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HSC Annual Report 2004: Issue 7 - July 2004

Introduction

The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) has recently published its annual report for 2003/4.

This report describes the work of HSC/E during 2003/04 and is based on the plans contained in the HSC Business Plan 2003-2004, which in turn is based on the Strategic Plan 2001-2004 published in September 2001. The Plans focused HSC activity on achieving the national targets for health and safety launched by the Government and HSC in June 2000 and published in the Revitalising Health and Safety Strategy Statement (RHS).

Briefly these targets are to:

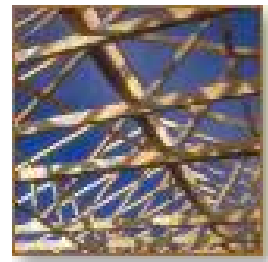
- reduce the number of working days lost per 100 000 workers by 2010;
- reduce the incidence rate of fatal and major injury incidents by 10% by 2010
- reduce the incidence rate of cases of work-related ill health by 10% by 2010
- achieve half the improvements under each target by 2004.

Eight Priority Programmes were identified in the Strategic Plan 2001-2004 covering hazards or sectors where major improvements are necessary if the targets are to be met. These were:

- Falls from height
- Workplace transport
- Musculoskeletal disorders (manual handling)
- Work-related stress
- Agriculture
- **Construction**
- Health services
- Slips and trips

The report outlines the progress made over the past year, the targets for the forthcoming year and the initiatives that will be adopted and utilised to achieve these targets.

By having an understanding of the industry (construction) as a whole and the targets that are in place companies can better understand and compare their own safety records and objectives and targets for the forthcoming year.



Latest Statistics (2002/3) in the Construction Industry

- Fatal worker injuries reduced to 71 in 2002/03, the second lowest ever and a second consecutive annual fall from 80 in 2001/02. The rate of fatal injuries fell to 4.0 per 100000 workers, again the second-lowest rate ever.
- The rate of reported major injuries to employees has declined 5% since 1999/2000, but the 2002/03 rate is 5% up on 2001/02.
- The Self-reported work-related illness household survey SWI01/02 led to estimates that 5600 per 100 000 workers suffered an illness which they believed was caused or made worse by their job, statistically significantly higher than the average for all industries (4300 per 100 000). Construction also has the highest prevalence (5%) of MSD of any industry.

Further information, please contact:

4See Risk Management Limited

t.: 01908 255 909

f.: 01908 255 700

e.: enquiry@4seerisk.com

w.: www.4seerisk.com



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Improving Safety through Knowledge

Target for 2004/5

- 40% reduction in incidence rate of fatal and major injuries by 2004/5 (and 66% by 2009/10);
- 20% reduction in incidence rate of cases of work related ill health of employees by 2004/5 (and 50% by 2009/10);
- 20% reduction in number of working days lost per 100 000 workers from work-related injury and ill health by end of 2004/5 (and 50% by 2009/10).



Ongoing Initiatives in the Construction Industry

Health and safety risks:

- Positive shift towards mechanised handling of kerbs and similar products – various HSE blitz operations during the early part of 2004 have been aimed at the handling and placing of kerbs on construction site – a trend that will continue.
- The new Work at Height Regulations are in the consultation process at the moment and will further outline the requirements for any work carried out at height. *(A 4See update will be issued regarding these new regulations shortly).*
- Driver visibility on site machinery – a large amount of work and investigation has been spent on improving driver all – round visibility on site machinery.

- Housekeeping has been given a high profile during HSE visit. This included checking for untidy conditions, blocked access to ladders or work areas, unsafe storage practices and trip hazards.
- Early interventions with CDM (Construction Design and Management Regulations) dutyholders on selected projects and working with industry to improve competence and knowledge of all dutyholders.
- Worked with industry partners, the supply chain and intermediaries to reach SMEs and the workforce to promote the 'High 5' - highlighting the five most significant health and safety hazards at smaller construction work, namely: untidy sites, falls from height, manual handling, transport and asbestos.

Increased Enforcement

Construction Division completed more regulatory contacts and inspections than planned, and improved complaints and RIDDORs investigation performance. A **robust enforcement** line continues to be taken with the industry using the full range of sanctions including I/Ns to address underlying issues.

Major cases completed this year include the Hull building collapse and Nishimatsu where a £700 000 fine resulted.

If you require an electronic copy of the full report please contact 4See Risk Management and we will email a copy for your information.

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