

<b>Health and Safety Executive Board Paper</b>		<b>HSE/06/05</b>	
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## **HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE**

### **The HSE Board**

#### **An update on Sensible Risk Management and Next Steps**

#### **A Paper by**

**Peter Buckley and Tony Bandle**

**Advisor(s):  
Tony Bandle**

**Cleared by Jonathan Rees  
on 24 January 2006**

#### **Issue**

1. Sensible risk management as a key deliverable of the HSC Strategy.

#### **Timing**

2. On-going over the next 6 months.

#### **Recommendation**

3. That Board members note the progress made, planned next steps and continue their support for and promotion of the 'campaign' as appropriate within HSE, with our LA and Regional partners, and with key external players. Comments, suggestions and requests for back up are welcome at all times and in the first instance should be made to Tony Bandle (x6625) or Steve Pointer (x6422), Strategy Division.

#### **Background**

4. The Sensible Risk Management (SRM) campaign has its origins in the HSC Strategy, themes 2 & 4 in particular. In response to a level of media stories of excessive risk aversion and bureaucracy that were felt to be damaging both to the reputation and the effectiveness of the health and safety system, the initial phase of the SRM campaign centred around communication.

5. HSC/E started work to tackle the issue late in '04; a speech by the PM in May '05 and the publication of the Compensation Bill upped the stakes considerably. We have developed good understanding with OGDs, particularly DCA (Lord Falconer trailed the Compensation Bill on an HSC/E platform). Lord Hunt is a leading light in the Ministerial Steering Group on Compensation, which we are very active in supporting.
6. More recently, HSE's Risk Group has endorsed a broader campaign that recognises that we have to produce some hard products in addition to the key communication messages, if SRM is to be taken seriously. The lead for this has passed to Strategy Division but still working closely with Directorate of Communications.
7. HSE's Risk Group comprises Jonathan Rees, Giles Denham, Colin Douglas, Paul Davies, Kevin Myers, Phil Scott, Vic Coleman, Peter Buckley and Tony Bandle with external challenge being available from Nick Starling (ABI), Lawrence Waterman (IOSH), Paul Lancaster (Stratford DC) and Peter Gilroy (Kent DC). The secretariat is provided by SD (Steve Pointer).
8. A detailed action plan exists for the SRM campaign with the success criteria. Key deliverables are the Principles of Sensible Risk Management and a revision of critical HSE guidance on risk assessment/risk management with an emphasis on SMEs.
9. The HSE agreed set of Principles as illustrated by examples, is at Annex 1. Next steps are to share these and develop them on with a range of key players from fellow Regulators, Commissioners, OGDs, LAs through to Insurance industry and legal interests, and professional risk management and practitioner bodies.
10. In parallel, a replacement for the current '5 – steps to risk assessment' is being developed with SME input and market testing, the revision of 'Essentials of health and safety' is being aligned with the 5-steps development and at least one existing piece of guidance 'A guide to risk assessment requirements' has been earmarked for scrapping.
11. The current plan is for both the refined Principles and the '5-steps' successor to be launched April/May 2006. There is interest from No.10 in a possible joint launch.
12. There are/have been a number of other developments with which the SRM campaign has significant interdependencies;
  - The on-going DCA co-ordinated Compensation and Risk initiative;
  - HSE written and oral evidence to the HoC Constitutional Affairs Select Committee Inquiry into the "compensation culture" (Jonathan Rees and Colin Douglas represented HSE, key messages separately circulated);
  - HSC&E written and oral evidence to the HoL Economic Affairs Select Committee Inquiry into "Government handling of risk" (Bill Callaghan and Geoffrey Podger represented HSC/E, key messages separately circulated);
  - Hampton implementation and particularly, the simplification plan. The Better Regulation Commission is also doing a study on risk and regulation;
  - Public safety;
  - The DWP Health, work and well-being agenda, HSC/E's occupational health priorities and particularly roll out of Workplace Health Connect;
  - The Worker and Business Involvement Programmes, including initiatives for small businesses;
  - Operational policy initiatives to do with the interventions strategy and streamlining guidance;
  - Home Office work with Volunteering England and DfE with outdoor activity providers.
13. An internal communications campaign is currently in preparation which will be delivered in Feb/March.

## **Argument**

14. The rationale for undertaking a focussed sensible risk management campaign is still with us and since its inception, a number of other key deliverables now rely in part on its outputs and impact. In order to maintain the good will, profile, positive reputation and momentum established (as above), the campaign needs the continued active engagement and commitment of Board members.
15. The current plan runs through to May. During April, if not sooner, the Risk Group will consider progress and any further phase(s) of the work needed to embed SRM within and outside HSE.

## **Consultation**

16. There has been wide consultation across HSE in the development of the external communication messages, Principles, '5-steps' review, Select Committee Inquiry briefing preparations and SRM campaign plan.

## **Presentation**

17. Built into external and internal communication plans.

## **Costs and Benefits**

18. The SRM campaign has been designed to support other programmes and initiatives and does not therefore add significantly to the costs on industry or stakeholders. Benefits are difficult to quantify but in as much as the campaign should feed through to more proportionate and effective risk management, a reduction in bureaucracy and less excessive risk aversion, the dividends are potentially substantial.

## **Financial/Resource Implications for HSE**

19. None

## **Environmental Implications**

20. None

## **Other Implications**

21. None

## **Action**

22. The Board is asked to note the state of play and 'next stage' plans and to continue to support and promote sensible risk management as a philosophy and a practice.