

HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE			
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)			
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Cleared by:	Philip White, Chair of CONIAC, on 20 February 2012		

Update on Construction Division Plan of Work for 2012/13

Summary

The Construction Division is entering the second year of its current three year plan and this paper updates CONIAC on workplan details for 2012/13.

Issue

1. HSE's Construction Division developed a 3 year Plan of Work that commenced in 2011-12. With the second year of that plan approaching, this paper reminds CONIAC of the original plan, the background to it and explains changes for 2012/13.

Timing

2. For consideration by CONIAC on 14 March 2012.

Background

3. The Construction Division adopted a three year plan starting in 2011-12. The rationale behind this was:
 - to provide continuity and a degree of certainty to both the industry and within HSE;
 - recognition that a longer term approach was needed to tackle issues and that 3 years was a minimum for this;
 - to concentrate effort on a few high risk sub-sectors and activities.
4. The Plan of Work is designed to deliver the Construction Sector Strategy which in-turn delivers the HSE Strategy in the construction industry. The HSE Board took a paper at its meeting on 25 January 2012 on the "Implementation of the Strategy for the Health and Safety of Great Britain 'Be Part of the Solution': Development of Sector Strategies", an extract from the paper which outlines a summary of the construction sector strategy is at Appendix 1. The construction sector strategy divides effort into three broad areas: Larger sites/contractors, smaller sites/contractors and work with asbestos. Construction Division's 3 year plan reflects this is and delivery is through a mix of activity including; Inspection, investigation and enforcement, advice, education and promotion, and central interventions (such as supply chain work). The 3 year plan was presented to CONIAC at its meeting in March 2011.

Current position

5. The 3 year operational plan allocates pro-active operational resource to 5 broad areas, these are:
 - Small Sites (30%) – implementing the Small Sites Strategy
 - Refurbishment (25%)
 - Asbestos (20%)
 - Major Projects/large dutyholder pilot (10%)
 - Local Priorities (15%)
6. Outturn of activity against the above categories has in fact proved to be different and for the first three quarters of 2011/12, operational teams had spent 43% of their proactive time on small sites. This in part reflects the fact that visits to small refurbishment sites are recorded against the 'small sites' category.
7. The Plan of Work also provides direction for other areas of work by operational teams as well as Sector/Policy teams and Specialist Inspectors. This work often supports, complements, and reinforces pro-active operational priorities. In 2011/12 the following has been delivered:
 - Simplification of the website (230 plus FAQs prepared)
 - Supported the delivery of over 50 WWT events
 - The creation of a new WWT group
 - Developed 'Understanding Occupational Health Provision in Construction'
 - Development and launch of the Leadership and Worker Involvement Toolkit
 - Contribution to the UKTFA Guidance on Timber Frame Separation Distances
 - Piloted strategic interventions at board level with larger contactors
 - Joint funded and managed research on competence
 - Worked directly with over 200 smaller regional contractors to improve their performance
 - Over 170 prosecutions taken through the courts
 - Delivered for a fifth year running a refurbishment initiative, carrying out over 2000 visits in a 4 week window.

Plan of Work for 2012-13

8. In meeting one of the original drivers for a three year strategy, that of continuity, wholesale changes to the overall Plan of Work for 2012-13 are not proposed. This has the unplanned benefit of providing continuity during the introduction of Cost Recovery which will necessitate some changes to internal operational procedures within the division.
9. The allocation of pro-active resource described in paragraph 5 will be maintained in 2012/13. Work will also continue through the revised Small Sites Strategy (see paragraph 11).

10. However, as well as continued delivery on existing elements, some new elements will be introduced and others will evolve, these include:
- Continuing to pilot board level engagement with large contactors.
 - Continuing the development of simplified, straightforward guidance, including new Busy Builder Sheets, a revision of HSG150 (Health and Safety in Construction) and HSG33 (Health and Safety in Roofwork), and a refresh of INDG 344 – Absolutely Essential Health and Safety Toolkit
 - Continuing to support and part fund WWT Groups to deliver at least 50 events during the year and create new groups when the opportunity arises
 - A further refurbishment inspectional initiative in Quarter 4 supplemented by 4 regional initiatives (subject matter and timing to be decided)
 - Continuing to inspect the erection and dismantling of temporary structures associated with the Olympics (cultural and sporting)
 - Continuing fit-for-purpose interventions with major projects
 - New work with materials supply organisations (and others) to identify channels through which guidance and key messages can be delivered to small sites
 - A new supply chain initiative with the lift installation and maintenance sector to identify causative factors in recent accidents and develop a plan for tackling issues identified
 - A mapping exercise of health and safety work taking place within the industry – to identify synergies and avoid duplication of effort
 - Better developed partnerships on health risk management
 - A review of the agreement between HSE and the Building Control Alliance
 - Intervention at the development of 40 timber frame structures where proximity is an issue to ensure that appropriate liaison is taking place and due regard is being paid to UKTFA guidance
 - Work with the retail sector on the management of asbestos risk during refurbishment work.

Small Sites Strategy

11. The revised Small Sites Strategy (Appendix 2) was outlined to CONIAC at its meeting in November 2011 and the approach endorsed. In summary the strategy is as follows:
- The target audience is sites run by smaller contractors with 15 or fewer workers on site
 - Focus on a few high risk issues
 - Develop clear, simple, straightforward guidance
 - Identify ways to effectively deliver that guidance
 - Support WWT to deliver free or low cost advice events

Presentation

12. No significant presentational issues – the continuation of the 3 year plan is consistent with previous thinking and decisions and there are no significant reasons to revisit either that thinking or those decisions.

Action

13. CONIAC is invited to:
 - Note the contents of this paper.

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Appendix 1

Extract from HSE Board Paper - Implementation of the Strategy for the Health and Safety of Great Britain 'Be Part of the Solution': Development of Sector Strategies",

<p>Construction <i>Large sites, Small sites, Asbestos</i></p>	<p>The construction strategy reflects the work in train developed via HSE's construction Programme Board and CONIAC.</p> <p>Smaller sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– The strategy takes a multi faceted approach that aims to increase the awareness of duty holders' health and safety obligations and for them to be competent to take positive, proportionate steps towards compliance.– To achieve this, the strategy aims to simplify guidance on duties and identify and use effective routes of influence.– Reactive and proactive enforcement to secure compliance & tackle rogue traders. <p>Larger sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– A diverse approach aligned to multiple objectives concerning health, supply chain integration, emerging technologies and risk communication.– The goals of leadership and competence are highlighted with the aim to ensure health and safety priorities and standards continue to be driven towards improvement.– The strategy also aims to increase individual and organisational competence to proactively manage health and safety risks.– Reactive investigations to attain immediate and sustained compliance with the law. <p>Asbestos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– The strategy reflects existing programmes that support the asbestos licensing regime and robust inspection of refurbishment work. They include partnership working to deliver training for asbestos awareness and a review and update of web and internal guidance.
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Appendix 2

DRAFT SMALL SITES STRATEGY

This strategy applies to small firms on small sites (those where fewer than fifteen people work). It applies to contractors but does not apply to those with other responsibilities eg. clients.

Our Goal is:

- To reduce the incidence of fatalities, injury and ill health arising from work on small construction sites (employing 15 or less). We will ensure basic minimum standards in respect of health, safety and welfare.

We will do this by:

- Delivering our messages focussed on specific topics. In 2012/13 we will focus on work at height, respiratory risks (inc' asbestos), good order and welfare, and competence. We will use the full range of intervention techniques to deliver our messages
- Improving existing links with stakeholders and developing new links to promote joined-up working to ensure those who come into contact with small sites deliver a coherent message
- Encouraging larger companies to influence small firms working as sub-contractors on larger sites and help and support small firms outside of their supply chain
- Ensuring that all our communications with small firms, whether verbal or written, are suitable for the 'small site' audience and we will produce clear, simple and practical information on how small sites can improve their health and safety performance.

The strategy applies nationally, and will be delivered through Construction Division's Plan of Work. It applies to our proactive work – the way we conduct our reactive work (investigations, etc.) will not change. There will be occasions when other topics are a priority for small sites work, but these will be kept to a minimum so as not to detract from our aim of delivering simple consistent messages.

During the development of the strategy we looked at the ways small sites work, the pressures on those who manage or control them and the factors which influence the managers and workforce. We found that people who work on small sites are unlikely to seek information so we need to actively promote and distribute our messages and information.

The work of Visiting Officers will help deliver this strategy. Advisory visits to small sites will focus on positive messages of what good practice looks like. We will

prepare information sheets specifically for small sites (the Busy Builder series or similar).

Inspection will continue to be important, and at visits to small sites, inspectors will concentrate on the high risk activities identified in this strategy and as identified from time-to time. Serious risks and matters of evident concern will be dealt with in accordance with the Division's standard procedures.