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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC).

SLIC INITIATIVE 2004

Summary

To inform CONIAC of the initiative and invite partnering participation.

Issue

1. The European Union's Senior Labour Inspector's Committee (SLIC) proposes a further initiative in 2004 to follow on from that in 2003. This paper seeks CONIAC's support in securing participation from GB's construction industry social partners.

Timing

2. For decision at meeting M1/2004.

Background

3. In 2003, SLIC for the first time organised a pan-EU initiative requiring all EU labour inspectorates to work to a common agenda. This addressed the prevention of falls in the construction industry through inspection directed interventions at work sites. UK took a strong lead in putting the initiative in place and in shaping its form.
4. In GB, the initiative was expressed in the 'falls from height' blitzes carried out in two tranches in June and September 2003. It took differing forms across EU member states (MSs), reflecting the different cultural approaches of MSs and

the different stages in development towards such initiatives. At large, the coordinated approach proved highly beneficial in securing benchmarking information, causing the construction industry across the EU to address a key issue, in raising the profile of national enforcement bodies and in enjoining MSs to a common agenda.

5. SLIC has decided to carry out a similar initiative in 2004. The focus has been widened to include:
 - Falls from a height
 - On-site transport
 - Safe lifting operations (essentially by cranes and similar plant) and prevention of falling material
6. In GB, for HSE this will probably take the form of a single site-focused campaign in June, similar to the two interventions last year. Support will be sought from the media to raise the profile and promote the key messages.
7. There will be considerable advantages in carrying the initiative forward in partnership with industry and through CONIAC members in their newly defined 'champions' role.

Matters for decision.

8. Members are invited to consider and contribute at meeting M1/2004 on what they, their organisations and their sectors of industry can do:
 - To promote the initiative;
 - To carry forward complementary action at workplaces they influence or control;
 - To engage with the workers they directly influence or control;
 - To raise the profile in non-site environs such as design studios, plant hire outlets, professional bodies, centres of education and training, etc;
 - In their personal capacity as 'champions'; and
 - In terms of planning and delivering the industry's contribution.

Action

9. Members are invited to contribute to the debate at meeting M1/2004 and agree the way forward.