

INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document reports on the work of the HSC/E during 2001/02 and is based on the plans contained in HSC's *Strategic plan 2001-04* (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/plans/hscplans/plan0104.htm>) (the Strategic Plan) which was published in September 2001. It also provides information about the management of HSE, health and safety in HSE and includes an analysis of our output and performance.

1.2 Paragraphs 1.4 to 1.22 below describe:

- the basis for our current work,
- the programme blocks; and
- a short description of the activities carried out.

1.3 The Strategic Plan also sets a range of outcomes and targets, as opposed to work to be carried out. We will be reporting separately on these after HSC's Health and Safety Statistics for 2001/02 have been published.

National government targets for health and safety

1.4 In June 2000, the Government set national targets for all stakeholders in the health and safety system published in the *Revitalising Health and Safety* strategy statement (RHS). The targets are to:

- reduce the number of working days lost per 100 000 workers from work-related injury and ill health by 30% by 2010;
- reduce the incidence rate of fatal and major injury incidents by 10% by 2010;
- reduce the incidence rate of cases of work-related ill health by 20% by 2010; and
- achieve half the improvements under each target by 2004.

1.5 In addition to the national targets, the Government and the Commission agreed a broad ten-point strategy for the next ten years and 44 specific action points.

Securing Health Together

1.6 In the same year, the Commission, Government and other stakeholders launched a long-term strategy to improve occupational health, *Securing Health Together*. This forms a central plank of RHS. It commits all concerned to achieve both the health-related targets set out in RHS and the following additional targets by 2010:

- a 20% reduction in ill health to members of the public caused by work activity;
- everyone currently in employment but off work due to ill health or disability is, where necessary and appropriate, made aware of opportunities for rehabilitation back into work as soon as possible; and
- everyone currently not in employment due to ill health or disability is, where necessary and appropriate, made aware of and offered opportunities to prepare for and find work.

The Strategic Plan

1.7 The Strategic Plan focuses HSC activity on achieving the national targets for health and safety set out in RHS.

1.8 HSC's contribution is based around four programme-based blocks, each containing plans and activities for 2001/02 and beyond:

- taking action in priority areas ('priority programmes');

- ensuring an effective regulatory regime in the major hazards sectors ('work in major hazard industries');
- securing compliance with the law ('securing compliance'); and
- meeting the mandate given by Government ('mandatory activities').

Revitalising Health and Safety

1.9 Since RHS was launched, HSC/E's priority has been to put in place arrangements for achieving the headline targets. The next phase is to concentrate on delivery of those targets. The earliest date any statistically meaningful information will be available for 2001/02 is autumn 2002.

1.10 Most of the 44 action points have been taken forward, but more will be done in pursuit of their original aim: to raise the profile of HSC's work. Where possible, additional work will be undertaken to make the most of the action points' potential to achieve actual health and safety improvements. A communications drive is currently underway to remind all stakeholders that there is only a year and a half remaining till 2004 and the 'halfway' targets. Work continues to encourage companies and business sectors to set their own targets to contribute towards the national ones; including a conference to motivate target-setting action. Results are encouraging, with many industry sectors having set targets.

1.11 RHS has a homepage on the HSE website, which can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/revitalising/>. This provides up to date information on the latest developments and archives press releases, key documents and speeches. (See Table 24 for progress with plans.)

Securing Health Together (SH2)

1.12 Under this 10-year strategy the key components have now been put in place to enable work-related ill health and rehabilitation to be tackled effectively as a cross-government initiative. Actions during the year included assembling information on the causes and extent of ill health, identifying priorities, setting targets and establishing monitoring methods, evaluating existing initiatives, creating partnership bodies and operational links, disseminating and sharing information through a variety of channels (including publications, conferences and websites), and identifying where the work feeds into broader government priorities. The SH2 website is <http://www.ohstrategy.net>. (See Table 24 for progress with plans.)

Priority programmes

1.13 HSC's eight priority programmes focus on hazards or sectors where improvements are vital if the targets are to be met: falls from height; workplace transport; musculoskeletal disorders; work-related stress; construction; agriculture; health services; and slips and trips. In selecting these priorities we aim to tackle those hazards and sectors where large numbers are employed, the incidence rate of injuries or ill health is high and where we have the levers to bring about change and success. Most milestones for the year have either been delivered or are well under way. (See Tables 1-8.)

Work in major hazard industries

1.14 Much of HSE's work is about the management of health and safety in high hazard industries and the control of major hazard events. Sectors covered are those where the control of major hazards is critical, for example, railways, gas conveyance and onshore major hazard pipelines, chemical installations covered by the Control of Major Hazards Regulations (COMAH), explosives and the mining, offshore and nuclear industries. (See Tables 9-15.)

Securing compliance

1.15 Securing compliance underpins and complements all our other work. HSE and local authorities are required under the HSW Act to make adequate arrangements to enforce health and safety law. This report details the range of enforcement activities across a broad range of hazards in a number of sectors as well as the latest position on HSC's enforcement policy and work on penalties and prosecutions. (See Tables 16-23.)

Mandatory activities

1.16 As well as being required to enforce health and safety law, HSC/E have been tasked by Government to carry out a number of functions under the HSW Act:

- modernise and simplify the regulatory framework;
- provide appropriate information and advice;
- promote risk assessment and technical knowledge; and
- operate statutory schemes.

This report provides information on all these functions, and progress against plans can be found at Tables 24-27A.

Managing the organisation

1.17 The section includes information on a wide range of management and business issues eg efficiency, expenditure, staffing, prompt payment of bills, charging, green housekeeping. (See paragraphs 1.35-1.73.)

Health and safety in HSE

1.18 Over the past year, work continued to raise the profile of health and safety for HSE staff and the subject has been discussed at every Board meeting. Information to staff is provided through a dedicated Intranet site and reporting procedures have been simplified. The health and safety committee has been working to tackle major causes of accidents and ill health affecting staff, including putting in place an agreed strategy for reducing work-related stress within HSE. (See paragraphs 1.74–1.79.)

The Management Plan

1.19 The Management Plan (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/plans/hseplans/m-plan.htm>) sets out HSE's management priorities for the next three years and the activities that we will focus on to progress these priorities. The Plan was developed to support our delivery of the Strategic Plan. Progress has been made on almost all actions (some 80 in total). Many real achievements can be recorded, in particular in valuing diversity and getting the right people in the right place at the right time. Conversely there are areas where further work is needed eg obtaining corporate Investor in People (IiP) status. (See paragraphs 1.71-1.73 and Annex 1.)

Outputs and performance

1.20 The Strategic Plan sets a range of output and performance measures eg the planned number of publicity products and the planned number of safety cases to be introduced. Publicity products and purchase of or access to publicity products have exceeded plans. However, the number of safety cases assessed was lower than planned because a large number were considered to be deficient and needed further work by operators. (See Annex 2.)

Public Service Agreement (PSA)

1.21 HSE is committed to achieving targets in 2001/02 agreed with ministers in the 1998 Comprehensive Spending Review. Three of the four targets were achieved, but there was a slight shortfall of 2.2% in the target for the number of regulatory contacts due to the effect of foot and mouth disease and more complex investigations. (See Annex 2.)

Legislative annex

1.22 Annex 3 contains full details of European and domestic legislative projects planned for the reporting year and an up to date report on the position at the end of the year. A lower number of regulations than expected have been introduced, partly due to changes to implementation dates arising from discussions with external stakeholders. However the percentage of those introduced on time met planned targets (89%). Annex 4 also describes the position with Directives under negotiation during the year.

Further information

1.23 For the first time this year, and in addition to publishing it as a printed document, we are placing the HSC Annual Report on the HSE website. Previously, summary versions only had been made available in this format at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/annreport.htm>. The website addresses for main publications and information are given throughout this report. Further, more comprehensive information on publications and reports referred to can be found on the HSE books website (<http://www.hsebooks.co.uk/homepage.html>). The HSE website also contains up to date information and advice on health and safety issues including the latest statistical information (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm>). Advice can also be sought via HSE's Infoline: telephone 08701 545500, e-mail address hseinformationservices@natbrit.com. Staff there can help answer general enquiries and tell you about our publications.