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Update 49 - February 2008

Simplification Report for 2007

Construction

Alongside the success of CDM '07, HSE has been working with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) to consider the potential for moving towards better integration of the planning, building control and CDM regimes. CLG is currently carrying out two reviews, to which HSE is contributing, on:

- Building control regulations
- Planning

On consideration of the outcomes of these reviews, CLG will be consulting on changes to the regimes and will work closely with HSE to include questions on how best to join up the information requests from regulators to those involved in construction work. Results of this consultation will feed into the development of the project.

In addition to the above, HSE is reviewing and revising its construction project notification system. Following this, it will be possible to consider the potential for aligning this notification system with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) planning portal.

Planning and building control are devolved matters in Scotland, where the respective national policy leads are the Scottish Government (SG) and the Scottish Building Standards Agency (SBSA). HSE has been in contact with these bodies about opportunities for joint working. SE has indicated that it will involve HSE in its comprehensive review of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, to identify opportunities for closer links between planning and health and safety.

New Simplification Initiatives

Title/Initiative	Type of Burden	Description of Measures	Outcome	Costs Savings	Deadlines
(C1 Construction) HSE is working with CLG to consider the opportunities for moving towards better integration of the planning, building control and CDM regimes	Administrative	To consider better integration with planning and building control systems. HSE is working closely with CLG on two reviews they are undertaking: 1. building regulations and 2. planning. CLG will then consult on changes to the regime. It will work closely with HSE to include questions on how best to join up information requests from regulators. Results of this consultation will feed into the project development. HSE is also reviewing its construction project notification system. Following this, it will consider the potential for aligning the F10 planning notifications with CLG planning portal.	To reduce duplication and therefore time spent for businesses dealing with the planning system, building regulations and the requirements of the CDM regulations. Improved health and safety and compliance, and costs savings resulting from improved compliance	Savings cannot yet be assessed, as any assessment can only be made after outcome of the CLG reviews is known and subsequent public consultation	Autumn 07: Draft project plan

Title/Initiative	Type of Burden	Description of Measures	Outcome	Costs Savings	Deadlines
<p>(C2) The written Health and Safety Policy statement</p> <p>The Health and Safety at Work Act requires employers to have a written policy on health and safety in their workplace. This predates the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations.</p>	<p>Policy and administrative.</p>	<p>The high cost of the written policy statement in the admin burden exercise (£53m) suggests that there may be unnecessary duplication by businesses.</p> <p>HSE has started work to look at what can be done to simplify in practice the requirement for a written policy statement and avoid duplication of paperwork.</p>	<p>Removal of any duplication of effort or paperwork in compliance with both HSWA and MHSW.</p>	<p>Removal of any duplication by amending legislation or clarifying the duties through improved, more accessible guidance is estimated to achieve savings to businesses of up to £26m per year from the ABME estimated baseline.</p>	<p>September 07: First draft consultation document for key stake holders including draft guidance. October 07: Agree final draft consultation document. January 08: Agree policy proposal with HSE and LACORS. February 08: amendments to legislation, and/or production of guidance begin, to agreed Parliamentary timetable.</p>
<p>(C3) Information on the weight of loads Requirement in the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992.</p>	<p>Policy and administrative.</p>	<p>HSE is looking at what businesses need to know and will be producing simple guidance for its website.</p> <p>Links with the SRM project and HSE's Moving Goods Safely programme will also be exploited.</p>	<p>Reduced duplication of labelling and business time taken to comply.</p>	<p>At this stage only a rough estimate is possible, but we consider savings of around £32.5 million on the ABME estimate likely.</p>	<p>September 07: Moving Goods Safely campaign March 08: guidance completed.</p>
<p>(C4) Drinking Water signs Requirement to label drinking water in the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992.</p>	<p>Administrative.</p>	<p>It is apparent from the ABME exercise that some businesses believe all drinking water supplies should be labelled as such. Amend and promote new guidance making it clear that only where there is contaminated water should it be labelled.</p>	<p>Very substantial reduction in labelling of water supplies, saving businesses time and money.</p>	<p>At this stage only a rough estimate is possible, but we consider savings of nearly £17 million on the ABME estimate likely.</p>	<p>Summer 07: draft amended leaflet produced and corrections to all other related guidance. December 07: Misunderstanding highlighted as Myth of the Month.</p>

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