



## Update 76 - January 2010

### National Statistics

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**In 1999 the HSE published their blueprint for health and safety improvements called Revitalising Health and Safety. It included targets for significant reductions in fatal injury rates, lost time incidents and the number of working days lost due to injury and ill health.**

- To reduce the number of working days lost per 100,000 workers from work-related injury and ill health by 30% by 2010
- To reduce the incidence rate of cases of fatal and major injury accidents by 10% by 2010
- To reduce the incidence rate of cases of work-related ill health by 20% by 2010

Now that the 10 year period is up, questions are being asked as to how well we have performed in that time.

The good news is that whilst not all of the targets have been met there have been definite and significant improvements.

- The provisional figure for the number of workers fatally injured in 2008/09 is 180 and corresponds to a rate of fatal injury of 0.6 per 100,000 workers. The rate of fatal injury for 2008/09 represents a statistically significant decrease compared to the average rate for the previous five years.
- 131,895 other injuries to employees were reported to the HSE as required by RIDDOR, a rate of 502.2 per 100,000 employees.
- 29.3 million days were lost overall (1.24 days per worker), 24.6 million due to work-related ill health and 4.7 million due to workplace injury.
- 2156 people died of mesothelioma (2007) and thousands more from other occupational cancers and lung diseases.

Why are these figures important? Well they show an improving trend; they also allow employers to compare their performance to the national picture and to identify any issues or trends that need attention.

For example did you know that:

- slips and trips cause most major accidents at work
- injuries from poor manual handling account for almost a third of all workplace injuries
- the average employer in the UK loses five times as many days through work related absenteeism due to health than safety, yet how many of us still put safety ahead of health when we are planning our health and safety strategy?

**Be reassured that we are moving in the right direction and that with the proper safety and health standards in place you can reduce the chance of any of the above happening to your company.**

For further information on this or any other health and safety issue, please call

**4See Risk Management now on 01327 811822.**