer being competitive due to either added costs from duty or paperwork. Delays at BCPs and inconstancy in importing procedures continue to take their toll.

USA – penalty tariffs of 25% threaten to impact on a part of the equestrian trade- in this case saddlery is included amongst the tariff codes threatened with this currently suspended action relating to the imposition of a global Digital service tax aimed at capturing the SM platforms and search engines whose revenue internationally largely goes untaxed. Work in progress and we are in discussions with DIT about both the likelihood of this tax being imposed and the ongoing suspension.

Safety Standards – working on 2 standards with another beginning to evolve.

TC162/WG11 Airvest – we almost have a first completed draft for equestrian airvests after a year of work. Still a long way of publication as it can take 2 years to go through the examination and voting procedure but good to see progress.

Convenor of TC158/WG5 – riding hats. Following a long pause, restarted the work following appointment. EU Commission is pushing hard to have a conclusion to this and following 2 meetings we have a completed draft which would lift the EN to something almost equal to PAS015. Whether accepted by the Commission will be found out once submitted, still to go through the assessment and enquiry process.

Safety Stirrups – starting work on gathering data around the use, expectations and perception of safety stirrups. No guidelines in place in terms of manufacturing and concerned that product is placed on the market raising expectations about their function. Aim is to development parameters for testing with long term aim to create a standard.

Research Survey about to go out widely covering a number of issues including volunteering, concussion / accident data, riding and spending habits post Covid so appreciate if you would share the link to the questionnaire if we can circulate.