

ANNEX 1

END YEAR OPERATIONAL OUTPUTS AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

The following table provides information on HSE's key operational outputs and performance measures for 2003/04.

Operational output and performance measures

	2003/04 Plan	2003/04 Outturn
% Safety cases, safety reports and safety submissions processed in accordance with published arrangements for quality and timeliness	100%	94.67%*
% Resource committed to HSC Priority Programmes as published in our business plan	100%	113%
% Complaints (about work activities) followed up	90%	94.8%
% Incidents meeting HSE investigation criteria which were investigated	95%	97.66%
% Higher-risk sites or clients visited to secure compliance and improved health and safety performance	100%	97.6%**

**The shortfall in performance was due to a small shortfall early in the reporting year in the rail sector (the issue has now been addressed and there have been significant month-on-month improvements sustained over the last nine months, with all railway safety cases meeting the performance standard during that time); and the need to respond to reactive work and to channel resources into higher priority in the nuclear sector.*

*** The slight shortfall (of 24 workplaces) is due in almost all cases to continuing enforcement action, other interventions already under way, transfer of the premises to local authorities or a very recent previous visit.*

Other output and performance measures

	2003/4 Plan	2003/4 outturn
Sets of regulations, ACOPS, Consultative Documents and new guidance documents introduced	62	50*
% sets of regulations, ACOPs, Consultative Documents and guidance documents introduced to time	90%	92%
Number of publicity products purchased or accessed (including electronic) millions	50 m	92.8 m
Number of publicity products made available	25 000	39 379
Number of enquiries dealt with	Target not set	284 229
% Infoline calls answered within 15 seconds	85%	86%
% public enquiries responded to within ten days	100%	100%
Number of projects completed within risk and technical policy programmes	80	The measure was originally set for each Technology Division (TD) unit, aggregated to give a total. TD has now dispersed and the projects have now been absorbed into the other measures in this table
% of research projects to be let through competition or collaboration	55-65%	58
Providing regulatory services, eg issuing exemptions, statutory certificates (this is a reactive demand-led measure)	4496	1966
% service products (statutory certificates etc) processed to time	95%	95%+
Management of HSE		
Efficiency gains (cash and productivity) as % of total running costs	5.0%	6.0%
% staff payroll costs devoted to central services, eg personnel, planning, finance	8.0%	7.22%

**Reason for shortfall: re-prioritisation of work*

ANNEX 2

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

European projects

All projects and projected milestones in this timetable are subject to the results of consultation and, where applicable, the adoption of the relevant European Directives. Where it is possible to give months for milestones these are given, where 'quarters' of a year are referred to the following convention is used: Quarter 1 = April to June, Quarter 2 = July to September, Quarter 3 = October to December, Quarter 4 = January to March.

Title of Project/Directive	Action planned	Milestones	Progress
Carcinogens Directive 1999/38 2nd amendment.	Directive to be implemented by amending COSHH 2002.	Regulations in force April 2003.	Regulations in force from 29 April 2003.
Draft 2nd Indicative Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) Value Directive.	This draft Directive will introduce occupational exposure limits to be agreed by the EU and will be implemented through new OEL framework following consultation.	Vote on technical progress expected.	Possible UK implementation date December 2005.
Dangerous Substances Directive 29th Adaptation to Technical Progress (ATP).	Discussions on the 29th ATP to the Dangerous Substances Directive recently completed. Publication Quarter 4 2003/04.		Voting expected 14 April 2004. Consultation Document (CD) published November 2004. Expected UK implementation and enabling regulations October 2005.
Asbestos: EU proposals to amend the Worker Protection Directive 83/477/EEC.	Final adopted text was published in the Official Journal 15 April 2003.	Commence informal consultation during Quarter 4 2003/04.	Delayed until Quarter 1 2004/05.
Amendment to Marketing and Use Directive: Chromium VI in cement.	Directive expected to be adopted in Quarter 1 2003. Regulations to implement Directive due one year after publication in the Official Journal.	CD to be published by Quarter 4 2003/04.	CD published 8 March 2004. Consultation closes 28 May 2004.
EC Regulation on the Import and Export of Dangerous Chemicals.	Proposed EC Regulation to introduce enhanced measures to inform non-EU countries about the dangers of exported chemicals. To replace the current Regulation. This proposal will implement the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent (PIC).	Enforcement Regulation expected Quarter 2 2004/05.	Launch of UK Regulation. CD expected March 2004. Regulation expected to be in force by July 2004. However, EU Regulation 304/2003 is under legal challenge by the EC and may delay UK regulation.

Title of Project/Directive	Action planned	Milestones	Progress
Existing Substances Regulations (ESR) and the programme for Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH).	Competent Authority management with the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for 2003. HSE to support DEFRA with work such as ongoing development of transitional arrangements between ESR and REACH.	On-going programme of risk reduction strategy work.	
New EU Chemicals Scheme for registration and authorisation (REACH)	Discussions in Council led by DEFRA with HSE advice.		No HSE milestones set. Timetable uncertain.
Physical agents			
Proposal for a European Parliament (EP) and Council Directive on Physical Agents (Vibration).	Directive adopted July 2002. Implementation due July 2005.	CD to be published Quarter 2 2003/04.	CD published November 2003 with closing date for comments end March 2004.
Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on Physical Agents (Noise).	Adopted February 2003 with an implementation date for February 2006.	CD to be published Quarter 4 2003/04.	Agreed by Commission in March. To be published in April 2004.
Proposal for European Parliament and Council Directive on Physical Agents (Electromagnetic fields).	Proposed December 2002, currently under negotiations in Council Working Group.	If adopted would need to be transposed into UK legislation timetable to be set.	Common position reached December 2003. Adoption expected April 2004.
Rail transport			
Interoperability of the trans-European conventional rail system (2001/16).	Department for Transport (DfT) lead, HSE will contribute.	Directive to be implemented by Quarter 3 2003/04.	Consultation on implementing package began in January 2004. HSC will respond formally.
Proposed Railway Safety directive.	Common Position has been achieved, now working with DfT on progress through European Parliament (EP) to achieve a favourable outcome in line with UK negotiating strategy. These Directives etc are commonly known as the 'Second Railways Package'.	Adoption expected Quarter 1 2004/05.	Package now subject to 'conciliation procedure' between EP, Council and Commission. Conciliation process started end January.
Proposed Interoperability amendment Directive amending Directive 96/48/EC on high-speed interoperability and Directive 2001/16/EC on conventional interoperability.			
Proposed European Railway Agency Regulation.			

Title of Project/Directive	Action planned	Milestones	Progress
Proposed Decision on the Convention of International Transport by Rail (COTIF).			
Proposed Market Access Directive.			
Proposed Directive on the certification of train drivers (COM (2004) 142).	DfT lead, HSE will contribute.	Proposals published 3 March 2004.	Analysis and negotiations continue.
Transport of dangerous goods			
Amendment to the UN model regulations on the transport of dangerous goods.	DfT lead, negotiations on the revised 14th edition began in 2003 and are expected to be completed by end 2004.	Negotiations to be completed by end 2004.	Negotiations on target to date. Work transferred to DfT with effect from 1 April 2004
Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road Commission Directives 2001/7 and 2003/28/EC adapting for the third time Council Directive 94/55/EC.	Current Transport of Dangerous Goods Regulations and approved documents will be replaced by a single set of regulations implementing all requirements.	CD to be published Quarter 2 2003/04. Regulations to be made Quarter 1 2004/5.	CD published to time. Regulations due to come into force 1 April 2004, supported by a free guidance leaflet.
Transport of Dangerous Goods by Rail Commission Directives 2001/6 and 2003/29/EC adapting for the third time Council Directive 96/49/EC.			
Completion of implementation of the Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive 1999/36/EC and implementation of Directive 2002/50/EC adapting it to technical progress.			
Work equipment			
Proposal for Third amendment to the Machinery Directive.	DTI lead.	Council agreement due Quarter 3 or Quarter 4 2003/04.	Still awaiting Council agreement, not likely until 2004/05.
Use of Work Equipment Directive (dealing with Temporary Work at Heights) 2nd amendment.	To be implemented by July 2004 as a single set of Work at Heights Regulations.	Publish CD in Quarter 2 2003/04.	Consultation period ends 2 April 2004, Regulations expected to be in place by end 2004.

Title of Project/Regulations	Action planned	Milestones	Progress
Major hazards			
Proposal for an amendment to the SEVESO Directive (96/82/EC).	<p data-bbox="480 302 767 360">Common Position adopted Feb 2003.</p> <p data-bbox="480 398 767 524">Directive 2003/105/EC adopted 31 December 2003 for implementation by 1 July 2005.</p> <p data-bbox="480 562 767 680">Amending Directive to be implemented through amendment to COMAH Regulations.</p>	HSC to endorse implementation proposals during Quarter 4.	HSC endorsed implementation strategy on 10 February 2004.

Domestic projects

All projects and projected milestones in this timetable are subject to the results of consultation. Where it is possible to give months for milestones these are given, where 'quarters' of a year are referred to the following convention is used: Quarter 1 = April to June, Quarter 2 = July to September, Quarter 3 = October to December, Quarter 4 = January to March.

Title of project/regulations	Action planned	Milestones	Progress
Acetylene legislation	New framework for acetylene safety to replace requirements currently in Explosives Act 1875.	CD expected by April 2004.	Preparatory work on this project was carried out in 2003/2004, with a view to a CD in late 2004. Now waiting outcome from legislative programme exercise before progressing further.
Adventure Activities Regulations	HSE to advise HSC on response to Department for Education and Skills (DfES) consultation document/triennial review of licensing.	<p>Consultation period on DfES consultation document/triennial review of licensing closes on 30 April 2003.</p> <p>HSE advised HSC on response in early April 2003.</p>	HSC agreed HSE's response to DfES consultation at its 8 April 2003 meeting. The draft revised Regulations were agreed by HSC in February 2004 and are due to come into force end May 2004.
Carriage of Dangerous Goods (CDG) 1996 Regulations 5, 6 and 20	<p>Develop replacement for regulation 20 of CDG 1996, which governs unloading of petrol.</p> <p>Develop legislative framework to allow for the continuing approval of HSE document L93, which governs the design of road tankers so as to prevent vapour emissions (on behalf of DEFRA).</p>	Consultation letter due Quarter 3 2003/4.	Target date revised to Quarter 1 2004/05.
Celluloid legislation	Review and modernise remaining elements of celluloid legislation (majority repealed by DSEAR).	Review completed April 2004.	This area is not considered a current priority and we plan to review whether any further action in this area is necessary during the coming year.
Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994 (CDM)	To amend the Regulations and Approved Code of Practice (ACOP).	CD planned for Quarter 3 2004-05; and revised Regulations to be laid Quarter 1, 2006/07.	On track with a revised timetable. Further time has been agreed to allow for a fuller consultation on the developing proposals and for revising the Regulations and preparing the CD.

Title of project/regulations	Action planned	Milestones	Progress
Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996	To amend the Regulations.	As for the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations. It is proposed to amend these two sets of Regulations and produce a single set of construction Regulations (to be set out in the CD).	As for CDM, page 92.
Control of Explosives Regulations 2001 (COER).	New Regulations to rationalise existing provisions.	CD to be published Quarter 2 2004/05. New Regulations laid Quarter 2 2005/06.	Work on COER delayed due to reduction in staff numbers as posts are moved to higher priority areas and additional work on manufacture and storage of explosives Regulations.
Dangerous Goods in Harbours Regulations	Regulations, ACOP and guidance to be amended in light of consultation exercise.	Regulations to be laid Quarter 3 2003/04.	At a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Substances (ACDS) in February 2003, the Committee agreed to clear the final package by correspondence. We undertook discussions with the ports industry and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) to resolve issues raised by late comments on the draft, which meant that instructions for drafting were not finalised until June. Thereafter the Government response to the Transport Select Committee Report on Docks indicated that, in the light of the HSC's revised strategy, HSE would be re-examining traditional interventions such as Regulations etc after consultation with the industry, to see whether they should be done differently or at all.
Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations 1990	Review of the Regulations.	Review completed by April 2004.	Informal review carried out within HSE, now on hold pending decision on HSE's legislative programme exercise.

Title of project/regulations	Action planned	Milestones	Progress
Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR)	Amendment to reflect revised interface with Marine and Coastguard Agency.	Consultation letter Quarter 3 2003/04.	To be reviewed in 2004/05. This is not a major priority and we plan to review whether any further action is necessary during the current year.
Docks Regulations	Regulations, ACOP and guidance in process of revision in consultation with the industry.	CD on draft package expected Quarter 3 2003/04.	Work on the revision of the ACOP Safety in docks (SID) proceeded more slowly than planned because of our increasing involvement in civil contingencies issues, which absorbed a great deal of the section's resources. Thereafter the Government response to the Transport Select Committee Report on Docks indicated that, in the light of the HSC's revised strategy, HSE would be re-examining traditional interventions such as Regulations etc. after consultation with the industry, to see whether they should be done differently or at all. The Government response refers to SID by name as an initiative which is to be re-evaluated
Duty to investigate workplace accidents etc	Consideration of responses to recent consultation exercise.	Guidance to be developed during 2003/04.	Proposed publication date, May 2004.
Factories Act 1961 and Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963	Consolidation and removal of remaining requirements where possible.	Complete review and issue Discussion Document Quarter 4 2003/04.	Priority given to other work, this work will be carried forward with a view to sunsetting in the near future.
Fire legislation	Review of legislation lead by Office of Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). HSE will work with them to agree demarcation with Fire Authorities and to assist development of new legislation and guidance.	Input into any proposed legislation and guidance as required during 2003.	Considerable input to this exercise taken place during 2003 including commenting on several drafts of the proposed legislation, responding to the Fire White Paper and new Fire Rescue Bill, and working with ODPM to develop new legislation. To continue during 2004/05.

Title of project/regulations	Action planned	Milestones	Progress
First Aid at Work Regulations 1981	Follow on from research project leading to a consultation exercise in 2004.	Publish Discussion Document (DD) in Quarter 2 2003/04. Publish CD in Quarter 2, 2004/5.	Discussion Document published in Quarter 2 2003/04.
Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996	Consultation on Amending Regulations.	CD to be published Quarter 3, 2003/04.	Progress constrained by further competition proposals from Ofgem, including the sale of some Regional Distribution Networks, which may affect the Regulations. CD and instructions to Solicitors in progress with a view to consultation in Autumn 2004.
Gas Safety (Installations and Use) Regulations 1998	Consultation on amending Regulations and ACOP.	CD expected Quarter 4, 2003/04. Regulations to be submitted Quarter 4, 2004/05.	Progress constrained by further competition proposals from Ofgem which may have affected the Regulations. CD in preparation, instructions to Solicitors completed. Anticipated consultation in Autumn 2004.
Health and Safety (Employee Consultation and Safety Representatives) Regulations	Develop harmonised regulations to replace Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977 and Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996.	Draft CD and put out to consultation in Quarter 2, 2003/04.	HSC has decided to take forward voluntary measures that build on and develop existing law.
Health and Safety (Fees) Regulations 2003	Annual revision of fees to take account of inflation.	Regulations came into force 1 April 2003.	Regulations in force 1 April 2003.
Inhalable Dust in Coal Mines Regulations	New Regulations and ACOP.	CD expected Quarter 4 2003/04. Regulations to be submitted Quarter 4, 2004/05. ACOP to be published Quarter 4 2004/05.	CD published in February 2004.
Ionising Radiations Amendment Regulations	Amend the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999.	CD to be published quarter 3 2003/04.	Awaiting the outcome of the Cannon Review. CD publication now likely to be Quarter 1 in 2004/05.
Management of Health and Safety at Work and Fire Precautions (Workplace) (amendment) Regulations 2003	Amend the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and Fire Protection Regulations 1997 to remove civil liabilities exclusion.	Regulations to be in force by Quarter 2 2003/04.	Came into force January 2004.

Title of project/regulations	Action planned	Milestones	Progress
Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations	Revise legal requirements in new Regulations - replacing some 40 pieces of earlier legislation.	The revised draft Regulations will be resubmitted to HSC in Quarter 2 2004/05.	Proposals approved by HSC; however, correspondence with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel has raised further legal issues that will need to be resolved before the regulations can be finalised.
Petrol legislation	Phase 2 and 3 of the Modernising petrol project (Phase 1 completed by DSEAR).	CD on proposals for petrol filling stations (Phase 2) to be published by April 2004.	Petrol Phase 2: CD planned for Quarter 3 2004/05. The publication of the CD was delayed because of a lack of consensus on a satisfactory way forward between the various stakeholders. Phase 3 to be reviewed during 2004/05 to determine whether it is of sufficiently high priority (compared with other work) for resource to be made available to take forward this work.
Pipelines Safety (Amendment) Regulations	<p>Amendments relating to iron mains replacement programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments relating to the testing of emergency plans; • Additional duties relating to gasoline; and minor changes to existing definitions. 	<p>CD published June 2002 amending regulations to be laid Quarter 2 2003/04.</p> <p>CDs to be published Quarter 4 2003/4. Amending Regulations due Quarter 2 2004/5.</p>	<p>Regulations came into force 3 November 2003.</p> <p>CDs and Regulations now expected in 2004/05. The second part of this work consists of two changes:</p> <p>1) To make gasoline a dangerous fluid and thus gasoline pipelines will become major accident hazard pipelines. This has been held up by a technical problem concerned with the determination of Consultation Distances for land use planning around pipelines. Discussions with industry via the sub-committees of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Substances have resulted in an agreed compromise and the work is now anticipated to progress.</p>

Title of project/regulations	Action planned	Milestones	Progress
			<p>2) Require local authorities to test the pipeline emergency plans. This amendment will require LAs to test the pipeline emergency plans that PSR already requires them to prepare. Although LAs favour this, industry does not because of cost issues. This has required very careful consideration of legislative issues and consultation on implementation due to the possibility of substantial costs on industry. A group has been formed to consider this issue and has had one meeting to date.</p>
Railway Safety Regulations	Dialogue with stakeholders following public Inquiry reports on regulations covering railway safety cases approvals and safety critical work.	Revised Regulations due by the end of Quarter 4 2004/05.	The Regulations implementing the Railway Safety Directive will come into force 31 March 2005 These Regulations will consolidate provisions relating to Railways and Other Transport Systems (ROTS), Railway (Safety Case) Regulations and Railways (Safety Critical Work) Regulations.
Railway Safety Regulations 1999	Review of requirements concerning TPWS for overspeed mitigation	Possible amendments in 2005.	
OEL Framework	Review of OEL framework in the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health framework.	Issue CD in September 2003. Regulations expected Quarter 1 2004/05.	CD published October 2003 Responses being analysed with a view to amending COSHH Regulations and ACOP in summer 2004.
Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 1992 (OSCR)	Revise 1992 Regulations to improve effectiveness and reduce bureaucracy.	CD to be published Quarter 1 2004/05 Regulations due Quarter 1	CD to be published end April / early May 2004. Regulations due end April / early May 2005.
Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR).	Fundamental review of legislation aimed at simplification and greater effectiveness.	Commission research and issue DD in 2003/04. Consider responses and issue CD 2004/05.	Research postponed pending the outcome of the DD and CD phases of the RIDDOR Review. The Review is expected to provide more up to date information on attitudes towards RIDDOR and reporting

Title of project/regulations	Action planned	Milestones	Progress
Shipbuilding/Ship Repair Regulations.	Revoke requirements superseded by Working at Heights Directive (WAH).	CD to be issued Quarter 2 2003.	CD issued December 2003. Consultation exercise closed 2 April 2004.
Standard of training in safe gas installations ACOP	Amend now outdated 1988 ACOP.	CD to be published in Quarter 4 2004/5.	Progress being made, progressing recommendations arising from the Fundamental Review of Gas Safety. Currently on target.

ANNEX 3

HSC ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Industry Advisory Committees

Agriculture
Construction
Mining Industry Committee
(formerly Deep mined coal)
Nuclear Safety
Health Services
Higher and Further Education
Offshore
Paper and Board
Printing
Railways
Rubber
Schools Education
Textiles

Subject Advisory Committees

Dangerous Substances
Genetic Modification
Occupational Health
Toxic Substances
Biocides Consultative

Other Committees

HSE and Local Authorities Enforcement Liaison (HELTA)

When committees produce and publish guidance they do so with the Commission's endorsement. Subject Advisory Committees allow the Commission to take views on difficult issues, typically of cross-departmental interest. They provide formal consultation mechanisms in areas of high public and political sensitivity, such as genetic modification; and the involvement of outside experts helps give legitimacy to their, and to the Commission's, activities. They also act as a sounding board for HSE proposals.

HSC's Advisory Committees encourage the joint participation of all representative organisations in the improvement of health and safety at work; draw on the expertise and advice available on both sides of industry and elsewhere; give the problems of particular industries closer and more detailed attention than the Commission itself is able to do; and allow an industry focus on general issues (such as noise and COSHH).

HSC also takes advice from the HSE and Local Authorities Enforcement Liaison Committee (HELTA), which seeks to ensure consistency of approach among local authorities and HSE.

Agendas, papers and minutes of the HSC's Advisory Committees (and sub-committees) are published on the Internet as well as summaries of open meetings. These can be found on <http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/hsc/iacs/index.htm>

Examples of activities during the year:

- **Occupational Health Advisory Committee (OHAC)**

- had an open meeting in November as part of the Securing Health Together: Changing Gear conference. It had over 100 attendees. OHAC chaired the afternoon workshops where important issues about delivering better onhealth at work issues were discussed;
- produced a horizon scanning report in May 2003. It emphasised the need for more work on occupational health support and vocational rehabilitation. The musculoskeletal disease (MSD) working group has made a significant contribution to taking forward the MSD programme.

- **Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC)**
 - the health-working group initiated discussions with the industry and have been successful in securing the agreement of seed suppliers to stop using 50kg bags by the autumn of 2007;
 - the safety-working group (ASAG) worked with the industry to agree a training scheme for dealer handover. The training scheme aimed at equipment dealers is to ensure they provide proper handover procedures and training when supplying equipment to customers. ASAG also participated in the revision of HSE's *Tractor action* video and associated leaflet.

- **The Higher and Further Education Advisory Committee (HIFEAC) and the Schools Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**
 - held a joint open meeting on 1 April 2003 at Loughborough University attended by 93 delegates from all sectors of education. The open meeting was based around the Revitalising theme and held workshops on the priority topics of stress, MSD, Falls/Slips/Trips and Occupational Health provision;
 - the Safety Representatives Charter was developed by employer and employee representatives of both the committees. Educational establishments which sign up to the Charter would demonstrate recognition of the contribution that partnerships between employers and safety representatives can make towards improving health and safety standards at work. The Charter is available on HSE's website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/workers/index.htm>

- **The Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee (NuSAC)**
 - provided considered responses to a variety of Consultative Documents (CDs) including: DTT's CDs 'Draft Nuclear Sites and Radioactive Substances Bill' and 'Modernising the Policy for Decommissioning the UK's Nuclear Facilities'; HSE's 'Delicensing Policy'; the Environment Agency's 'Improved Regulatory Arrangements for ILW Conditioning'; and HSC's *A strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain to 2010 and beyond*;
 - completed a joint study working with its radioactive waste management counterpart, Defra's Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee (RWMAC). The study reviewed the regulation of nuclear safety and the management of radioactive materials and radioactive waste within the United Kingdom, the report of which 'Review of the regulation of nuclear safety and the management of radioactive waste within the United Kingdom: Structures and principles of the regulation of nuclear licensed sites' was published by HSE.

- **The Mining Industry Committee (MIC)**
 - occupational health: Consultation and support to progress the development of the proposed Inhalable Dust in Coal Mines Regulations;
 - assessment of the periodic X-ray scheme report detailing prevalence of pneumoconiosis occurring in the industry;
 - musculoskeletal disease: Continuing work throughout the mining industry to reduce exposure to Hand Arm Vibration syndrome (HAVS) and Whole Body Vibration (WBV) particularly in respect of the use of hand power tools and WBV associated with the use of Free Steered Vehicles (FSVs) underground.

- Workplace transport: continuing initiative to encourage compliance with the industry agreement, through MIC that Mine Operators report near miss Free Steered Vehicle (FSV) and Rope Haulage incidents to HM Inspectorate of Mines.

- **Printing Industry Advisory Committee (PIAC)**
 - held a successful Open Meeting on the theme of manual handling at Leeds Town Hall in October 2003, attended by around 70 employers and employees from the printing industry. Attendees were given a demonstration of how to use HSE's MAC tool (Manual Handling Assessment Chart) using video clips of poor manual handling practice and good practice solutions;
 - is currently working on six projects. The main thrust of its work falls within HSE's Chemical Strategy on reducing ill health from exposure to printing chemicals, particularly solvents. There are projects on glove selection for reducing the significant levels of dermatitis among printers, on the feasibility of substituting bio-solvents for the hydrocarbon based cleaning solvents used for cleaning printing machinery, and on developing a module for printers on HSE's eCOSHH Essentials website. PIAC is also developing a manual handling module for HSE's 'Printing' web pages showing good practice solutions to those activities that cause the most manual handling injuries to printers.

- **Textiles Industry Advisory Committee (TEXIAC)**
 - held their Open Meeting at Pudsey Civic Hall in January 2004, on the same 'manual handling' theme, again using a demonstration of the MAC tool with videoed examples of poor practice from the textiles industry. The audience of around 90 were given the opportunity to assess the tasks using the MAC tool and then to look at measures to reduce the manual handling risk factors.

- **Construction Industry Advisory Committee (CONIAC)**
 - dealt with a wide range of issues to support industry in striving for the challenging improvement targets it set at the 2001 Health and Safety Summit. In particular, CONIAC contributed to the current review of regulations affecting the construction industry and assisted the development of 'Constructing better health', an initiative to pilot an occupational health support service for the construction industry. CONIAC has recently been reconstituted to make it more strategic and to better reflect the industry.

- **The Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances (ACTS)**
 - held its first Open Meeting on Friday 17 October 2003 (during the European Week for Health and Safety at Work). Some 38 people attended the meeting, representing 32 organisations. The conclusion from an evaluation questionnaire was that the meeting was a great success. Useful feedback was received from attendees on some of the Committee's on-going priority work, eg asthma and the review of the OEL framework. Planning is already underway for the 2004/05 open meeting.

Key activities in 2003/04:

- Further development of proposals to introduce a new occupational exposure limit (OEL) framework, resulting in the publication of a consultative document (CD 189) in autumn 2003. There was widespread public support for almost all aspects of the proposals. Recommendations will go to HSC later in 2004;
- ACTS members visited 13 other HSC advisory committees (mainly IACs) to: promote HSC/E's new Chemicals Strategy (HSC/02/136); publicise and promote the new ACTS work plan and initiative to prevent occupational asthma; encourage AC support of European Week for Health and Safety at Work 2003; and to identify opportunities for joined-up working. All ACs visited were very enthusiastic and pleased to be recognised by ACTS. Numerous potential initiatives are currently being scoped and worked-up that will result in joint chemical-related initiatives between ACTS and other ACs;
- ACTS has also helped HSE develop sub-programmes on skin disease and occupational cancer in support of HSE's Chemicals Programme.

The recently reconstituted **Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification** came to the end of its term of office on 31 December 2003 and in the light of the lack of a substantial work programme, and of HSC's review of its own ways of working, a renewal of ACGM's term of office was not appropriate. In its place a purely scientific advisory committee (the Scientific Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification (Contained Use) - SACGM (CU)) has been set up by HSE to advise the Competent Authorities on the contained use of genetically modified organisms.

Offshore Industry Advisory Committee (OIAC) was reconstituted in April 2003 for another three years. It held an open session in September 2003 as part of the Offshore Europe events in Aberdeen. The session was reasonably well attended and produced a lively debate on current offshore safety issues. Other than that OIAC has been considering a work programme, though members have commented on the developing proposals to revise the Offshore Installations (Safety Case) Regulations 1992.