

Revitalising Health & Safety – The National Targets

20% reduction in rate of work related ill health (10% by 2004)

10% reduction in rate of fatalities and major injuries (5% by 2004)

30% reduction in rate of working days lost (15% by 2004)

‘Revitalising Health & Safety’ (RHS) - is a 10-year strategy to improve health and safety at work, launched jointly by the Government and Health and Safety Commission on 7 June 2000.

The targets are for the health and safety system as a whole, not just for HSC or HSE. Everyone engaged in work, be they trade associations, employers, trades unions and workers need to think what they can do to deliver them.



The British Precast Health and Safety Committee are active in promoting best practice and improvement throughout the Industry. Free exchange of experience and ideas are a fundamental principle of the committee and a continuing strong association with the Health and Safety Executive helps to support the committee’s activities.

Concrete Targets Scheme

The ‘Concrete Targets’ scheme for accident reduction, (launched in 2001 in response to the Government’s ‘Revitalising Health and Safety’ initiative) continues to be actively promoted with our annual Awards.

The scheme is highly regarded by the HSE as a benchmark programme and has been featured at HSE conferences where it’s success has been recognised. The current phase of the scheme is in it’s final year and a working group is already developing the next phase

British Precast statistics record a significant improvement over the first four years of their Concrete Targets scheme, 2005 being the final year.

- Between 2000 and 2004 reportable accidents fell from 39 to 21 per 1,000 employees per annum. A reduction of 45%.
- Days lost due to reportable accidents fell from 0.74 to 0.41 days per employee per annum. Also a fall of 45% per annum over the same period.

This is encouraging evidence as to what a sustained targeted programme in an industry can deliver.

“Precast: adj : A concrete unit, structure or member that is cast and cured at a factory and then transported to a work site for erection”



Current Activities

The **British Precast Health and Safety Committee** - Amongst the many and varied contributions to improving health and safety performance of the industry, the past year has seen the committee active in introducing, promoting and maintaining progress in the following activities and initiatives:

- Regular 'Safety Alerts' have been introduced and are circulated to all Member companies to encourage and promote the sharing of experiences throughout the industry;
- Strong links have been maintained with Proskills and other similar bodies to help promote the safe use of all building materials and to ensure good practice in training and health and safety are observed;
- Automatic machine laying of paving and kerbs is now growing fast to address manual handling issues;
- All British Precast Full Members are encouraged to support the valuable work of the committee and to send along representatives to the regular meetings. Non-participating observers are also welcome at meetings;
- Special working groups, supported by the HSE, continue to be active on a range of special projects, including in the last year; a project commissioned on the securing and covering of loads;
- The Precast Flooring Federation (PFF) Health and Safety Committee published a data sheet of recommendations for the installation of concrete floors on lightweight blockwork; and
- A new code of practice for the training of workers in the Pre stressed concrete industry is to be published imminently.

The committee also met recently and, in addition to many other subjects, noted their support and awareness of HSE's 2005 initiative entitled 'BACKS!' which aims to reduce the incidence of back injuries caused or made worse by work.

Since the introduction of the Concrete Targets Scheme initiatives covering slips, trips and falls, working at heights, noise, vibration, manual handling, machinery guarding and workplace transport have been introduced.



"A combined reduction of 45% in accident and lost time in four years to 2004 is a worthy achievement"

***Lord Hunt of Kings Heath -
Parliamentary Under Secretary
responsible for health and safety***

Next Steps

A new five year scheme will be launched in December 2005 and will aim to reduce accidents further and improve on the already significant advances made within the precast sector.