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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **PRINTING AND PUBLISHING INDUSTRIES**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY TARGETS AND PERFORMANCE**

**1999/00 TO 2003/04**

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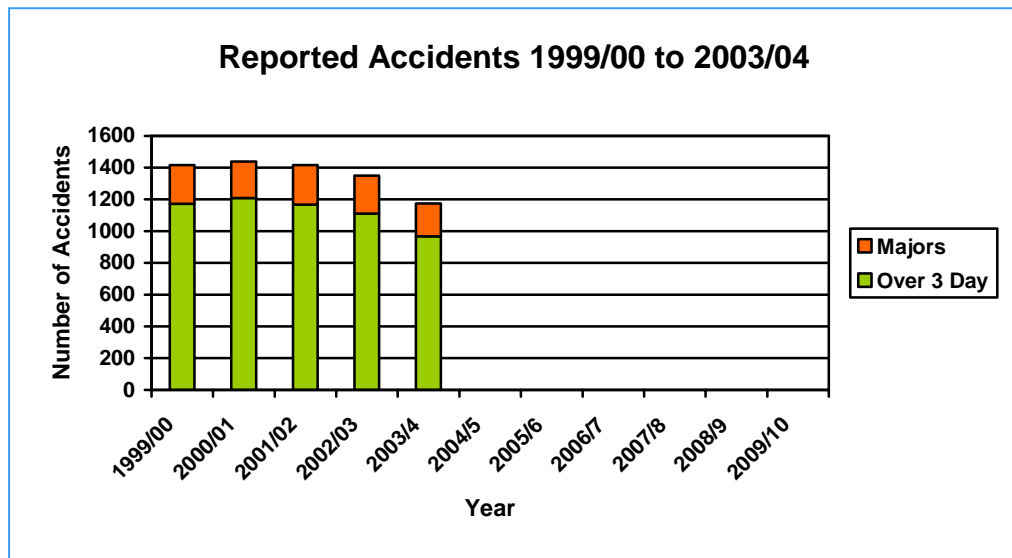
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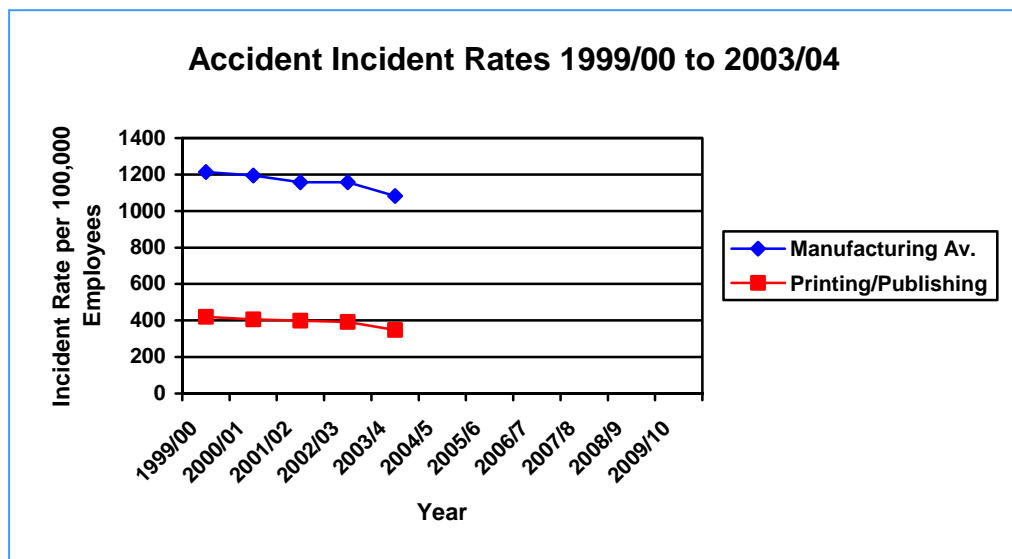
# 1. INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

## 1.1 Overall Accident Figures 1999/00 to 2003/04

In 2003/2004 there were a total of 1174 accidents reported to the HSE and Local Authorities by the printing and publishing industries<sup>1</sup>. This represents a **17% reduction** when compared to the HSC's 1999/2000 Revitalising Health and Safety baseline figure of 1417 reported accidents.



Accident incident rates in the printing and publishing industries have also fallen over the same period.

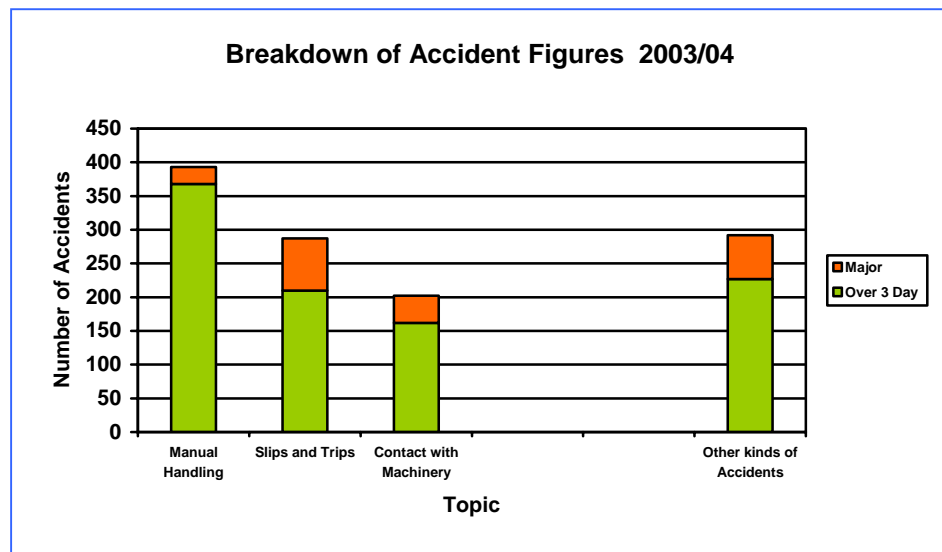


<sup>1</sup> Publishing Industries include newspapers, books and periodicals etc.

# 1. INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

## 1.2 Breakdown of Accident Figures 2003/04

In 2003/2004, the **3 most common types of accidents** were: **manual handling (33%); slips and trips (24%); and machinery (17%)**. Together they accounted for 75% of all reported accidents in the printing and publishing industries (see graph below).



### PIAC's OVERALL STRATEGY

PIAC's overall strategy is to target the most common types of accidents and ill health as a way of making a significant contribution to the HSC's Revitalising targets by 2010.

### PIAC's ACTION PLAN

HSE and PIAC aim to raise the awareness of employers to these main types of accidents and to provide readily assessable guidance on how to go about tackling them.

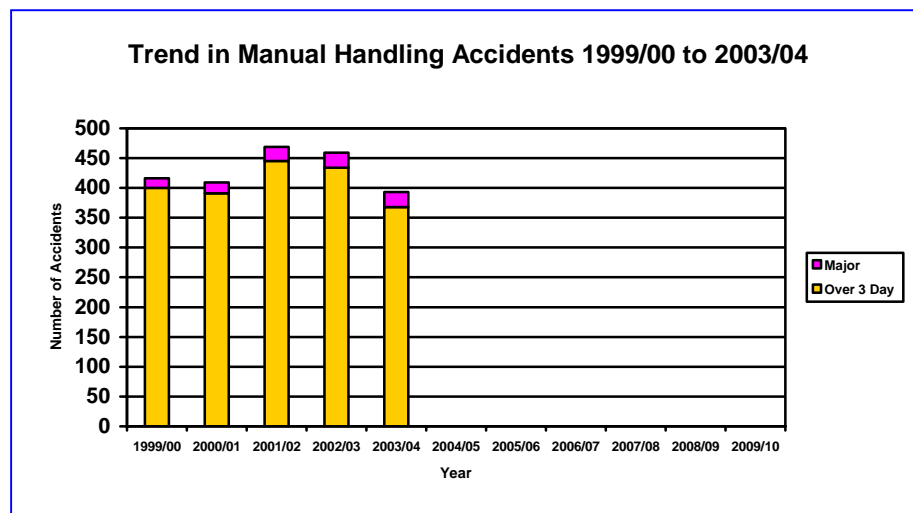
Three of the main vehicles for raising the awareness are:

- The New Look HSE Printing Web Site. (See Section 3).
- The New Health and Safety Pack for Printers and Publishers. (See Section 4).
- HSE Operational Inspectors during routine inspections.

## INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

### 1.3.1 Trend in Manual Handling Accidents

In 2003/2004 there were a total of 393 manual handling accidents reported to the HSE and Local Authorities by the printing and publishing industries. This represents a **5% decrease** when compared to the 1999/2000 baseline figure of 416 reported manual handling accidents.



### PIAC's ACTION PLAN

In 2003 PIAC held an open meeting on manual handling for 80 printing companies. The workshop provided a practical demonstration on how to carry out manual handling assessments using the new MAC Tool and offered an opportunity for employers to try out the Tool for themselves. Feedback from the event was extremely positive and the event is to be repeated in November 2004.

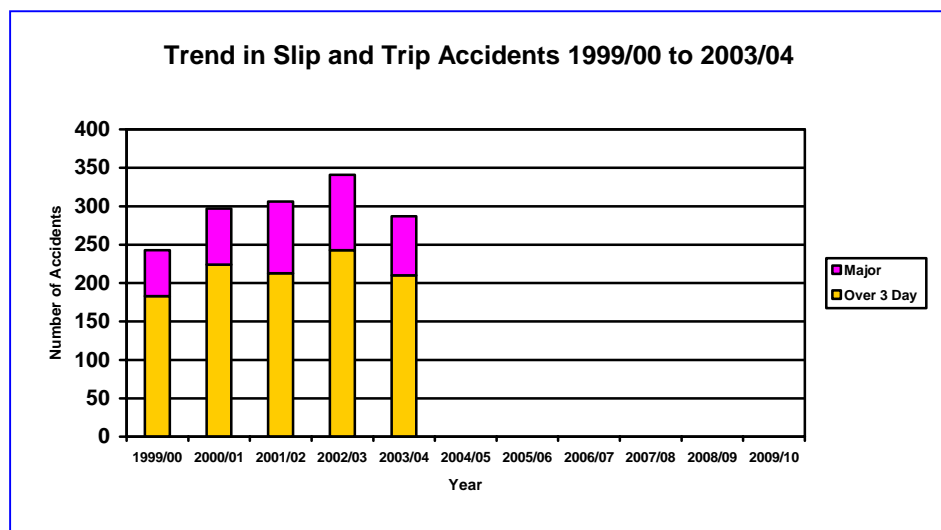
As part of its communications strategy, the HSE's Manufacturing Sector is developing a number of video based good practice manual handling solutions for printers (See Section 5).

In 2005/2006 HSE EMAS Inspectors will be carrying out a targeted enforcement initiative specifically to inspect the standard of manual handling provision in printers. Where standards are found to be below the legal minimum, enforcement action may be taken.

# 1. INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

## 1.3.2 Trend in Slip and Trip Accidents

In 2003/2004 there were a total of 287 slip and trip accidents reported to the HSE and Local Authorities by the printing and publishing industries. This represents a **18% increase** when compared to the 1999/00 baseline figure of 243 reported accidents. Furthermore, slips and trips accounted for 37% of all major injuries in printing and publishing.



### PIAC's ACTION PLAN

HSE and PIAC do not have a clear understanding of the cause of this upward trend. To inform future action, further statistical analysis has been commissioned.

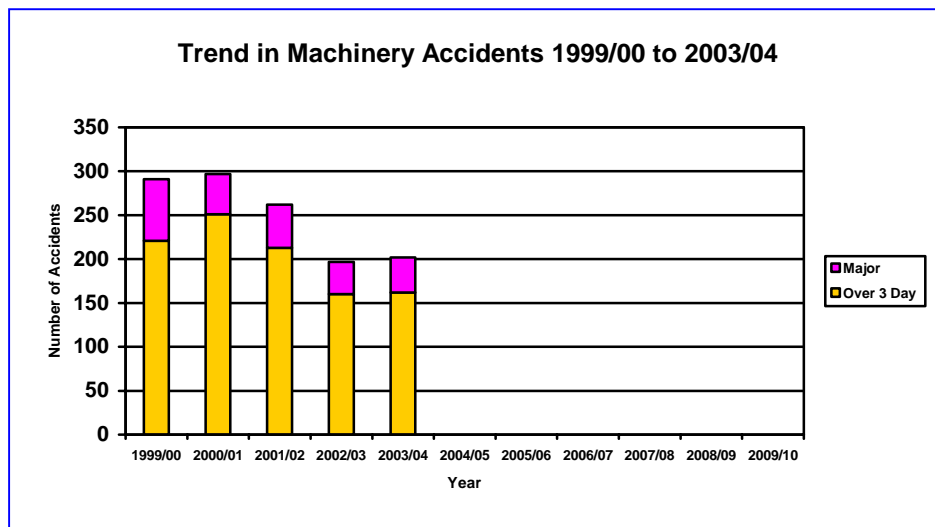
HSE's Health and Safety Laboratory will analyse the 2002/2003 RIDDOR Reportable Accidents for Printing and Publishing.

- Identify the main causes of the accidents.
- Produce specific advice on preventing slips and trips in printing that if followed will lead to a reduction in the number of the main causes identified above.
- Make the advice available on HSE's Printing Web Site from December 2004.

# 1. INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

## 1.3.3 Trend in Machinery Accidents

In 2003/2004 there were a total of 202 machinery accidents reported to the HSE and Local Authorities by the printing and publishing industries. This represents a **32% decrease** when compared to the 1999/2000 baseline figure of 297 reported.



### PIAC's ACTION PLAN

HSE research in 2000 found that many machinery related accidents occur during the setting up or cleaning down of printing presses or print finishing machinery.

PIAC has already published extensive guidance on these issues in Chapter 5 of HSE's 'Printers Guide to Health and Safety - 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition'. A number of free HSE Information Sheets also summarise the main machinery safety related issues. PIAC members continue to promote this guidance (which is now also available via the new HSE Printing Web Site and the new PIAC Health and Safety Pack for Printers and Newspaper Publishers).

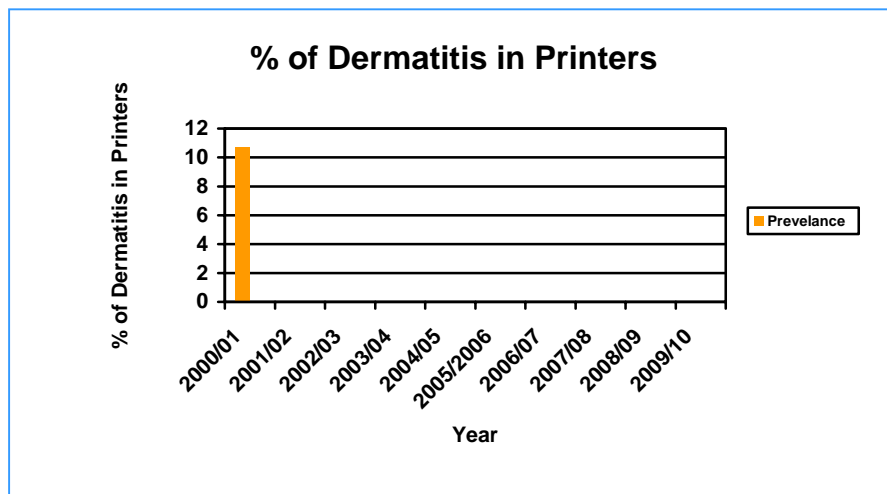
PIAC members also continue to engage in the development of European Standard prEN1010 which sets initial integrity standards for new printing and print finishing machinery.

# 1. INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

## 1.4 Dermatitis Amongst Printers

A HSE commissioned research study in the Midlands region by IEH (Livesley et al) in 2000/2001<sup>2</sup> found that of 1189 printers, 490 (41%) self reported that they had suffered a skin complaint at some time and 127 (10.7%) self reported that they had a current skin problem. A sample of 45 case subjects with self reported current skin problems were seen at skin clinics. Of these, 26 (58%) were diagnosed with a skin complaint that was thought to be work related.

There are no available interim figures for 2001 through to 2004 but see action plan below.



### PIAC's ACTION PLAN

HSC's target is to achieve a 20% incident rate reduction of cases of work related ill health by 2010.

HSE have approached IEH with a view to establishing a baseline incident rate. Further research will also be commissioned to monitor the incidence rate of work related dermatitis in printers each year between 2005/06 and 2009/10.

PIAC are currently in the process of revising the COSHH Essentials guidance for printers, to improve and simplify the messages on reducing chemical exposure from both the dermal and inhalation routes. (See Section 6).

<sup>2</sup> The prevalence of occupational dermatitis amongst printers in the Midlands. HSE contract research report 307/2000.

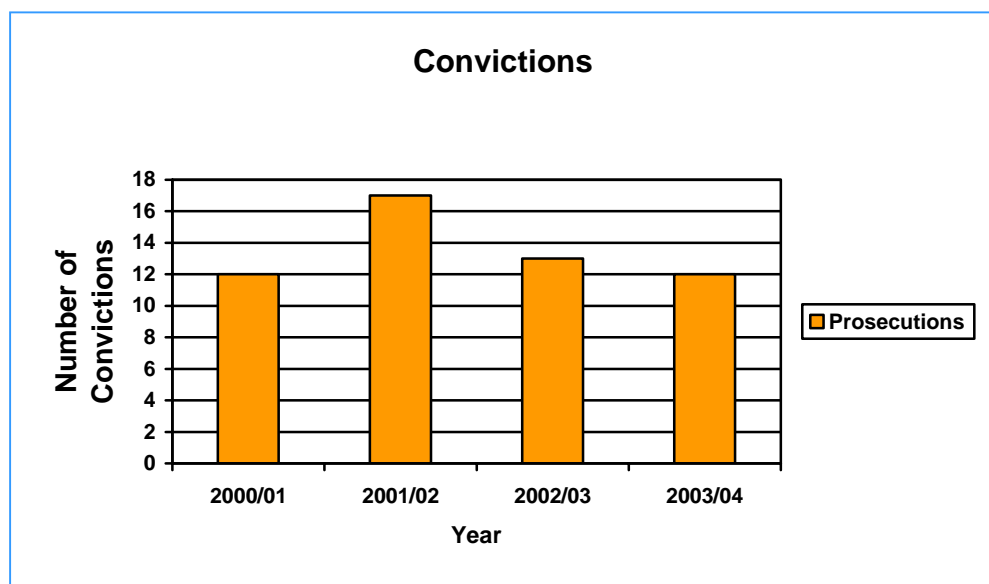
## 2 HSE ACTIVITY

### 2.1 Contact with the Printing and Publishing Industry

In 2003/2004 HSE made over 2200 contacts with printing and publishing companies. These included: routine inspections; accident investigations; complaints; enforcement; advice and education.

### 2.2 Prosecutions

In 2003/2004 there were 12 successful convictions taken by HSE in the printing and publishing industries.



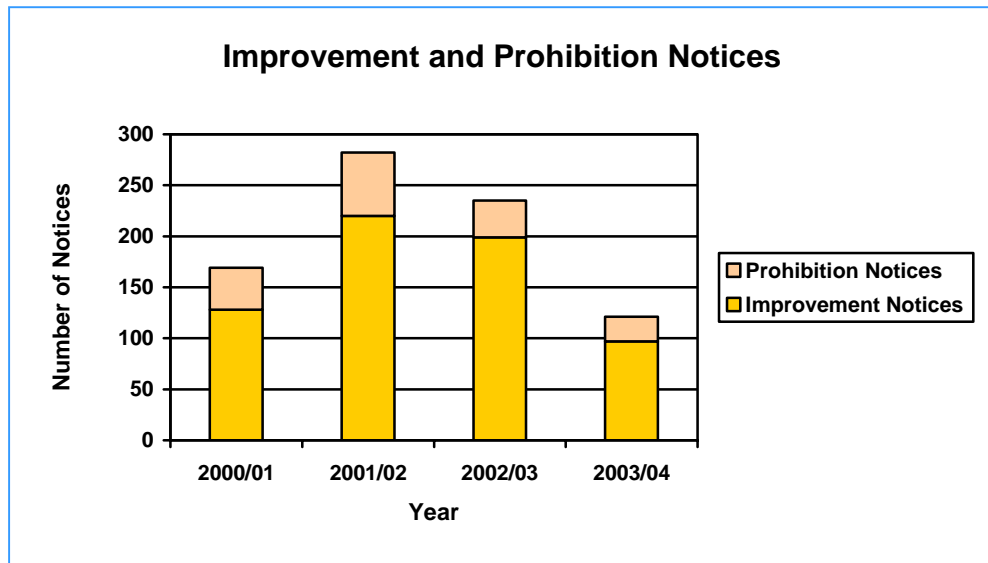
No targets are set for the number of prosecutions.

Most cases typically arose following an investigation into a machinery related accident.

## 2. HSE ACTIVITY

### 2.3 Improvement and Prohibition Notices

In 2003/2004 there were 97 Improvement Notices issued and 24 Prohibition Notices issued in the printing and publishing industries.



No targets are set for the number of notices issued.

The notices cover a wide spectrum of health and safety topics. The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) account for about 40% of all notices issued. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) about 25%, and The Manual Handling Regulations about 4%.

### **3. HSE PRINTING WEB SITE**

#### **3.1 Introducing the New Printing Web Site**

The new look HSE Printing Web Site <http://www.hse.gov.uk/printing> was launched on 1 August 2004.

The web site supports the PIAC strategy by targeting manual handling, slips and trips and contact with machinery, which together account for 75% of all reported accidents.

The web site also addresses dermatitis amongst printers and promotes the eCOSHH Essentials guidance for printers.

The web site aims to increase the awareness of the main causes of accidents and ill health in printers and to improve access to health and safety information relevant to printers.

#### **3.2 Marketing of the Web Site**

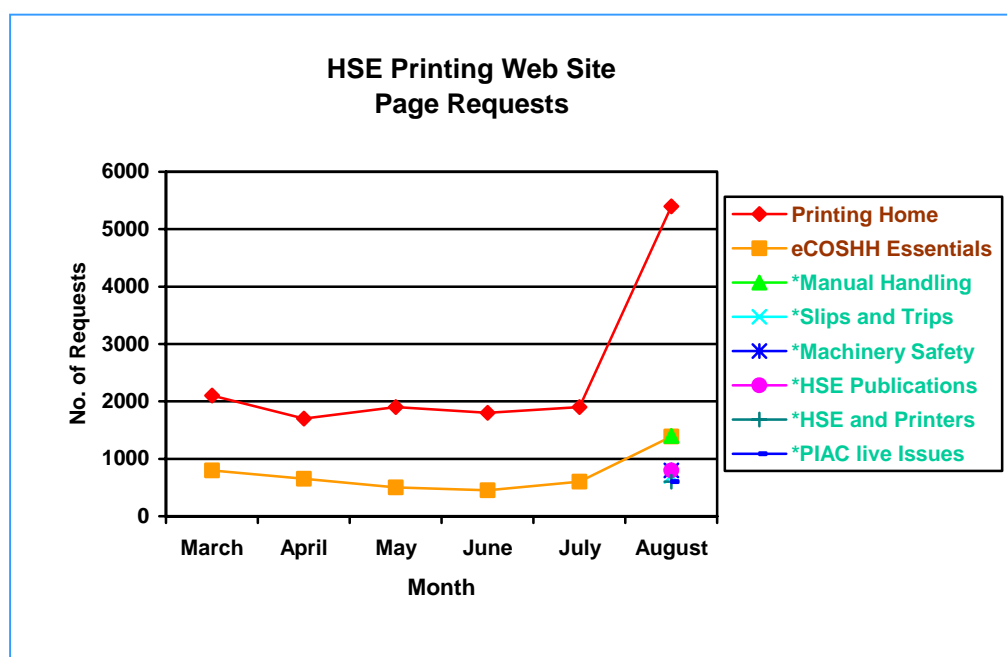
The new web site has been actively marketed in a number of ways:

- Advertised on HSE's Home Web Page with a link to the Printing Web Pages.
- GPMU circulated details of the new web site to every branch and from here to over 5000 companies and GPMU Safety Representatives.
- British Printing Industry Federation's circulated details of the new web site to over 2300 member companies.
- The Scottish Printing Industry Federation circulated details about the new web site to 120 Scottish Printers.
- The Newspaper Society has promoted the web site in its Newsletter to over 200 Chief Executives, and alerted an additional 200 health and safety practitioners.
- Field Group are producing their own intranet version so that all their employees can access the information.

### 3. HSE PRINTING WEB SITE

#### 3.3 Trend in Number of Page Requests

The new look HSE printing web site had 11,600 page requests in its first month following its launch on the 1 August 2004. This represents an overall **increase of over 425%** when compared to the baseline figure of 2,200 page requests per month the old printing web site was typically achieving prior to 1 August 2004.



Existing Web Pages      \* New Web Pages

#### 3.4 Feedback on the New Web Site

- Congratulations on an excellent web site with a lot of useful information. (Scottish Printing Employers Federation).
- Congratulations on getting this printing website together. (GPMU).
- This web site is good news and another positive step forward. (Newspaper Society).
- I like the new printing web site. It's concise, well organised and looks good. Well done. (HSE DIAS).

## **4. PIAC HEALTH AND SAFETY PACK**

### **4.1 Introducing the Health and Safety Pack**

PIAC has produced a new health and safety pack for printers and publishers that targets manual handling, slips and trips, machinery safety and dermatitis. Over the next 2 years, PIAC Members will be presenting 4000 of these packs directly to printers and newspaper publishers.

### **4.2 Marketing of the Packs**

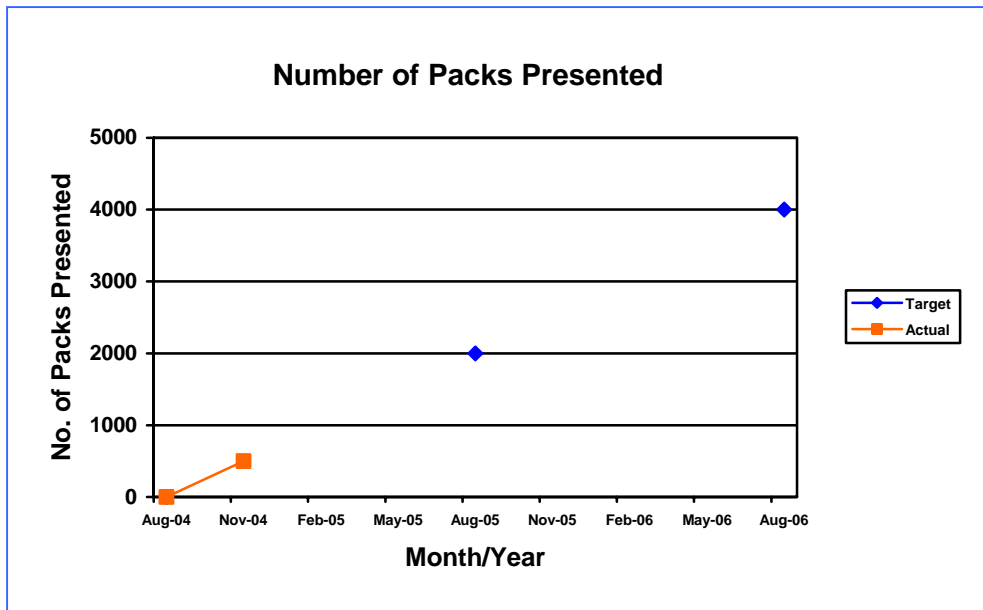
The new packs are being marketed by PIAC Members to their own target audiences in a number of innovative ways. However in each case, face to face contact with the relevant company manager or managers, using a prepared script, is the preferred option.

- The British Printing Industry Federation's health and safety advisors are presenting the packs as part of their visits to companies to carry out their own Health and Safety 'healthchecks'. Following the 'healthcheck' each pack will be supplemented with individually tailored advice on areas where the 'healthcheck' indicates poor compliance with health and safety standards.
- The Newspaper Society (NS) and Newspaper Publishing Association are presenting packs during routine visits to newspaper publishers and printers respectively. The NS are also marketing the packs at seminars and conferences.
- GPMU is training 20 of its full time officials (one from each region) on how to deliver the pack. Each official will then make visits to printers to present the packs to senior managers.
- Scottish Printing Industry Federation is presenting packs during routine visits to Scottish Printers.
- Field Group is presenting the packs to all relevant departmental managers. Each of Field Group's sites accident statistics will be considered and packs will be adapted accordingly to address the significant risks on each site.
- Polestar Group have distributed the packs to members of its Health and Safety Committees for consideration on each of its sites.
- PIAC's Annual Open Meeting in November 2004 at Bristol will give PIAC Members the collective opportunity to present the packs to 80 printing employers and trade union safety representatives.

#### 4. PIAC HEALTH AND SAFETY PACK

##### 4.3 Trend in the Number of Packs Presented

The target is to present 2000 packs over the first 12 months. With the remaining 2000 packs over the following 12 month period.



PIAC will monitor the number of packs presented over the next 2 years.

## **5. MANUAL HANDLING**

In 2002/2003 manual handling accounted for 34% of all reported accidents in printing and publishing.

### **5.1 Research into Manual Handling in Printers**

In 2002/2003, a HSE EMAS research project found that over half of the printers visited were unaware of manual handling issues; many of the printers lacked the resources to manage health and safety; only 25% of printers had done a manual handling risk assessment; there was some evidence of printers providing control measures for high risk manual handling activities but there was room for improvement.

A small HSE HSL project followed up the EMAS work by analysing the manual handling statistics for printers to gain a clearer picture of the common task environments associated with manual handling injuries.

### **5.2 Good Practice Manual Handling Solutions For Printers**

From the above work, six areas were identified so that a number of video based good practice manual handling solutions could be developed. The solutions build on the existing guidance that is already available in Chapter 4 of HSE's 'Printers Guide to Health and Safety 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition'.

The videos will assist printers, safety representatives, and HSE Inspectors etc, to identify manual handling solutions for some of the more common manual handling tasks that give rise to a risk of manual handling injuries in printers: The six videos will cover:

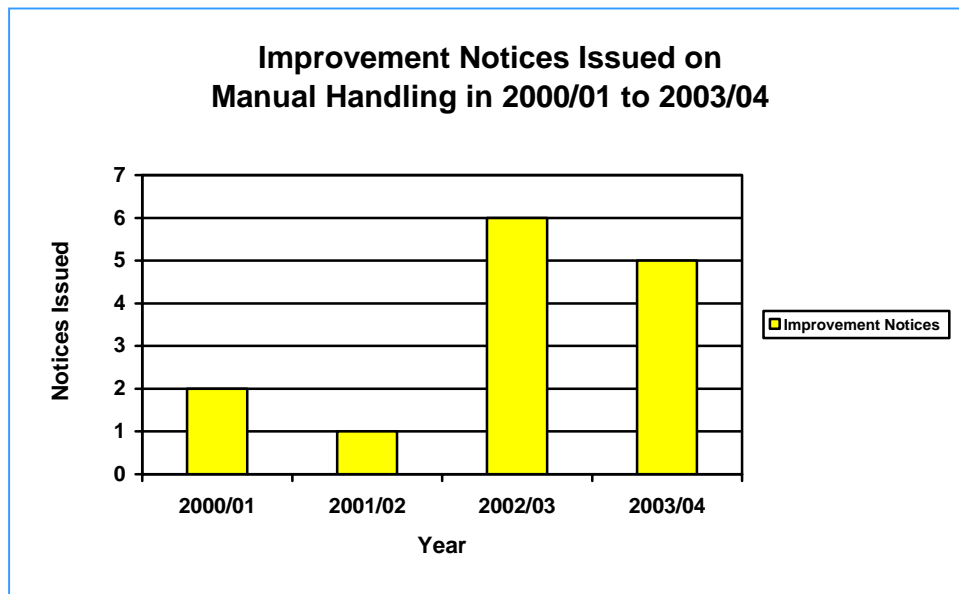
- Transporting and Loading of Reels
- Transporting and Loading of Sheets
- Loading and Unloading Print Finishing Equipment
- Pile Turning
- Knocking Up
- Use of Air Fed Systems

[It is anticipated that the videos will be freely available on the manual handling module of the HSE printing web site from April 2005.](#)

## 5 MANUAL HANDLING

### 5.3 Targeted Enforcement Initiative

Manual Handling represents the number one cause of reported accidents in printing and publishing, however enforcement in this area has traditionally been less than 4% of all enforcement notices issued.

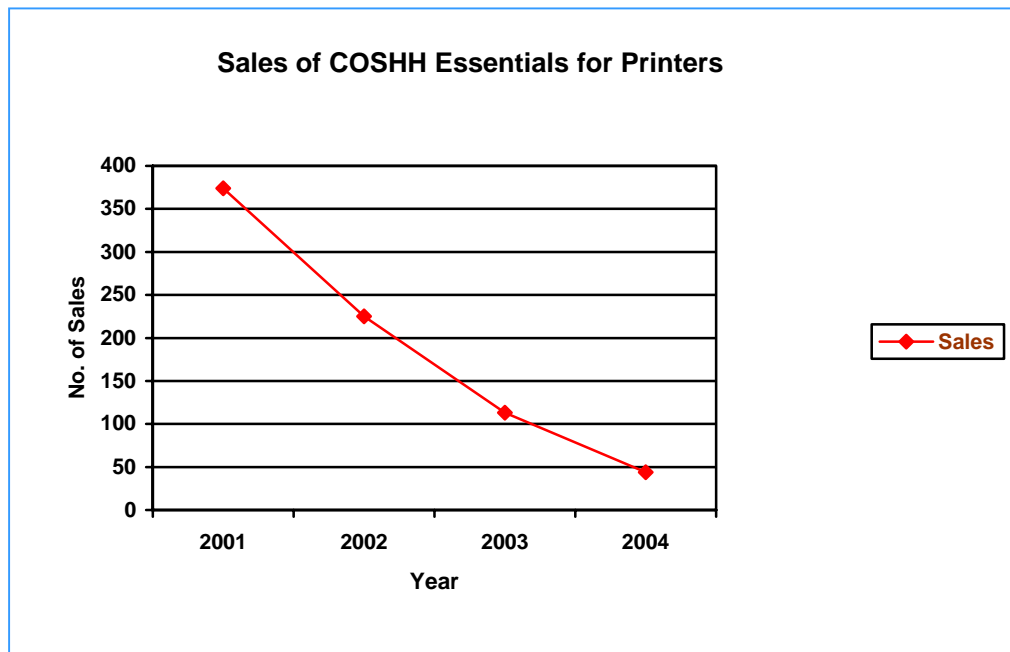


In 2005/2006 HSE EMAS Inspectors will be carrying out a targeted enforcement initiative specifically to inspect the standards of manual handling provision. Where standards are found to be below the legal minimum, enforcement action will be considered.

## 6. DERMATITIS AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

### 6.1 COSHH Essentials for Printers

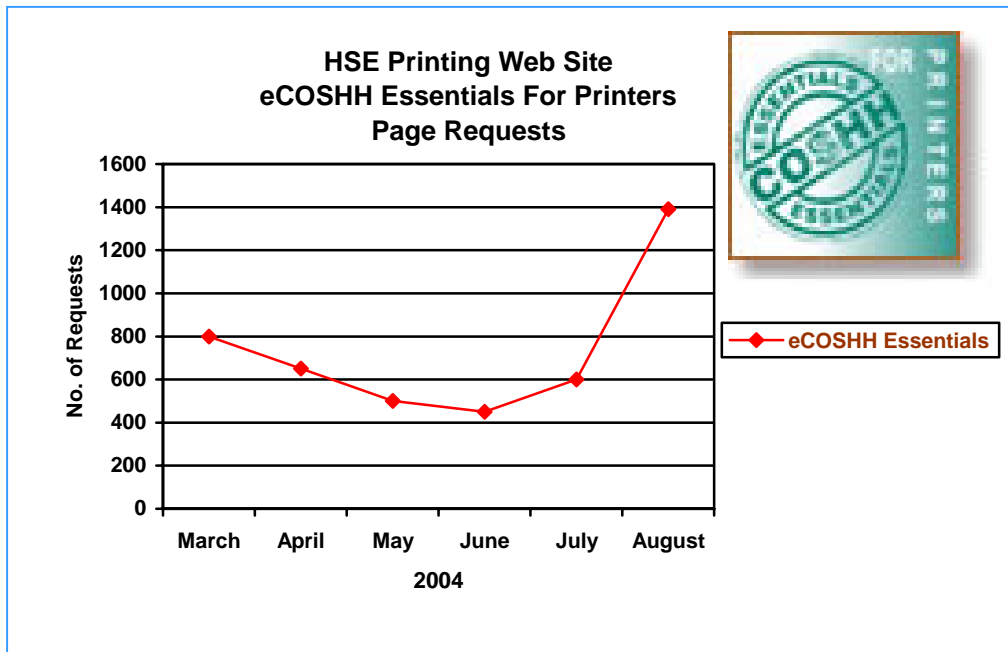
Sales of HSE priced publication 'COSHH Essentials for Printers' have been poor. PIAC therefore decided to put it on the HSE Printing website as 'eCOSHH Essentials for Printers' but to retain the availability of the hard copy publication at a special price of £8 whilst stocks last.



## 6 DERMATITIS AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

### 6.2 eCOSHH Essentials for Printers

The eCOSHH Essentials for Printers has been consistently receiving over 500 page requests per month, and increasing.



#### PIAC ACTION PLAN

PIAC are currently revising the eCOSHH Essentials Guidance for printers, to improve and simplify the messages on reducing chemical exposure from both the dermal and inhalation routes. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by the Autumn of 2005. The new material will be made easily accessible and freely available on HSE's Web Site.

Control guidance Sheets will be targeted at each sector of the industry:

Lithographic Printers	15 Sheets
Screen printers	8 Sheets
Gravure Printers	5 Sheets
Flexographic Printers	8 Sheets
Digital Printers	2 Sheets

## **6. DERMATITIS AND CHEMICAL EXPOSURE**

### **6.3 Research into Correct Glove Selection**

Selection of a suitable glove for any given task is an important control measure if we are to protect employees from chemical exposure.

- At present, we have limited information about which gloves will be effective against the typical inks and wash up solutions commonly used in printers.

HSE's Health and Safety Laboratory are currently conducting both laboratory and field trials on gloves and common wash ups to:

- Establish evidenced based advice for the selection of gloves.
- To provide the results in a succinct way that will make them readily transferable to the eCOSHH Essentials for printers Control Guidance Sheets.

### **6.4 Research into the Use of Vegetable Based Cleaning Agents**

In 2003/2004, PIAC linked up with Defra to commission research into the evaluation of vegetable based biosolvents for use as cleaning agents in the printing industry. The aim of the project was to establish the feasibility of using vegetable based cleaning agents as a substitute for traditional solvent based cleaning products.

The results of the study were mixed. The use of bio solvents on automatic blanket proved to be problematic, whereas the feasibility of using such bio solvents for manual cleaning looked more promising.

There is a possibility of further research in this area. This would need the co-operation and support of printing machine manufacturers, and suppliers of cleaning agents who would need to work closely with the research organisers to prepare a scope for the content of the research.

## **7. WORK RELATED UPPER LIMB DISORDERS**

There is a lack of information on the prevalence of Work Related Upper Limb Disorders in Printing, largely because of an absence of reports under RIDDOR. There is, however, anecdotal evidence which suggests there may be a problem in printing.

### **7.1 Intelligence Gathering**

In 2004/2005 HSE EMAS Inspectors will inspect 200 printers and gather information on Upper Limb Disorders.

The aim is to assess the extent of Work related Upper Limb Disorders and to achieve higher standards of control.

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