

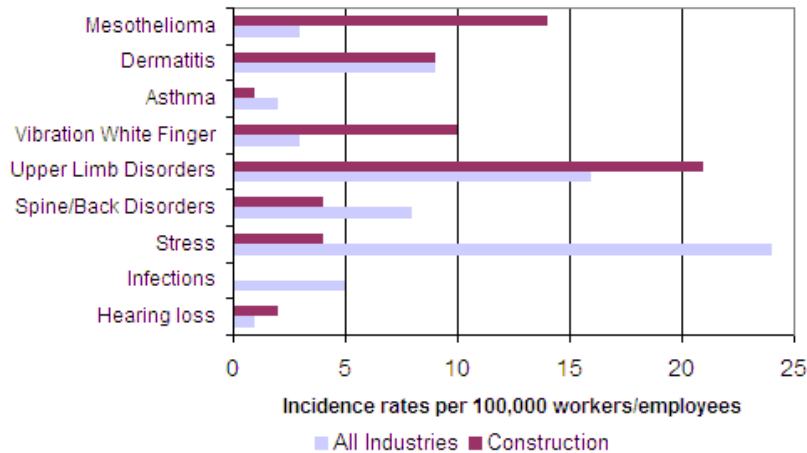
HSE Construction Division Scotland
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SCOTTISH CONSTRUCTION INFONET - ISSUE 3
NEWS AND INITIATIVES

Construction industry health priorities

In 2004/05, the construction sector carried a prevalence rate of [work related illness](#) similar to the average for all industries. Musculoskeletal conditions, the effects of noise and vibration and asbestos related diseases are the dominant workrelated health conditions in construction. The incidence of stress is substantially lower than the all industry average. A new entry on the HSE website explains the wider HSE health agenda and what it means for the way HSE goes about its work. See [HSE Health Agenda](#).

Annual average incidence rates of occupational diseases seen by disease specialist doctors in the THOR surveillance schemes; 2002-2004



- *Asbestos in buildings*

We are working to secure a significant improvement in the control of exposure to asbestos. The licensing and monitoring of removal work by [licensed asbestos removal contractors](#) is an important part of this work. In addition, [building maintenance, repair and refurbishment](#) is an area where greater awareness and control of asbestos is required.

A Scottish Asbestos Awareness Seminar took place in Airdrie in December 2005. The event was organised by HSE in partnership with trade associations ACAD, ARCA & NFDC and was attended by 81 representatives of licensed asbestos contractors either based or operating in Scotland. The main issues covered were planning and supervision of work.

- *Occupational health management*

This involves promoting the management of risk rather than symptoms. The HSE Construction Sector has produced a draft Occupational Health Management Model (OHMM) for the construction industry that is being trialled by a number of Construction companies including many in Scotland.

- *Supply chain initiatives*

Work is taking place throughout the supply chain regarding [handling kerbs](#), and pannelled products. Similar work is also underway in respect of [HAVS](#) and [noise](#) to eliminate and reduce health risks with cost-effective solutions.

Some of the practical aspects of this agenda were included in the Construction *Healthy Handling* Initiative during 2005. See [Healthy Handling](#)

Forthcoming events

- **21st March 2006, Scaffolding SHAD, Discovery Point, Dundee.** HSE, Dundee City Council and the National Construction College are organising an awareness day aimed specifically at local scaffold companies and companies employing scaffolders. Topics covered will include the Work at Height Regs, training and competency, scaffold design and public safety. There will also be practical sessions on scaffold tying and fault identification. Contact Ritchie McCrae (0131-2472111) or Ali Milne (01382-434878) for further details.

The event will be similar to an earlier event organised in conjunction with City of Edinburgh Council in June 2005 following two high profile scaffold collapses in early 2005. Delegates indicated that the major issues arising were the need for scaffold design, and the training and competence of those erecting and inspecting scaffolding. These issues will be addressed more specifically at the Dundee SHAD.

Following on from the Edinburgh SHAD, in an attempt to verify the take up of the advice given, an inspection initiative took place across central Edinburgh in November 2005. While tying of scaffolds to the adjacent structure was found to be adequate, the other major issues from the SHAD had not been addressed. Further action including head office visits is being considered. Follow up action is anticipated after the Dundee SHAD. Similar initiatives are being considered in other parts of Scotland.

- **15th March 2006, Working Well Together SHAD, Gordon Barracks, Aberdeen.** This event, similar to several others held across Scotland over the last few years gives practical advice to delegates and covers the following topics: Electricity, Mechanical Handling, Noise & Vibration, Planning & Risk Assessments, Site Transport, The Human costs of accidents and Work at Height. Contact Ritchie McCrae (0131-2472111) for further details.

- **28th March 2006, Working Well Together SHAD, Lewis Castle College, Stornoway.** Practical demonstrations will cover: Noise & Vibration, Mechanical Handling, Welfare and Work at Height. Contact Irene Ward (0141-2753109) for further details.

Thank you for your interest.

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February 2006