

Health and Safety Executive SMT Paper			SMT/ 08/86
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HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE
Senior Management Team
Progress on creating a single chemical regulation function

Advisor(s): CREATE Project team
Cleared by Steve Dennis on 27 October 2008

Issue

1. The Chair of the HSE Board requested a paper to update HSE Board colleagues on progress on creating a single chemicals regulatory function.

Timing

2. For clearance at the 4th November 2008 meeting prior to circulation to HSE Board members.

Recommendation

3. That SMT notes the attached paper to the HSE Board in November 2008.

Background

4. See attached paper.

Heath and Safety Executive Board					
Paper number:	MISC/08/19	FoI Status:	Open	Internet Embargo:	None
Progress on creating a single chemical regulation function					

Purpose of the paper

1. To inform the HSE Board about progress on creating a single chemicals regulatory function following the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) joining HSE on 1 April 2008.

Background

2. The CREATE project aims to develop a single chemicals regulatory function under the existing (and known future) regulations. The project is looking at potential synergies between the teams currently dealing with the regulation of pesticides, detergents, biocides and chemicals.
3. Most of the resources needed for delivery of such work are located in Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) and the Chemical Assessment Schemes Unit (CASU)¹, which deals with biocides and REACH. However, there are important contributions from other parts of HSE, in line with the general way in which HSE is structured. In addition environmental science resource for one of the regulatory schemes is delivered by the Environment Agency.

Argument

4. The project began by bringing together about 30 staff from PSD, CASU, HSE Policy Group, PFPD and HSL in four facilitated workshops held in Bootle and York. Across the various regulatory schemes it was clear there is a great deal of commonality about the work that is currently undertaken in terms of the core activities, the related skills sets required and modes of operation.
5. The Project Board recommended that, with the support of the Project Team, the Director of PSD, Kerr Wilson, should take the reins from the previous Project Board to drive forward the integration of PSD and CASU between now and April 2009. They asked for a business proposition to be prepared based on the formation of a new directorate within HSE reporting directly to the CE, rather than for example an internal agency. The Directorate will be subject to HSE's internal audit, external audit by the National Audit Office (NAO) as part of their annual audit of HSE and to the Board's Audit Committee.
6. The next steps are to work up a more detailed integration plan and structure for PSD and CASU which is sensibly consistent with the original business proposition for PSD to join HSE, that will include:

¹ The Chemical Assessment Schemes Unit (CASU) is in HSE's Corporate Specialist Division (CSD), part of the Science and Technology Group.

- a) a more detailed structured analysis of all the different functions: how they work now, the proposition and identification of efficiencies.
 - b) a benefits realisation plan with clearly identified benefit owners.
 - c) an outline implementation plan including the outlook for both businesses.
 - d) how the new organisation will fit into the new HSE Strategy Delivery Plan.
7. The SMT will consider the integration plan later in the year and, following that, a further update will be provided to the Board. In the interim, Board Members would be most welcome to visit PSD in York and CASU in Bootle to familiarise themselves with their work.

Presentation

8. We will discuss with DEFRA and the industry details of the internal organisational change to reassure them that it will not adversely impact on services. We have and will continue to engage with the Trade Unions as details develop.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

9. There are no resource implications for HSE arising from this information paper. The cost of the Project Team commitment to the project is estimated to be £167,000. This includes the cost of the full-time Project Team leader for the duration of the project and the input of the Project Board and Project Team members. These costs are being met within existing budgets.

Action

10. The Board notes the contents of this paper.

Paper clearance

11. This paper was produced by the CREATE Project Team and was cleared by the Senior Management Team on 4 November 2008.
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