

## **Work on Vulnerable workers in Construction**

The Construction Division are addressing concerns over Migrant /Vulnerable by a number of existing and planned work activities. Coordination and strategic oversight will be given by a CONIAC working group.

Of note are the following activities:

- The HSE offers a telephone translation service through Info line, the HSE public enquiry service, to workers in over 100 languages. In addition to this the HSE website offers online multilingual guidance to workers in eight most common languages, including Bengali, Chinese, Urdu and Polish.
- HSE Inspectors visiting workplaces have access to a Language Line provided by HSE. This enables on the spot translation of conversation with non-English speaking workers using a mobile phone.
- The HSE publishes jointly with the Trades Union Congress a basic guidance leaflet, "Your health, your safety: A guide for workers". This sets out workers rights, what workers should expect from their employers, and where to go for help. This leaflet is freely available online in 25 languages.
- Free online publications in a range of languages are also available for download from the HSE website; the numbers which have been translated vary according to demand in the various languages. In Polish for example, 15 leaflets on a variety of health and safety topics are available to download, in addition an awareness day for Polish workers has been held together with articles for publication on construction safety in Polish speaking newspapers.
- The Division is currently supporting the development of key construction guidance in partnership with the Romanian Embassy together with a planned awareness day for Romanian workers.
- A range of short videos featuring NAPO, a non speaking cartoon character are available for purchase from HSE books on DVD. These are designed to be language free, and to supplement health and safety training.

### **Role of Stakeholders**

- Construction Skills, the Sector Skills Council for construction, has developed web-based materials to support the effective integration of migrant workers into UK construction. It provides UK construction employers with information and support tools to help ensure that any migrants they employ are properly qualified, competent and safe.

- The Construction Skills Health and Safety Test, which has now been taken by over a million workers in construction, is an independent computer based multiple choice tests which can be taken at driving test and mobile centres throughout the UK. This test is available with voice overs in a range of foreign languages.
- Proposed research by Construction Skills on critical H and S knowledge for low and non English speaking workers. This is a major research project in which HSE will be working in collaboration with Construction Skills
- A Research project by the Institution of Civil Engineers to address Health Safety and Welfare of Migrant Construction Workers in the South East has been carried out. The ICE has formed a working party to take forward the findings of the Loughborough. They are working with CD and a representative from this group will be invited to sit on the CONIAC vulnerable worker group
- Contact has been made with the Polish Labour Inspectorate to explore the development of training, guidance and web information.

Examples of initiatives undertaken to meet the needs of migrant workers in construction include

- The publication of a DVD by the Construction Confederation with the Major Contractors Group which contains a general health and safety briefing lasting 15 minutes, in ten different languages, including Polish, Russian and Punjabi.
- The Engineering Construction Industry Association, which covers employers in sectors such as power station construction and petrochemical facilities, has opted by contrast to produce a series of pocket guides, for distribution to individuals. These guides are available in Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and German.