

SUMMARY

1.1 This publication reports on the work of HSC/E during 2002/03 and is based on the plans contained in the HSC Business Plan 2002 - 2003 (which in turn is based on the Strategic Plan 2001 – 2004 (see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/plans/index.htm> published in September 2001). It also provides information about how HSE is managed, health and safety in HSE, progress with HSE's Management Plan 2001 – 2004, output and performance measures and legislative timetables.

1.2 Paragraphs 1.4 to 1.24 below describe:

- the basis for our current work;
- the programme blocks; and
- a summary of progress.

1.3 The HSC Business Plan 2002 – 2003 also sets out a wide range of outcomes and targets. We will be reporting separately on these before the end of the year after HSC's Health and Safety Statistics for 2002/03 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 (RHS). Strategy Statement. 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 Achieving half the improvements by 2004 is one of the targets in the Department for Work and Pension's Public Service Agreement (PSA) (originally in the PSA for our previous sponsoring Department - the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions) which was published following the Government's Spending Review 2000. 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 the Revitalising Health and Safety Strategy Statement. 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.

HSC plans

1.7 The Strategic Plan and the Business Plan 2002 – 2003 focus HSC activity on achieving the national targets for health and safety.

1.8 HSC's contribution is based around four programme-based blocks:

- 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').

Delivery 2002 - 2003

General

1.9 Most plans have been delivered or well progressed; regulatory outputs exceeded profile; and HSE achieved its best Business Improvement Performance. European projects are largely progressing to plan, with HSE inputting as necessary where other Departments have the lead. A number of domestic legislative projects slipped, but for sound reasons; and it has been necessary again in 2002/03 to return many safety cases to duty holders for further action - hence the final output performance measure is well below profile.

Revitalising Health and Safety

1.10 Annual health and safety statistics for 2001/02 showed little change, and as yet have not reflected the hoped for improvements. The baselines from the latest self-reported work-related ill health survey established for national working days lost and work-related ill health suggest the scale of the problem is greater than previously estimated. It has shown where we need to concentrate our efforts. Statistics for 2002/03 will be available in the autumn.

1.11 A major stakeholder conference was held in May 2002 to encourage top employers to focus on health and safety improvements, celebrate what had been achieved and commit to targets. Trade Unions and employers helped organise the conference and made a substantial contribution to the open sessions. Professional organisations and Trade Unions continue actively to support major initiatives in many industries. During the year HSC/E senior staff visited the top 350 companies to raise the profile of health and safety and

the pilot development of 'national account managers' for 15 top organisations was launched. The Government and HSC's challenge to companies to publicly report on health and safety has gone well. For example, the recent research report at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr135.htm> indicates the number of FTSE100 companies publicly reporting has risen to 91%, compared with 56% in the baseline report. (See page 64 for the detail of activities.)

1.12 RHS has a homepage on the HSE website, which can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/revitalising>

Securing Health Together

1.13 Securing Health Together is a ten-year strategy. Further work has been undertaken that will deliver results later in the strategy. Examples included a review of the Partnership Board; completion of initial work by the five Programme Action Groups (reports will be published in 2003/4), creating a database of 60 good practice projects and rebuilding the website: <http://www.ohstrategy.net/>, identifying new information sources for improved target monitoring and building a better evidence base for action, and surveying current use of occupational health support in GB. Achievement of the Securing Health Together targets is about partnership, working to achieve common goals. Examples that came to fruition during 2002/03 included HSE funding of a pilot telephone occupational health and safety helpline in Lanarkshire, now upgraded to a national service for Scotland with Scottish Executive funding (Tel: 0800 019 2211, <http://www.hebs.com/safeandhealthyworking>); and HSE support for the TUC development of training materials (<http://www.hazards.org/diyresearch/index.htm>) for safety representatives on how to identify and tackle health hazards in the workplace with groups of workers. (See page 66)

Priority Programmes

1.14 The majority of planned activities have been delivered or well progressed together with almost all selected milestones achieved. All programmes have carried out activities over and above published plans. Particularly successful has been compliance activity where output in almost all cases exceeded plans. (See page 8)

Work in major hazard industries

1.15 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 Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH), explosives and the mining, offshore and nuclear industries. (See page 37.)

During 2002/03 HSE conducted a major consultation on our overall approach to 'permissioning regimes', ie those where the safety regulator issues a licence or accepts a safety case. This led to the adoption and publication by HSC of an important policy statement 'Our approach to permissioning regimes' in March 2003. This statement explains the philosophy adopted by HSC/E in regulating health and safety in hazardous industries and provides a framework of 10 core principles. Work has also been undertaken to develop targets for major hazards. HSE is determined, in co-operation with the major hazards industries, to make further improvements in the control of risk and the targets will help everyone to focus on what needs to be achieved. This new target will shadow run for a year so that the approach can be tested.

Securing compliance

1.16 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 with inspecting high-risk premises. (See page 55)

Mandatory activities

1.17 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 Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. :

- 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 beginning on page 64.

Managing the organisation

1.18 This section includes information on a wide range of management and business issues, eg staffing, prompt payment of bills, charging, green housekeeping. (See page 91.) Of particular note is that HSE achieved corporate liP status: notified in May 2003.

Health and Safety in HSE

1.19 HSE has significantly raised the profile of staff health & safety, agreed a stress strategy and developed an action plan and completed a benchmarking exercise with the Highways Agency which was of benefit to both organisations in demonstrating areas for improvement. (See page 103)

The Management Plan

1.20 This is the second year of a very detailed Plan. Good progress has been made on many of the numerous actions. (See page 105) Delivery of the priorities set out in this Plan has continued against the background of a wider programme of change in HSE designed to make HSE a more modern, responsive and flexible organisation which will deliver improved health and safety. The overall emphasis within the Change Programme is on behavioural change and new ways of working. New organisational structures have been put in place to facilitate those ways of working and to respond to the challenges set by the Strategic Plan, including implementation of the priorities in the Management Plan. The Change Programme was established early in 2002/03, based on the outcome of a scoping project conducted towards the end of 2001/02. During 2002/03, in structural terms, new Directorates and Divisions were set up: the Strategy and Intelligence Division, the Policy Group and the Corporate Science and Analytical Support Directorate. In addition, sector work has been reviewed with changes aimed at a coverage better reflecting the current mix of the economy; science and technology support has been moved into Operational Directorates and the Policy Group so as to strengthen the links between operations and policy. 'Ways of working' workshops have been piloted and will be rolled out for all staff across HSE in 2003/04. Most importantly in terms of our role, there is now a clear statement of our

Vision, Mission, Aims and Values and this will inform work on the new Strategy which is currently being developed.

Operational Outputs and Performance Measures (OPMs)

1.21 The final outturn for numbers of regulatory contacts is 10% above profile; for % of incidents investigated: 7.9% (0.3 percentage points below the end year target of 8.2%); and the outturn for the % of complaints investigated is 85% (2 % below the end year target). The final number of safety cases processed is below the profile.

1.22 A mixed picture emerges from remaining OPMs. Some have been well achieved. Outturn on % staff payroll costs devoted to central services is 7% against a target of 8%. The Business Improvement Plan shows savings valued at £12 655 581 for the year achieved through a combination of cash savings and quantifiable added benefits. *This is equivalent to 6.1% of total administrative costs in resource terms (excluding HSL) of £207 224 606.71 - exceeding our target of 3% for year-on-year savings.* (See page 127)

Legislative annex

1.23 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.

(See page 128)

Further information

1.24 In addition to publishing this report as a printed document, you can also find it on the HSE website. 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 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 <http://www.hse.gov.uk/contact/index.htm> Staff here can help answer general enquiries and tell you about our publications.