

Open Government status: Open	Paper number: CHARGE 03/01
	Type of paper: For discussion
	Meeting date: 22nd January 2003

CHARGE

Musculoskeletal Disorders A paper by Terry Aston, Secretary CHARGE

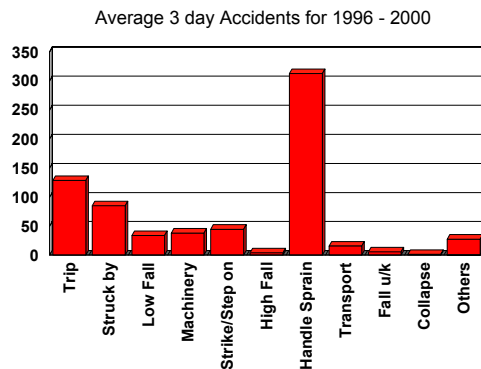
Issue

1. Musculoskeletal disorders continue to be the largest single cause of injury in the industries covered by CHARGE. This paper proposes the establishment of a working group under "CHARGE" to make recommendations and prepare a package for driving the issue forward in our industries.

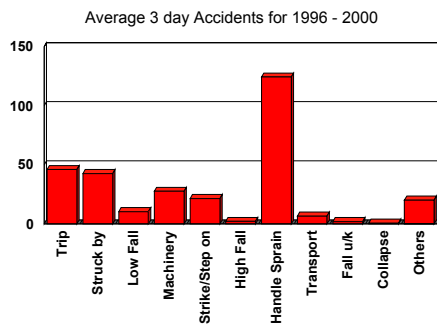
Background

2. Musculoskeletal disorders constitute by some margin the largest single cause of injury and sickness absence in the industries covered by CHARGE. The charts below give the latest available figures.

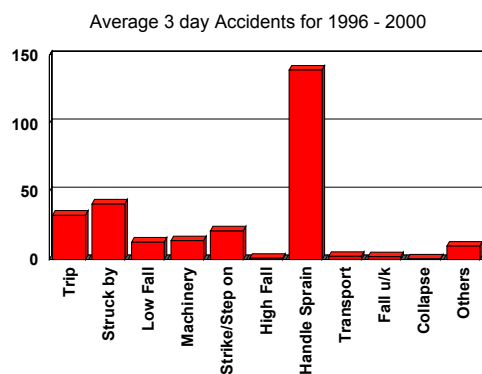
CERAMICS INDUSTRIES



CONTAINER & OTHER GLASS



FLAT GLASS



3. A good deal of work has been done in CHARGE industries and member companies to address musculoskeletal issues. Industries have demonstrated excellence at a variety of aspects of controlling musculoskeletal disorders or their effects. However, the persistence of a high incidence rate of injury suggests that more work needs to be done. It is probable that in SMEs there is limited understanding of the risks and/or managerial resource to implement control measures. Larger enterprises tend to be able to appreciate the issue better, but their approach may not be always comprehensive, with a possible tendency in some cases to focus on particular aspects in the continuum of preventative and palliative measures necessary to constitute a comprehensive musculoskeletal management system.
4. Failure to reduce musculoskeletal injuries is likely to make it impossible for CHARGE industries to meet the revitalising targets. Additionally, there are good indications that substantial cost savings can be achieved through reduction in injury.

Proposal

5. CHARGE offers opportunities for the new blend of industries to share knowledge and best practice. It is proposed that a working group should be established which is tasked with reporting to CHARGE on

recommendations for a package of assistance to enable member industry companies to implement comprehensive managerial systems for reduction of musculoskeletal disorders. The working group would map existing best practice, both managerial and practical measures, not only in member industries, but also attempt to learn from initiatives in other industries. The package of assistance should aim to be practical and include not only guidance, but also "workshops", peer assistance, networking and other support and motivational mechanisms.

Membership

6. Membership of the working party should primarily be drawn from the industries themselves with input from HSE, including its specialist resources. Membership should be representative of the spread of industries covered by CHARGE and representative of the SMEs as well as large companies. There may be a case for involving suppliers to the industry as well.

Timing

7. It is important to allow the working party time to produce a meaningful and well researched package. It is proposed, therefore, that the initial aim should be for the research and preparation phase to be completed within 12 months ready for a roll out of the package from March 2004.

Contact: Terry Aston, FOD Metals and Minerals Sector, Marches House, The
The Midway, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs, ST5 1DT
Tel: 01782 602300