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## **TEXTILES INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **REVITALISING HEALTH AND SAFETY**

#### **A COMMON STRATEGY TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE TEXTILES AND FOOTWEAR INDUSTRIES**

##### **Issue**

1 This paper proposes a common strategy for implementing and monitoring the Government's 10 year strategy for health and safety at work in the Textiles and Footwear industries.

This common strategy sets out the challenge, the areas for improvement, objectives and agreed actions for the bodies represented on TEXIAC and for other representative bodies, textiles and footwear companies and safety committees/groups.

##### **Background**

2 In June 2000 the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) and the Department of the Environment, Transport & Regions (DETR) launched the Strategy Statement '*Revitalising Health and Safety*' which set targets for the reduction of work-related accidents and ill health. This was followed in July 2000 by a supplemental strategy document '*Securing Health Together*' for achieving the specific targets on ill health. TEXIAC has already accepted the national targets as targets for the textile industries.

##### **Recommendation**

2 For initial discussion and, following wider consultation, for agreement at meeting on 7 May 2002.

##### **The Challenge**

The Committee is now challenged to focus its efforts to make a sustained and measurable contribution to the achievement of these Revitalising targets and improved health and safety standards in the industry sectors it represents.

## Areas for Improvement

- The use of an auditing standard against which companies benchmark their health and safety performance and plan for improvement.
- The higher incidence rate of accidents amongst SMEs.
- The direct involvement of line managers in managing the health and safety of those who report to them.
- Worker participation in health and safety.
- The more widespread use of schemes for rehabilitating workers back into work following musculoskeletal injury.

## Objectives

The main objectives set out in the Common Strategy are to:

1. concentrate on the priority health and safety issues; musculoskeletal disorders, workplace transport, falls from height, slips trips and falls, and stress;
2. promote the importance and benefits of effective health and safety management;
3. ensure a consistent message on objectives 1 and 2 above emanates from all TEXIAC member organisations;
4. monitor the impact of the Committee's contribution to RHS until 2010.

## Actions to implement the renewed Common Strategy

HSE's Textile Sector Group will assist industry by:

- identifying companies with high rates of injury/ill health for targeted HSE inspection;
- promoting the use of the *Textiles Industry Model Safety Audit* by both industry and HSE inspectors;
- promoting the Common Strategy to trade associations and other textiles and footwear health and safety committees and groups';
- promoting greater workforce involvement in planning and managing health and safety;
- seeking a higher profile in the trade press for priority health and safety issues and in particular, those identified above in the areas for improvement.
- Conducting a project, initially at 20 randomly selected companies employing 50 people or less, to carry out a benchmarking exercise using the *Textiles Industry Model Safety Audit*, to obtain action plans for improvement and to monitor against the plans.

The Employers' organisations will assist industry by:

- encouraging member companies to sign up to the achievement of Revitalising targets.
- encouraging member companies to use the *Textiles Industry Model Safety Audit*
- promoting the benefits of joint working with trades unions/safety representatives/employees in planning and managing health and safety.
- running conferences and seminars to promote the health and safety priorities in the Common Strategy;
- seeking wider use of rehabilitation schemes in member companies.

The Trades Unions will assist industry by:

- promoting the use of the *Textiles Industry Model Safety Audit*
- promoting the value and benefits of health and safety management auditing
- campaigning for companies to sign up to Revitalising targets
- promoting health and safety priorities in the Common Strategy at conferences, seminars etc.
- encouraging the introduction and use of rehabilitation schemes

### **Monitoring of achievements**

Members will report on activities in support of the common strategy at meetings of the Committee.