

Health and Safety Executive Board		Paper No: HSE/08/88	
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<b>HSE Manufacturing Sector's targeted initiative for the Waste and Recycling Industry.</b>			

### Purpose of this paper

1. This paper informs the Board of the proposed second phase of the targeted initiative for the Waste and Recycling industry (2009/10 to 2012/13), and seeks Board endorsement of the proposed initiative.

### Background

2. HSE Board paper HSE/08/04 gave an update on the 3-year programme of work (2005/6 – 2007/8) developed for the waste and recycling industry by HSE's Manufacturing Sector team. The programme was successful in achieving its target of arresting the increase in the rate of accidents, and helped to bring about a 3% reduction in those accident rates.

3. However, the industry's accident rates are still very high in comparison with other sectors. The 2007/08(p) statistics recently published show the waste and recycling industries with a fatal and major incidence rate of 459 per 100,000, compared with construction's rate of 307, for instance. Furthermore, the number of workers in the industry (currently approximately 170,000) continues to increase as more pressure is exerted on producers and consumers to recycle and re-use.

### Argument

4 In response, the Manufacturing Sector team has stimulated a range of activities within the industry, and helped to create a broadly-based stakeholder network capable of demonstrating leadership and setting standards. The Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) Forum – which includes a range of representative organisations from the public and private sector, professional bodies, Trade Unions, other Policy and Regulators (Environment Agency, Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Assembly), has produced industry guidance, and member organisations are currently engaged in setting accident reduction targets for themselves individually, and for the industry as a whole. The Environmental Services Association, which represents private sector waste management companies, has committed its members to an Accident Reduction Charter which aims for an annual 10% reduction in accidents for each of the next 5 years.

5. For the industry as a whole, WISH has set the challenging target of reducing the RIDDOR incidence rate by 10% per annum (adopting the incidence rate in 2005/6 as its base year). HSE's Manufacturing Sector has been a partner in discussions and feels that the targets are valid. This is partly because the approach is based on complementary targets set by the main players, and partly because it is widely felt that the underpinning guidance, tools and knowledge already exists to enable further improvement. In essence, the second phase of this targeted intervention relates to getting the recognised standards adopted and implemented.

6. Crucial to the overall approach underpinning this HSE targeted initiative is the objective that occupational health and safety becomes an integral part of the specification, procurement and management of municipal waste/ recycling contracts. This is consistent with HSE's line and approach in other areas – for example construction procurement and the procurement of social care services by commercial providers. The Manufacturing Sector is in close consultation with the Public Services Sector to advance this shared agenda with Local Authorities, and this is a major part of HSE's contribution to realising the WISH targets.

7. Other HSE activity to support this targeted initiative include: communications activity (a budget for this has already been agreed with the Communications Directorate); FOD inspections of accident "hot spot" activities (eg skip hire businesses and waste collections in pedestrianised shopping areas) in the earlier years of the programme, and of municipal contract procurement and management in later years, and FOD resourcing of national Lead-Inspector arrangements with the leading private sector contractors throughout; and monitoring, prompting, research and analysis provided by the Manufacturing Sector.

### **Consultation**

8. Interested parts of HSE have been consulted on this paper, and have confirmed their support for the proposed targeted initiative. These include the Public Services Sector, FOD and the Communications Directorate. The WISH Forum has also been consulted in the development of the underpinning ideas. Further consultation will be needed across HSE and with LAs as the detail of the future programme of work is developed.

### **Presentation**

9. Waste collection services are frequently the subject of local and national political debate, with extensive coverage in the media. More specifically, guidance to Local Authorities on the procurement of services could have financial consequences, and lead to allegations of 'gold plating' in the current economic climate. HSE's activity in this area will need to be sensitive to these issues, and presented accordingly. Strong support, secured through the stakeholders on the WISH Forum, will be a considerable asset in this respect.

10. The TUC is currently pressing for a Ministerial Summit on the waste and recycling industry; Defra is the lead Government Department, HSE's intervention plan is independent of the Summit proposal, but would clearly form part of HSE's response if the proposed summit is held.

### **Costs and Benefits**

11. Failure to engage this growing industry on its health and safety performance could detract significantly from the progress made on injury rates during the Revitalising period, and prejudice the highly collaborative climate established with this industry to deliver improvements.

12. If the industry meet the ambitious target of a 10% per annum reduction in rates will mean the injury rate in 2012/13 will be 34% lower than that in 2005/6.

13. As the detailed programme of work for the next five years is developed the Economic Advisers Unit will be consulted about the need for an economic impact assessment.

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

14. The proposed programme of work will be supported by the Manufacturing Sector but there will be a need for cross-HSE resource for maximum impact. Contributions will be required from the Public Services Sector, Communications Directorate, Field Operations Directorate, CSAG and specialists. The estimated total costs (staff and cash) for the period 2009/10 to 2012/13 is in the region of £8.5m. A more detailed breakdown of these costs is provided in Annex 1.

### **Monitoring progress**

15. Progress will be monitored through accident incidence rates and the achievement of key milestone events. This will allow overall performance to be tracked against the targets.

### **Other Implications**

16. The success of interventions such as this requires HSE to establish and maintain close working relationships with a range of public, private and community organisations, and other government departments, represented in the WISH Forum. It also requires the sustained commitment of HSE resources throughout the duration of the programme.

### **Action / Next Steps**

17. If the Board is content with the proposed targeted initiative and the associated resource implications the Manufacturing Sector will finalise the arrangements and draw up detailed implementation plans for the programme of work.

### **Paper Clearance**

18. This paper was produced by Paul Harvey, Geoff Cox and Marcia Davies, and was cleared by the SMT by correspondence in December 2008.

Estimated Resource Requirements for the period 2009/10 to 2012/13<sup>1</sup>

Category	Budget Holder	Description	2009/10 £k	2010/11 £k	2011/12 £k	2012/13 £k	Total £k
Staff Costs	Policy Group – Manufacturing Sector	1x Band 2, 1.25x Band 3 and 0.5x Band 5 each year	213	213	213	213	852
	Public Services Sector	No staff cost allocated as already included in the PSP budget					
	Field Operations Dir	11, 20, 17.5 and 17.5 Band 3/4 staff years respectively.	790	1,436	1,255	1,255	4,736
	Field Operations Dir	Managerial and Admin support at Bands 1, 2 and 5/6.	208	369	331	331	1,239
T & S	Field Operations Dir	Travel and subsistence <sup>2</sup>	44	80	70	70	264
Comms	Comms Directorate	Staff costs, research and delivery.	300	300	300	300	1,200 <sup>3</sup>
Research	Policy Group	Research	100		90		190 <sup>4</sup>
Monitoring	Policy group		12	13	12	13	50 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Total Costs</b>			<b>1,667</b>	<b>2,411</b>	<b>2,271</b>	<b>2182</b>	<b>8,531</b>

<sup>1</sup> At 2008/9 prices (i.e. do not account for inflation)

<sup>2</sup> Assume T&S at £4000/yr for FOD B2/3 inspector

<sup>3</sup> Communications Directorate are working to finalise the delivery plan for this work. The spend has been allocated on a pro-rata basis but it is unlikely this profile will be followed.

<sup>4</sup> Research: timing of research projects is approximate and may be affected by progress of other work.

<sup>5</sup> Monitoring: it is recognised that the programme requires monitoring and review. Optimal timing and the form of the monitoring will be decided at a later date, as an interim a pro-rata spread has been applied.