

Construction Programme 2007/08: A summary of the results from the falls and trips inspection initiative 2007

1. During June / July 2007, inspectors from HSE's Construction Division took part in an initiative across the UK, targeting the refurbishment sector. The primary goal of sending a strong message to the industry, particularly those involved in the refurbishment sectors, that poor standards in relation to good order and work at height were unacceptable.

2. The aims of the Initiative were to:

- Achieve an improvement in industry standards
- Increase awareness of CD's expectations of the industry
- Demonstrate that CD is prepared to use the enforcement tools at its disposal
- Gain information on good practice.

3. Results:

No. of Sites Inspected	No. of Contractors Inspected	Total No. of Notices Served			
1295	1586	426			
WAH No. of PNs	WAH No. of INs	Good Order No. of PNs	Good Order No. of INs	No. of all Other Notices	No. of Likely prosecutions
220	26	24	13	143	15

(WAH = Work at height, GO = Good order, PN= Prohibition notice, IN = Improvement Notice)

4. The initial target for the Initiative was for 1,000 inspections to be undertaken. The actual output, at 1,586 inspections, significantly exceeded this target.

3. The inspections identified significant amounts of poor practice in all areas of the UK. Averaged across all the sites visited, one in three sites, and one in four contractors, were considered to be working far below the acceptable standard.

4. In 15 cases, inspectors believed the situation on site to be so poor that they commenced investigations currently thought likely to result in a prosecution.

5. Two hundred and twenty PNs were served in relation to WAH related issues alone. One in six of the sites demonstrated significant failings in this area requiring service of an immediate PN.

6. The Construction Division is planning to undertake another falls and trips initiative in early 2008. It is expected that this will involve a further 400 to 500 inspection contacts in the refurbishment sector.