

PRIORITY PROGRAMMES

Introduction

1.25 Eight Priority Programmes have been selected covering hazards or sectors where major improvements are necessary if the targets are to be met. We will focus on five hazard areas and three sectors:

- **falls from height;**
- **workplace transport;**
- **musculoskeletal disorders;**
- **work-related stress;**
- **agriculture;**
- **construction ;**
- **health services; and**
- **slips and trips (*broadened beyond former LA remit to tackle in addition the 75% of slips and trips major injuries occurring within HSE-enforced premises/activities*).**

1.26 The mix of tools used in the plans (compliance, continuous improvement, knowledge, skills and competencies, and support and advice) has been designed to suit the needs of each programme, based on the particular circumstances in each sector or hazard. In some hazards, knowledge and understanding is better developed so different approaches can be adopted which focus, for example, on securing compliance with the law. However, a common strand throughout is the involvement of stakeholders to help deliver the targets.

1.27 These hazards and sectors are those where action is needed now. If such action is successful we will bring forward new priorities later. Health issues often require longer to identify the scope of problems and the best ways of tackling them before specific action can be taken. There is inevitably an overlap between work that is carried on in sectors and work to address specific hazards. Details of how each programme has developed over 2002/03 follows.

Table 1 Falls from height

This Priority Programme has strong links to other Priority Programmes on agriculture, construction and workplace transport. Key messages for the programme are to encourage duty holders to: design out the need for work at height if possible; plan and use safe systems for all work at height; to select, use and maintain suitable equipment; to ensure that all those involved in work at heights are competent; and to ensure that when work at height is necessary it is properly managed and supervised.

Plans for 2002/03

Selected milestones

- Agree and publish surrogate measures for measuring progress.
- Review quarterly progress with programme of compliance visits.
- Publish consultation document on the implementation of the Temporary Work at Heights Directive.
- HSE and local authorities will carry out targeted inspections programmes; and
- a programme of increased investigations and verification inspections addressing risks of falls from height on offshore installations will be pursued.

Compliance

- HSE will implement the Temporary Work at Heights Directive (by summer 2003) addressing all aspects of work at height, including selection & use of equipment and training.

Continuous improvement

- Projects will be developed to address designing out the need to work at height, to introduce safe systems of work, and on the availability and use of suitable equipment;
- individual projects to target key aspects of falls from height will be developed including methods to encourage better management of risks through, for example, inspection and publicity initiatives with external organisations; and
- projects will include a combination of compliance-related activity, publicity, initiatives with trade associations, intermediaries etc, and other activities.

Progress during 2002/03

Programme is using various indicators to measure its impact and progress. These include questionnaires and surveys following interventions/activity, requests for advice/information/presentations relating to programme activity. Decision taken not to publish surrogate targets but to work to overall Revitalising targets.

Number of visits undertaken exceeded plans. Performance in addressing the falls hazard is being measured/reviewed by comparing outcomes of programme of compliance visits.

Publication delayed until summer 2003 as a result of extensive internal & external consultation on drafting of regulations.

Time spent on targeted, topic based inspections by HSE exceeded forecast plans by 73% - planned allocation was 6 075 staff days and outturn was 10 529 staff days. This excess in activity was reflected in the number of inspections undertaken and the number of enforcement notices issued.

Programme put in place. Aim is to achieve a 15% reduction in falls by 2004.

Implementation delayed until summer 2004 as a result of extensive internal & external consequence.

Projects, including research projects, have addressed these issues. Conclusions/outcomes are being/will be shared and used to inform future programme activity. Targeted projects have been developed in consultation with stakeholders - including Trade Unions. For example we have worked with the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT), Amicus-AEEU and the Electrical Contractors Association (ECA) to target falls amongst electrical and maintenance fitters. Also started work with relevant trade associations on a project targeting falls from vehicles in the workplace and with local authorities to address the issue of falls in primary schools.

Knowledge

- Work to develop HSE's knowledge base will be completed.
- Ongoing research will be continued, and further work will be commissioned to support the programme.
- Ongoing evaluation of both individual projects and the programme as a whole will examine whether approaches are effective in the long term.

Skills

- Projects will be developed to address the competence of those carrying out work at height and the management and supervision of this work.

Detailed analysis of HSE's statistics undertaken and now being used to inform programme activity. It has led us to the conclusion that particular attention needs to be paid to the high number of low falls from height and the work sectors where these falls are occurring.

Programme of research projects progressing satisfactorily. Research strategy for the programme has prioritised areas where new work is needed.

Evaluation is taking place as and when the need arises. Results of evaluation are being used to plan future programme activity, eg the evaluation of the approach used in a project targeting ladder accidents amongst maintenance fitters, where the combination of a toolbox talk and the issuing of an 'angle aid card' was used, has confirmed that the target audience found the approach helpful. We are now giving consideration to replicating the approach elsewhere.

These elements are being considered as part of the topic based inspection programme being undertaken.

Other significant activities

- The programme has established good links with a variety of stakeholders both within and outside HSE.
- Work is being taken forward in collaboration with the Workplace Transport PP to address the issue of falls from vehicles, particularly during the sheeting and unsheeting of lorries.

Table 2 Workplace transport

The programme has strong links to other Priority Programmes, especially on agriculture and construction. Stakeholder involvement is vital for the success of this Priority Programme. Priorities for this year have been to engage stakeholders in the development of a strategy to improve safety in workplace transport and to improve the management of workplace transport activities. With the help of stakeholders we have identified three areas for action: concentrating on the site, driver training and competence and vehicle design. Strategies for reducing accidents in all three areas have been developed and work to implement them is being taken forward in 2003/04.

Plans for 2002/03

Progress during 2002/03

Selected milestones

- 10 May 2002 - end of consultation period on discussion document *Preventing workplace transport accidents*. By August 2002 - development of strategy.
- October 2002 - conference to discuss proposals for way forward.

Compliance

HSE will:

- publish research reports and external and internal guidance to aid compliance;
- carry out inspections and investigations of workplace transport activities; and
- work with local authorities to prioritise their inspection effort towards the segregation of vehicles and pedestrians.

149 responses received to the discussion document. These responses and other discussions with our stakeholders helped to crystallise our decision to develop three strategies concentrating on the site, driver competence and training and vehicle design.

Conference in October 2002 was a great success when employers from many sectors of industry, workers and unions rallied behind the proposals.

Specialist Inspector time invested in providing, for example, detailed information on causal factors of all investigated accidents on trucks over a four-year period (published). Two external pieces of guidance were prepared for publication in 2003/04:

- a) a complete revision and rewrite of HSG136 *Workplace transport safety*;
- b) a suite of free leaflets, in support of HSG136, but targeted specifically at employees will be going out for wide consultation during 2003/04.

Approximately 10 000 days were spent in total on the topic, including 20 000 preventative inspections and 800 enforcement notices.

HSE's Field Operations Directorate (FOD) put on two seminars specifically for LA inspectors in London and Glasgow. The purpose was to inform LAs what was happening on topic-based inspection; promote the workplace transport Priority Programme; emphasise the importance of segregating vehicles and pedestrians; and made available to LA inspectors the same guidance that HSE inspectors had access to.

Continuous improvement

- Working with stakeholders, HSE will develop a web based databank of good practice information and make this freely available; and
- investigate the application of CCTV to road going vehicles and if necessary produce guidance on this.

Knowledge

- A CD-ROM providing interactive means of assessing driver competence will be developed and will be made freely available; and
- research on the financial costs of workplace transport accidents, the novel design of lift trucks to improve visibility for drivers when travelling forward and the behavioural aspects of workplace transport accidents will be commissioned.

Skills

- HSE is seeking the views of stakeholders on whether a more prescriptive training regime for drivers is required. Further work will be done on the development of strategy in this area following comments received during the discussion period.

Support

- HSE is seeking the views of stakeholders on what improvements they would like to see to existing guidance on managing workplace transport risks.

Work has started on the web pages in consultation with HSE's Directorate of Information and Advisory Services (DIAS). This is ongoing, although pages will be available in the first quarter of 2003/04.

Proposals are being considered as to how best to maximise benefits of CCTV. Intended outcome is to produce training material for drivers of different types of Large Goods Vehicles (LGVs) which is about to be launched. The views of drivers, their employers and clients will also be sought.

The CD-ROM was developed in partnership with large companies from the construction and retail sectors and successfully launched in October 2002. The first 5000 copies were made available free and responses are being evaluated.

The benefits to be gained from the proposals have been re-evaluated and a research plan for 2003/04 has been put in place.

Overwhelming support for a more prescriptive training regime including competence assessments and refresher training. We are now in negotiation with the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) with a view to consulting later in 2003/04 on a workplace transport driving licence. The HSE Solicitor has been consulted on the necessary changes to Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER): regulation 9.

Stakeholders indicated that the amount and quality of guidance relating to workplace transport was appropriate but that they had difficulty in keeping up to date with what was available. A decision has been taken to consolidate all guidance into one priced booklet and seven free leaflets. These will be available on the website and through usual sources.

Other significant activities

A project led by FOD Wales and South West 'Delivering Milk Safely' brought together the duty holders who share responsibility for workplace transport safety in the milk and dairy sector. Industry representatives heard the results of inspections at factories, farms and, in co-operation with local authority inspectors, at retail premises. Duty holders are going to improve communication and agree common standards.

Table 3 Musculoskeletal disorders

Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) account for over one third of all working days lost due to work related illness. But they are well understood and we know how to manage them. The programme uses this know-how for practical interventions in the framework of the occupational health strategy Securing Health Together. It promotes a comprehensive approach involving all individuals and organisations in the workplace. A significant element is aimed at securing compliance with relevant legislation, which requires the application of ergonomic ideas to provide effective and efficient solutions.

Plans for 2002/03

Selected milestones

- Improve the management of MSDs by applying and reviewing a new inspection approach to the HSE enforced sector which focuses on things that make a difference to the management of MSDs and records employers' performance using three risk control indicators (avoidance and control; instruction and training; and management commitment and worker involvement).
- Publish revised guidance on the Display Screen Equipment (DSE) Regulations to aid compliance.
- Promote the implementation of revised guidance on the prevention and management of work related upper limb disorders (WRULD).
- Disseminate the lessons from the Back in Work initiative to stakeholders through, for example, events to promote integrated approaches to managing back pain.

Compliance

- Target inspection and enforcement where there is known high risk, for example lifting heavy building blocks and kerbstones in construction and handling people in physiotherapy and occupational therapy in selected NHS trusts;

Progress during 2002/03

FOD proactive inspection has exceeded the planned time for MSD work. Enforcement activity has increased significantly. 6 600 days were spent on MSDs compared with a planned 5 400 days. Notices relating to MSDs are up 25% to 366 compared to 292 last year. (The number of Improvement Notices rose by 34% - from 247 to 331.)

Published on 28 February International RSI (Repetitive Strain Injury) day, and launched by HSC Commissioner Owen Tudor.

Free leaflet, INDG171, launched as above. Leaflet and its messages promoted in press release; LAU, Express, and Department of Health (DoH)/HSE *Sign Up* newsletters; HSE's MSD web pages. HSG60 promoted at Joint Scottish IOSH (Institution of Occupational Safety and Health) Conference on MSD, November 2002.

Lessons disseminated through ISGMD and publicised on Securing Health Together and MSD Priority Programme Websites. Evaluation Report *Back in work* published. Presentations to sectors, stakeholders and industries, eg CORUS, Engineering Employer's Federation (EEF), LA Forum.

In construction, inspection focussed on manual handling of kerbstones. Raised risk awareness, commitment to 'designing out' the problem/ and greater use of lifting machinery. In **NHS trusts**, private hospitals and care homes were inspected and 61 Improvement Notices (INs) served concerning manual handling. Where relevant, inspection focused on physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

- campaign in agriculture to emphasise the need for manual handling training where mechanical handling is not reasonably practicable; and
- work with local authorities to improve enforcement of DSE regulations in the local authority enforced sector, and create a 'DSE club' to foster the exchange of information on compliance.

Continuous improvement

- Promote, ergonomic interventions with stakeholders and establish integrated approaches to the management of WRULD and lower back pain;
- work with stakeholders in docks and air transport to build support for the Priority Programme and promote the use of physiotherapy and related support;
- set industry targets with Water UK the water industry trade association;
- continue to encourage rehabilitation in the textiles industry;
- provide support to the proposed NHS Back in Work campaign; and
- evaluate larger agricultural and horticultural companies' approaches to MSD.

Knowledge

- Publish a research strategy for WRMSD;

Inspectors continued to emphasise the need for good manual handling technique training in agriculture. 15 INs served in relation to MSD in agriculture.

Produced six editions of DSE Forum to inform LAs about DSE issues and exchange information. Three pilot projects run by LAs involving workshops, new inspection forms and surveys of DSE use are all at different stages.

Working Backs Scotland and RHS work in several FOD sectors. The Corrugated Packaging Association (CPA) in association with the Graphical Media and Paper Union (GMPU) now has a national rolling programme to create a behavioural change in workers and a management action plan for use throughout the industry.

RHS in Air Transport project (RHSAT) developed liaison with stakeholders, presentations and training courses. Conference planned for 7 April 2003. In docks the industry has signed up to stiffer RHS targets than the national ones.

Resources for this activity were re-prioritised.

HSC's Textile Industry Advisory Committee (TEXIAC) MSD Working Group has continued to promote increased take-up of rehabilitation across the industries but the response has been disappointing.

Health Sector input into first tranche of supporting leaflets for campaign. Publicity/support to initiative given at speaking opportunities to stakeholders nationally and locally.

Resources diverted to support work by intermediaries reviewing the provision of Manual Handling training (Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) and NAPAEU) and researching scope for reduction in pack sizes packaged goods (CPA and United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association (UKASTA)).

Research Strategy agreed and will be published on the MSD web pages June 2003.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/pdfs/researchagenda.pdf>

- evaluate construction design methods and provide practical solutions to MSD risks affecting particular construction trades;
- seek examples of good practice solutions from intermediaries and inspection intelligence on, for example manual handling in plastics;
- examine injury rates and frequency/weight of unit loads lifted in the food and drink sector to inform advice to reduce unit weights;
- analyse incident investigation reports in the health sector and offshore to establish causes and identify targets for action and areas of further research;
- assess the extent and sources of WRMSD in typical farming systems; and
- assess the nature, distribution and incidence of ill health caused or made worse by work in the local authority enforced sector.

Skills

- Produce inspection packs and training to enable HSE and local authority inspectors to identify WRMSD risks and take appropriate action;
- continue WRMSD enforcement training for HSE and local authority inspectors;
- develop further guidance and training on good practice in patient handling;
- develop training material, for use by training providers in the ceramics sector;
- complete the training of agricultural inspectors in manual handling techniques;

Research mapped health hazards and risks in the construction process. Another project examined MSD in bricklayers, carpenters and plasterers.

A joint working group has identified the high risk areas and solutions are being identified with industry.

Research completed results inconclusive because of insufficient data available.

In the health sector initial analysis carried out, further work ongoing. Initiative to look at theatre nurses in 2003/04 is one outcome. Ambulance work was confirmed as a high hazard occupation. **Offshore** work has stalled because of the limited number of incidents for investigation.

Not taken forward because of constraints on the research budget.

Kings College research identified priority hazards and activities to focus local authority's enforcement and promotional activities. These have been highlighted in the Health and Safety Executive / local authorities Enforcement Liaison Committee (HELA) work plan for 2003-2004 and includes work on MSDs.

Training in use of the inspection packs has been given to FOD inspectors, some Hazardous Installations Directorate (HID) and local authority inspectors, and to Health and Safety for Northern Ireland (HSENI) inspectors.

Three enforcement courses held: 70 delegates trained.

Two further case studies identified and are being written up for dissemination during 2003.

'Ceramics pledge' RHS initiative includes training pack and ceramics certificate in health and safety management.

Six manual handling courses run; 60 inspectors trained.

- organise skills exchange for manual handling trainers in agriculture;
- identify training needs for health professionals to improve management of WRMSD, and particularly WRULD.

Support

- Develop further guidance for sectors and activities with a high risk of MSD, and encourage effective ergonomic interventions;
- encourage larger companies to provide support (best/good practice) for small firms using case study material from, for example, the glass industry;
- develop further advice based on research into MSD risk factors for construction trades and associations;
- provide guidance on the design of wheels and bearings on trolleys to reduce risk from pushing and pulling loads enabling purchasers, in the food industry especially, to specify safer and more efficient trolleys.

Decision taken to await results of IOM research into *Good Manual Handling - achieving a consensus* (published 15 April 2003) work to proceed in 2003-04.

Following the Competition of Ideas, two projects have been selected for funding to review the training needs of occupational health professionals. One project concerning occupational health nurses and physiotherapists began on 20 February. The other project will focus on occupational physicians and general practitioners. It is expected to start within the next six months. Work on the diagnostic aid will be taken forward in the light of the results of this research and other developments on the management of musculoskeletal disorders.

Additional guidance on MH has been produced or is in process, eg cleaners (to be published May 2003) (developed in association with, and based on research supported by, UNISON), dock work and a motor vehicle repair checklist that included MH.

'GLASS Charter', the glass industries continuing RHS initiative enables large employers to provide small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with best practice guidance and access to their health and safety information, expertise and knowledge.

Research reports published: *Musculoskeletal problems in bricklayers, carpenters and plasterers: literature review and results of site visits* ERG/01/01 Dr AJD Pinder HSL and *Mapping health hazards and risk across aspects of the construction process*. Institute of Occupational Medicine CRR 447/2002.

Food Information Sheet No 33: *Roll cages and wheeled racks in the food and drink industries: Reducing manual handling injuries*. Issued April 2003.

Other significant activities

Development of MSD web pages on HSE website and HELA website. Both sets of web pages are live. They include case studies on MSDs, useful information, links to other sites, live issues and information about the PP. See <http://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/>

Development of manual handling assessment chart (MAC): MAC released to HSE and LA inspectors on 5th November 2002.

Worked with BackCare on revision of guidance *Back Care at Work: an Ergonomic Guide to Manual Handling Guidance* published on 15th April 2003. HID companies making manual handling related RIDDOR reports (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations), and the injured person, targeted with questionnaire (based in part on MAC) and advice pilot successfully completed – yielded some very useful information and will now proceed to a full year of targeting all reporters (c 800 per annum).

Table 4 Work-related stress

This Priority Programme initially focuses on working with partners to develop clear, agreed standards of good management practice for a range of stressors and to better equip HSE inspectors and local authority officers to handle work related stress during routine work. HSE is also supporting publicity and guidance to educate employers and employee representatives especially on risk assessment. This programme has particular links to the Health Services Priority Programme.

Plans for 2002/03

Selected milestones

- Complete consultation of the first phase management standards through the Occupational Health Advisory Committee (OHAC) and pilot the first phase management standards.
- Carry out a qualitative evaluation of guidance that was published in June 2001.
- Develop training materials for managers and safety representatives on stress risk assessments.
- Focus on work related stress in European Week of Safety and Health 2002, highlighting practical action that managers can take to tackle work-related stress, as described in *Tackling work-related stress: A managers guide to improving and maintaining employee health and well-being* (HS(G)218).

Progress during 2002/03

Draft standards developed in consultation with pilot organisations. OHAC consulted April 2003. Pilot study underway. Wider stakeholder engagement, including Trade Unions, underway.

The guidance will be evaluated autumn 2003 to allow time for the awareness raising campaign to impact.

Framework for web pages developed including stress risk assessment walk through, case studies and model stress policy.

An awareness raising campaign ran over summer 2002 to promote practical action in the build up to European Week. New web pages launched during the week. HSE staff participated in around 85 conferences and events, prepared presentations for senior managers, including a speech to the Trade Union “stress” conference and hosted a visit from Swedish Labour Inspectorate.

Compliance

- Improve duty holders' awareness of the organisational factors that can cause stress and assess the extent to which they have carried out risk assessment, during all pro-active inspections where there is a significant risk of stress.

Continuous improvement

- Complete and prepare a report on the local benchmarking pilots;
- based on research results, gather information about best practice in prevention and rehabilitation with a view to publishing in 2003/04; and
- identify stress levels in NHS Trusts by establishing baselines for sickness absences, violent incidents and other factors.

Knowledge

- Gather information on the prevalence of work related stress in the local authority enforced sector; and
- improve knowledge of stress levels in NHS Wales through questionnaire analysis.

Skills

- Improve the skills of key HSE Field Operations Directorate (FOD) and local authority personnel who are involved in proactive inspection on stress.

Support

- In the health services ensure that duty holders are aware and implementing the Health Services Advisory Committee's guidance.

954 days have been spent on proactive and reactive stress inspection activity which equates to about 8 inspector years. Stress has been raised as an issue at 1785 inspections. These outputs are below plan because of the time taken up with assessing new approach.

Cross-Government benchmarking group met again in February 2003. Work ongoing to consider existing networks. Report on Health Action Zone on website.

Final report for research on rehabilitation in stress cases received May 2003, and research to identify best practice in prevention of stress due June 2003.

National Audit Office (NAO) report found two-thirds of NHS trusts believed work-related stress had increased over the past three years but many could not produce data to support this view and others did not know the trends in their trusts.

Information gathering system developed for local authority inspections. Data collected from April 2003.

Baseline data gathering to identify stress levels in NHS Trusts has been taken forward but meaningful data does not appear available through the Trusts and will have to be gathered through other sources.

Training on content and use of Stress Inspection pack delivered to all FOD inspectors and approximately 100 LA inspectors Training course for inspectors designed developed and piloted February 2003. Evaluation completed and further course planned for November 2003.

Research on *Interventions to control stress in hospital staff* published. Guidance being written and due to be published during 2003/04.

Other significant activities

To support the development of the management standards:

- A suite of tools has been developed to facilitate the pilot process, including advice on employee engagement, risk assessment, development of the business case and guide to interventions.

- A research proposal outlining further analysis of the Whitehall II data set has been agreed. Research will commence during summer 2003.
- ACAS has been engaged to offer support to pilot organisations.

Table 5 Construction

This programme is taking forward actions over a broad front to engage with all stakeholders including clients, contractors, designers, suppliers and workers. Key elements include improving knowledge on health and safety performance; promoting the business case for successful health and safety risk management; developing the regulatory framework and supporting guidance, developing effective compliance strategies and ensuring vigorous enforcement to address shortcomings in duty holders.

Plans for 2002/03

Progress during 2002/03

Selected milestones

- Implement a new intervention strategy to secure compliance through inspections, investigations and, where required, formal enforcement involving all those in the construction procurement and supply chain, focusing on cultural change.
- Roll out local events- Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs) – targeted at difficult to reach small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).
- Publish a discussion document (DD) on construction health and safety to contribute to the review of the CDM and Construction Health, Safety and Welfare (CHSW) Regulations.
- Commence construction occupational health support services pilot study.

Intervention strategy published in May 2002. We have encouraged innovative, more effective and more efficient working to secure improved duty holder performance and cultural change through a range of techniques including early interventions, work with major projects and a ‘Government as client’ initiative. Indications that this approach is producing positive results.

In partnership with industry stakeholders, promoted SHADs catching the imagination of major industry players, local companies, LAs and Working Well Together (WWT) groups. Thirteen events held across GB attracting 2300 delegates from SMEs and micro businesses. Vast majority from businesses previously unknown to HSE. Similar events for designers also successfully held to improve their understanding of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM) duties and ‘Revitalising’.

DD published Sept 2002. Well received by the industry, over 300 responses were received with wide-ranging views about possible change. Summary of responses published April 2003. Work to analyse and develop proposals for action by HSE and others.

Project progressed with an agreed model that has been tested with the market. Greater industry ‘ownership’ encouraged through establishment of an Action Forum supported by employer organisations and Trade Unions.

- Trial the worker safety adviser pilot.
- Establish new HSE field division dedicated to inspecting the construction industry.

Compliance

- Give priority to improving compliance in falls from height, workplace transport, musculoskeletal injury from heavy blocks and kerbstones, hand arm vibration and noise.

Pilot completed November 2002 with considerable enthusiasm and commitment from construction participants (the Trade Unions and an employer organisation). Report being drafted.

New Construction Division established and major advances in operational techniques and achievements through compliance work and work with intermediaries.

COMPLIANCE

Exceeded planned 37 000 regulatory contacts (including 16 000 inspection contacts). Created opportunities for earlier project engagement and work with supply chains and their clients. Investigated 1400 accidents and 8700 complaints. Issued 2500+ Prohibition Notices (PNs) & 700+ INs. Successfully prosecuted 222 companies for 375 breaches of the law. Used Inspection Rating Form ensuring priority topics targeted at all relevant inspections.

FALLS

Promoted re-engineered safer processes, eg pre-cast flooring erection. Eight widely publicised GB-wide 'blitzes' with falls as a major theme. Falls the main focus of enforcement activity.

TRANSPORT

Focus on pre-planning, segregation, reversing and visibility. Concerns over variable standards, particularly public protection at housing sites. Successful transport 'blitzes.' Transport a core topic for SHADs.

MUSCULOSKELETAL - BLOCKS AND KERBS

Operational and intermediary activity focused on manual handling of kerbs following earlier successes of 'single issue' foci on bagged products and heavy blocks. Increased commitment to 'designing out' the problem and increased use of mechanical lifting.

NOISE

Inspection initiative on noise control made steady progress. Some good practice identified. Audiometry for 'at risk' workers observed.

HAND-ARM VIBRATIONS (HAV)

Targeted high risk processes such as manual pile cap removal and scabbling. Designers have better understanding, workers have increased awareness and some good health surveillance practices found.

Continuous improvement

- Stimulate, monitor and review the delivery of action plans produced by key ‘Umbrella’ bodies at the February 2001 Construction Summit to ensure they are driven across and down the industry; and

- encourage industry to promulgate its own health and safety guidance for high-risk processes.

Knowledge

- Continue to improve the quality of intelligence on health and safety performance in the construction industry;

- complete and review key research projects into incident and ill health causation; promulgate the conclusions and review incident investigation procedures in light of the outcomes of research; and

Evidence of good progress on commitments made by industry through Summit action plans, particularly on competence. Some 500 000 workers (approximately 30% of the workforce) now hold competence-based health and safety cards. (See also Chief Inspector of Construction’s report to Ministers

www.hse.gov.uk/spd/pdf/report2.pdf)

Worked in collaboration with industry bodies and stakeholders, supporting wide-ranging action by them including:

- Major Contractor Group’s occupational health management policy.
- The scaffolding industry progressing SG4, their guidance to safe erection of scaffolding.
- The precast flooring manufacturers using ‘fall arrest’ systems such as air bags.
- Continued development of non-fragile roofing materials.
- Promoting improved construction machinery driver visibility.

Strategy identified and intelligence gaps filled through better use of existing data and targeted research. Results widely promulgated through revised construction fact sheet and research reports.

Completed two separate research projects identifying underlying causative factors: further developed an ‘influence network’ to identify levers for change and to inform programme development.

Completed research into ladder safety – fixing, footing and stability devices.

Published *Mapping health hazards and risks across aspects of the construction process*. Also published *MSD problems in bricklayers, carpenters and plasterers*.

Completed two separate research projects identifying underlying causative factors: further developed an ‘influence network’ to identify levers for change and to inform programme development.

Completed research into ladder safety – fixing, footing and stability devices.

- commission research into work related ill health in construction.

Skills

- Continue work from 2001/02 to influence the initial training and continuing professional development of engineering, design and architectural professionals;
- construct a website of teaching aids for lecturers/students in undergraduate construction courses and monitor impact; and
- continue to stimulate and support a pan-industry strategy for accreditation of all on site.

Support

- Continue to support HSC's Construction Industry Advisory Committee (CONIAC) –WWT campaign and other methods to promote worker awareness and good practice; and
- develop a new publicity strategy to reach all parts of the construction industry.

Published *Mapping health hazards and risks across aspects of the construction process*. Also published *MSD Problems in bricklayers, carpenters and plasterers*.

Worked through construction industry Council to progress initiatives on professional competence: limited success with designers.

Stand-alone website established and welcomed by educationalists.

Continued support to pan-industry initiative that has competence assessed 0.5 million workers through the Construction Skills Certificate Scheme (CSCS), an industry-led scheme supported by Trade Unions and employers.

In addition to SHADs, wider SME engagement under WWT campaign through industry-led local and regional WWT support groups, the WWT bus tour, the National WWT Conference and awards, including for the first time, a No.1 Worker Award received by a TU Safety Rep.

A dedicated team established to deliver the full spectrum of construction publicity, media and publications needs to deliver a new communication strategy reflecting WWT, small firms communication, advertising campaigns, exhibitions and free media, etc.

Other significant activities

Successful major publicity initiative involving press, regional radio adverts, billboards and posters targeted at micro and SMEs on falls. 181 news releases targeted at the specialist industry press and national organisations.

Table 6 Agriculture

The main thrust of activity in this programme is to improve knowledge of health and safety and thereby compliance with health and safety law. Working with others, HSE's plans for 2002/03 were to explore methods of ensuring a better trained and educated management and workforce who embrace safer practices and who have a better knowledge of the risks and the precautions that must be taken to improve health and safety. Improving legislation was part of this work as was encouraging partnership through mechanisms such as the Agricultural Industry Advisory Committee (AIAC), which advises HSC on health and safety in agriculture and working with DEFRA as part of their restructuring approach to the industry.

Plans for 2002/03

Selected milestones

- Organise and run 18 Safety Awareness Days (SADs).
- Pilot an IT based self-assessment scheme for farmers (subject to funding).
- Explore new initiatives to reduce the number of child deaths and major injuries due to agricultural work activity.
- Publish blackspot reports on tree work (high falls) and livestock handling.
- Publish report on research into the incidence of non-fatal incidents and zoonosis to children.
- Identify key stakeholders and the messages on RHS HSC/E want them to action and promote.

Progress during 2002/03

A full programme of SADs was held during 2002/03, attended and well received by over 6200 farmers. An independent evaluation demonstrated the success of this approach. In 2003/04 the range of SADs will be widened to encompass events with the TGWU and NFU.

Treasury funding secured for a two-year project to develop the scheme. Project progressing to plan. Currently in development stage. Pilot planned autumn 2003.

Independent research commissioned to identify extent and depth of knowledge on child safety within the farming community. Together with HSE's publicity directorate, the results are being mapped as a basis for a five-year educational/promotional strategy to address child safety in agriculture.

The draft version of the tree work blackspot report is currently being produced and will be published in 2003. A video on livestock handling was produced during 2002/03 which led to the proposal to produce a livestock handling blackspot report being withdrawn.

A report by the Institute of Rural Health *Farm Child UK* has been published. The two-part report is one of the first products of the new Child Safety Strategy.

A review of key stakeholders is underway to identify those that can best help influence farmers including in particular the self-employed family farm. The Government's recently published Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food (SFFS) recognises a safe working environment as a key principle of sustainability, opening up further opportunities to build farm health and safety into the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) / Government agenda.

Compliance

- Continue to pursue access to the DEFRA and Scottish Executive databases on premises and activity so as to be able to better target HSE inspections in the industry;
- continue the legislative review and take forward any actions in consultation with industry and other stakeholders;
- carry out 18 publicised blitz inspections;
- audit 12 Estate Management Companies and a selection of the premises they manage;
- carry out further targeted inspections of farms with up to 20 employees on site;
- if self assessment audits prove feasible organise a structured pilot;
- carry out approximately 35 visits to ensure designated machinery is safe when supplied;

Acceptance of the need for further more detailed HSE access established, and that the necessary measures should be put in place to enable future access. In the meantime, HSE requests for updated general farm information have been made.

HSC/E made a major contribution to a National Farmers' Union (NFU) Conference on Child Farm Safety in July 2002 to explore options for reducing child deaths and injuries on farms. This followed HSE's review of the Prevention of Accidents to Children in Agriculture Regulations (PACAR) and HSC's consideration of a new set of regulations (see 'Review of PACAR and associated ACOP' below).

A total of 22 blitz inspection campaigns were carried out with almost 2000 visits being made. Some of the blitzes targeted specific topics (including horticulture, manual handling, dermatitis, quad bikes, silage making & potato/vegetable harvesting, overhead power lines, transport) while others were general blitzes that covered all farms in a geographical location or follow-up visits to farmers who had been invited but did not attend Safety Awareness Days (SADs).

Ten audits were carried out on estate management companies over the year. Some HSE agriculture groups had difficulty in identifying suitable local companies who fully meet the criteria but work is continuing and further audits are planned in 2003.

Over 7750 site inspection contacts made during the year – the majority of which met the employment criterion.

Self-audit form feasible. Further development and pilot planned autumn 2003. Subject to outcome of pilot, national implementation in 2004.

Over 50 visits made in connection with machinery supply. Visits covered a range of different machinery and equipment. One successful outcome was ensuring further moves towards the supply of full documentation at point of sale of second hand machinery.

- Target the maintenance of brakes on tractors and trailers.

- Review the Prevention of Accidents to Children in Agriculture Regulations (PACAR) and associated ACOP.

Continuous improvement

- Progress actions from high level inter departmental meetings and meetings with stakeholders held in 2001/02; and
- continue work with Industry Advisory Committees (IACs), local authorities and key intermediaries.

Maintenance of brakes on tractors and trailers was covered in the majority of inspections and was also the subject of a number of blitzes which has resulted in a large amount of enforcement action (including issuing of notices and a number of prosecutions being initiated). Transport maintenance (including brakes) was also the subject of a scenario presented at HSE's SADs.

HSC decided not to progress proposed regulations on prevention of accidents to young persons in agriculture (PAYPAR) at present but sought further information on extent and scale of involvement of children in farming activities. HSE, in partnership with others, is looking at a range of options for reducing farm child deaths and injuries.

HSE building health and safety into a number of DEFRA workstreams to deliver the SFFS, including Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform, demonstration farms, review of rural learning, skills and knowledge, and whole farm approach to better regulatory compliance.

The Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee's (AIAC's) Arboriculture & Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG) undertook a major programme of work to ensure that replacements for the Forestry and Arboriculture Safety and Training Council (FASTCO) leaflets were produced and made available in March 2003. HSE has participated in the work of the forestry industry's Round Wood Haulage working party which has produced a code of practice dealing with haulage of logs. Work with the arboricultural industry has included a peer review team overseeing research work into safety of karabiners and also presentations to key intermediaries in the industry. HSE commented on the integration proposals for forestry and arboricultural certification within the LANTRA (National Training Organisation for the agricultural industry) Sector Skills Council resulting in an agreed programme of action being produced. HSE has been actively engaged with Other Government Departments (OGDs) including DEFRA, The Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD), Department of Health (DOH), Environment Agency (EA) and the Scottish Executive (SE) and with key stakeholders including the CPA, NFU, TGWU, the National Association of Professional Employer Organisations (NAPEO), the British Safety Industry Federation (BSIF), the Poultry Association and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)

Knowledge

- Identify and develop suitable evaluation techniques to evaluate SADs and health and safety training in agricultural colleges;

- continue research on key health and safety issues in the industry.

Skills

- Continue training initiatives identified during 2001/02.

- Continue work with agricultural colleges and universities to improve the health and safety content of courses.

- Evaluate success of SAD events held in 2001/02.

on a range of RHS and AIAC related issues throughout the year.

Evaluation has been carried out by an independent consultant on the previous year's SADs which concluded they were very effective in informing and influencing the target audience (*see 'Skills' section below*). Evaluation work on health and safety training in agriculture colleges did not proceed as planned due to budgetary constraints.

Research has been completed or is still underway on the following: Power Take Off (PTO) shaft guards; whole body vibration (WBV) exposures in tractors; practical solutions to noise problems in agriculture; structural deterioration of tractor cabs with age; security of cross loaded timber; use of mobile elevating platforms for tree work; use of three-way karabiners in arboricultural work; chainsaw leg protection for chainsaws with high chain speeds. A fundamental review of the agriculture research strategy was completed and a series of promising new research proposals will be funded during 2003/04.

HSE has organised and delivered technical training to HSE inspectors through: three agricultural appreciation courses; a mechanical handling in agriculture course; an advanced technology in agriculture course; two livestock handling; a pesticides training course. Additionally the sector has held a Pesticide Liaison Inspectors' Conference and a number of divisional training events on pesticides and manual handling. HSE participated in a consultation exercise resulting in classification of what constitutes the certificate of competence for the use of the chainsaws for forestry and arboriculture.

Priority accorded to the development of a vocational qualification in managing health and safety in agriculture. Further work with agriculture colleges and universities deferred to 2003/04.

Evaluation has been carried out by an independent consultant on the previous year's SADs which concluded they were very effective in informing and influencing the target audience - eg 95% of attendees said they found the SAD useful, 87% said it had increased their awareness of health and safety issues and 73% had made at least one improvement in health or safety.

- Work with LANTRA (National Training Organisation for the agricultural industry) to develop a management competence in health and safety.
- Subject to financing, set up dedicated occupational health support pilot projects for the industry.

Support

- Develop guidance to help clients select competent arborists;
- evaluate the success of advertising campaigns in 2001/02 and develop further campaigns linked to other Priority Programmes;
- produce publications to support health and safety in agriculture; and

AIAC's Health in Agriculture Group (HIAG) is progressing work on this subject. HSE together with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), LANTRA and interested training providers are currently drawing up a timetable for the development and implementation of a vocational qualification on managing health and safety in agriculture.

Funds for a dedicated OH pilot have not been forthcoming but HSE is currently working with Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust to evaluate during 2003/04 a modified version of the original Cumbria Farmers' Health Project. This is an occupational health initiative which aims to improve the health and social well being of the farming community through improving access to existing health care provision.

Industry representatives are currently in the process of producing guidance in consultation with HSE.

Independent researchers evaluated the targeted child safety and falls from height campaigns. Both campaigns showed unprecedented market penetration. In conjunction with HSE's publicity directorate, the results are being built into future campaigns.

Fatal Injuries 2001-2002 published in July 2002 included a new section on the financial costs of agricultural accidents.

Revised Tractor Action publications produced.
Why fall for it? Preventing falls in agriculture publication produced.

A suite of leaflets targeted at forestry and arboricultural contractors is now available on the HSE website. These are integrated into training schemes and industry health and safety management arrangements.

HSE also produced new videos on child safety, cattle handling and the risks from E.coli 0157; the latter linked to and downloadable from HSE's website.

- contribute to the development of CEN (European Standards Committee) Standards on designated equipment that might cause incidents and ill health.

EN 1152 – PTO shaft guards: revised standard (HSE as convenor) under the Vienna Agreement with ISO lead. Updated and updated test criteria to ensure guards are more robust in use.

EN 632 – Combine and forage harvester safety: HSE currently negotiating for cab filtration to reduce grain dust exposure and to ensure grain tank not accessible when unloading augers are rotating.

EN1553 – General safety requirements for agricultural machinery: ensuring that revision under the Vienna Agreement by ISO does not reduce the general safety requirements.

PrEN ISO 4254-6 Sprayers and liquid fertiliser distributors – Safety. Revision of EN907 under Vienna agreement. HSE (project leaders) have, eg sought to ensure standards include requirements to protect against folding booms arching or contact with overhead power lines.

prEN 14017 Fertiliser distributors - Safety and prEN14018 Seed drills - Safety. Ongoing negotiations have focused on ensuring standards include requirements to protect against; a) injuries from contact with agitator mechanisms; and b) folding booms / bout markers arching or contacting with overhead power lines.

Revision of EN703 Silage Cutters. Ongoing negotiations have focused on defending the inclusion of requirements dealing with visibility of cutting tools etc, and guarding of moving parts / discharge outlets.

Other significant activities

Actively supporting the development of the Priority Programmes on MSD and work-related stress; working closely with key stakeholders to promote rural stress support services in the community; currently reviewing the results of research commissioned from HSL into the sources of dusts and asthmagens in the industry; actively engaged with DEFRA, the DOH and other stakeholders in developing a number of Government strategies including those in relation to the proposed Rural Payments Scheme, the Animal Health & Welfare Strategy, the West Nile Virus Strategy, the inter-departmental response to the Joint SE/ Food Standards Agency (FSA) Task Force Report on *E.coli* 0157, the inter-departmental response to rabies in bats etc. Working with key external stakeholders to develop information and resource materials on the application of the new Management of Asbestos Regulations to agriculture. Periodic articles in agriculture press, eg Farmers Weekly and the TGWU's 'Landworker' etc.

Continuing input to the approvals regimes for pesticides, biocides and veterinary medicines. A fundamental strategic review of the agriculture Priority Programme was completed in December 2002 drawing on an analysis of fatal and major accident data and all other available evidence which might have a bearing on the future development and direction of the programme. The review led to the setting of more challenging targets/objectives as well as the development of a new vision, nine-point strategy, business improvement plan (including the planned development of tools for evaluation and in-year performance monitoring and surrogate outcome indicators) and a detailed programme of mechanisms and activities to deliver the targets.

A 'milk project' initiated by HSE in the South West brought together all of the players in the distribution network from producer to retailer. HSE, intermediaries, eg NFU and others in the industry worked on an evidence base from over 100 visits carried out by inspectors to dairy farms. The key outcome of the project was agreement by the dairies that they needed to work more closely with everyone else in the supply chain to deliver improved health and safety outcomes. Significantly the larger dairies, hauliers and retailers are applying these lessons of improved communication and cooperation to other aspects of their business.

Table 7 Health Services

Over the lifetime of this plan, in addition to dealing directly with NHS trusts, HSE will work with the health services in England, Scotland and Wales through their existing and emerging targets and programmes to make a substantial contribution to reducing health and safety failures. HSC will, through HSAC and HSE, seek to ensure that the independent sector also develops suitable targets to secure the improvements required by RHS. Key areas for development will include, musculoskeletal disorders, stress, violence and slips and trips.

Plans for 2002/03

Selected milestones

- Continue visits to poor performers on management of violence and manual handling.

Progress during 2002/03

Downward trend in over 3-day injuries continued through the 01/02 final report. Now showing 20% reduction over five years.

By March 2003, 80 visits had been made to trusts to audit their health and safety arrangements, including those for manual handling (64 trusts) and violence (44 trusts). Some inspections addressed a single topic, others were part of a wider inspection. In addition, 22 private hospitals have been inspected.

The level of Improvement Notices on manual handling across health services has been maintained from the previous year (62).

- Investigation of 200 (estimated) reported MSD related incidents, analyse for performance lessons.
- Working with the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC), the Scottish Regulation of Care Commission (SRCC) and the Care Standards in Wales (CSIW) to develop local and national arrangements for the inspection of care homes.
- Publish Health Services Advisory Committee guidance on work related stress, based on a joint HSE/UNISON/RCN stress research project conducted in 2001/02.
- Targeted inspection on the work of physiotherapists and occupational therapists (OTs) in selected NHS trusts. Programme target: 40 MSD visits; 40 inspections on violence.

Compliance

In the public sector:

- Establish local contact with the 28 NHS Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs), to review compliance; and where appropriate with the new Health Boards in Scotland.

In the independent sector:

- target further joint visits with the NCSC and CSIW to care homes on management of violence, manual handling and patient safety issues.

Continuous improvement

- Secure commitment to this Priority Programme at a national level (through HSC, HSE and the Health Services Advisory Committee (HSAC)), and by strategic interventions.
- encourage NHS SHAs, to deliver their targets/programmes for health and safety (human resources targets, and corporate governance initiatives), through HSE inspectors using Controls Assurance and human resource data collected centrally;

70 investigation reports have been identified to date. All will be analysed for performance lessons.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NCSC published, resulting in a reduction of HSW S3 enforcement action; legal problems have delayed MoU in Scotland; MoU agreed in Wales.

Business case agreed; drafting has commenced; publication during 2nd half of 2003 following external consultation with RCN, UNISON and other stakeholders.

27 trusts received a targeted inspection on the work of physiotherapists and OTs. 59 MSD visits were carried out, 44 on violence. Safety representatives in Trusts are involved in post inspection evaluation.

Approaches to the new SHAs / Workforce Development Confederations (WDC) and Health Boards (Scotland) have been postponed until later in 2003/04.

Contacts and joint visits have been made with local NCSC and CSIW offices and staff. A variety of concerns, principally on investigation and enforcement have arisen. These are being addressed locally and nationally; Approximately 300 care homes have received an inspection this year.

The Director General has met the DoH Permanent Secretary to discuss the NHS's contribution to RHS. HSE Scotland is developing contacts with the Scottish Executive Health Department and key players in NHS Scotland. HSC Commissioners and HSE staff have speaking engagements at a number of forthcoming conferences including an address to RCN safety representatives at their National Congress.

Work with the new SHAs and WDCs will commence late 2003, once they have become operational. Contact made with SHA in developing their monitoring role for governance issues, to be developed further in 2003; contact made with Regional NHS Improving Working Lives (IWL) leads, writing 'benchmark' guidance for their use in assessing organisations against those 'health & safety' elements of the IWL standard.

- encourage the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly of Wales (NAfW) to develop their own NHS health and safety strategies, through contact with HSE Directors for Scotland and Wales;
- work with the independent sector nationally to collect data on incident and ill health to set baselines and targets;
- arrange workshops in each NHS region on priorities for the Priority Programme;
- contribute to the objectives of the construction Priority Programme by undertaking supply chain initiatives by joint Services/construction sectors visits to NHS Estates (NHSE), Purchasing & Supply Authorities (PASA) for England, Scotland & Wales.

Knowledge

- Identify examples of good practice on MSD and violence and produce educational resource on latex allergy with RCN, UNISON and other stakeholders.
- Work with the National Audit Office (NAO) on tools for measuring costs of incidents and ill health in the NHS, and publish the results.

Skills

- Hold internal workshops on manual handling and violence to improve inspector impact.
- Run a health services technical training course for inspectors, to include MSD and other priority topics.

Scotland and Wales have demonstrated commitment to their national programmes; Scotland has published guidance / standards for health and safety management in the NHS; development work has begun with the Welsh Risk Pool to incorporate RHS performance indicators into the Welsh Risk Management Standards.

Delays in agreeing the format and scope of data to be collected has meant that this work has not yet commenced.

HSE is working jointly with the NHS Litigation Authority to deliver a number of workshops in June 2003 for all English trusts.

DoH guidance on Private Finance Initiatives (PFIs) changed to include Construction, Design and Management Regulations; programme of visits to PFIs agreed for 2003/4; NHS Estates - a 'Concordat' is being developed, with specific joint initiatives, eg HSE involvement / consultation on NHSE guidance, hazard alerts, Healthcare by Design project. Some preliminary discussion in Scotland with NHSE in relation to floor surfaces will be followed up in 2003.

Some additional examples of good practice identified on MSD and violence. Sector information minutes to be issued 2003.

Major input into the NAO study into Health & Safety in NHS Trusts. NAO due to report to Public Accounts Committee and publish its report during April / May 2003. This work has produced examples of cost effective initiatives on MSD and Violence and overall costs for accidents and ill health.

Divisional roadshows held in April and May 2002. Evaluation shows that they have helped improve inspector impact. Local training has been provided in Scotland to increase competence in these areas.

Technical training course held in October 2002 (22 delegates).

Support

- Promote existing generic or new Health Services guidance on slips and trips.
- Develop a health services sector home page on the HSE website and provide links with HSE Direct.

Extended internal consultation has delayed this work, but it is expected to be published within the first quarter of 2003.

Work to develop health services web pages is progressing, with go-live anticipated early 2003/4.

Other significant activities

Contacts with new Primary Care Trusts have been made by HSE's Workplace Contact Officers (WCOs); in Wales contact with the Local Health Boards by letter is imminent, all will be visited during 2003/4.

Table 8 Slips and trips

Slips and trips are the most common cause of major injuries at work, and yet they are often perceived as insignificant and unavoidable. This Priority Programme aims to change attitudes to these accidents and offer practical solutions to reduce them via a programme that includes: convincing the right people that slips and trips are serious, that effective action can be taken and to take action; encouraging local authority and HSE staff, employers, employees, intermediaries and other interested parties; influencing those responsible for the design and maintenance of new or refurbished workplaces; underpinning research and standards development. The Slips and Trips Programme has links with the Health Services and Construction Priority Programmes. Membership of the Slips and Trips Programme Board includes representatives from employers, unions and local authorities.

Plans for 2002/03

Selected milestones

- Conduct field trials of the HSE/HSL Pedestrian Slipping Expert System (PSES) across HSE and local authority enforced sectors and use in investigations and inspections.
- Working with local authorities HSE will develop a specific slips and trips website to aid communication and discussion, spread knowledge, raise awareness, promote success stories and other initiatives.

Progress during 2002/03

First phase of evaluation, involved eight scientific support staff, 31 HSE and six LA inspectors using the expert system at a total of 150 different sites. Detailed monitoring of results was carried out in two stages by HSL using a telephone contact system. Work completed March 2003. Overall positive response with 80% of users finding the system gave them confidence to give specific advice on reducing slips risk; and 62% found it gave them evidence to support enforcement decisions. An evaluation report on this part of the trial is available from HSL - WPS/03/04. The second phase will extend the trial to other 20 users split between LA users and joint work with industry in 2003/04.

Slips and trips web pages have been created on the HELA training website (accessible only to LAs). Information already on the website includes Frequently Asked Questions, latest news (eg LAs involved in PSES trials), articles and resources, including the Topic Inspection Pack. Website will be updated regularly and will soon include some recent slip and trip prosecutions and initiatives.

- Conduct a series of Slips Roadshows for local authority enforcement officers; other key stakeholders - large companies and intermediaries; hold workshops for SMEs; and carry out Head Office visits to large companies.

- Complete research into: human factors/changing attitudes; workplace studies in supermarkets and fast food outlets, and trials of footwear products.

Slips and trips (S&T) web pages are being developed on HSE website and will be launched in the summer 2003.

In 2002/03 ten further Slips Roadshows were delivered to LA Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), bringing the rolling total to 25 to date. Approximately 800 EHOs have attended the events.

Nationwide, HSE and LAs worked together to run six seminars for larger companies and intermediaries (approximately 500 companies etc attended); and 11 workshops for SMEs.

For other stakeholders drawn from both enforced sectors - each workshop involved over 24 people from about 12 firms. The workshops had a practical theme with each firm attending drafting out a risk assessment and action plan by the end of the event, the action plan was/will be followed up by phone a few months after the event - evaluation is still being analysed.

Head Office visits by central S&T staff in the LA sector and FOD Divisions incorporated S&T into planned Head Office visits, mainly in the services sector. Concluded that more direction and help from the central S&T team is needed to be addressed 2003/04. Approaches to Royal Mail and Prison Service helped improve management of S&T risks.

Events for large food retailers (all top supermarket chains were represented).

Three other events for a broad band of professional H&S advisers.

Research - human factors scoping study completed as planned, main study in 2003/04; workplace studies started (producing some case study material - eg poor spillage procedure identified and used as case study on forthcoming HSE web pages) and will continue in a wider variety of workplaces in 2003/04. Footwear trial in food factory completed, producing immediate and dramatic reduction in slip accidents. Other footwear trials in supermarket and distribution company started and will report in 2003/04.)

Compliance

- Local authorities will continue to focus enforcement activity of slips and trips in high-risk sectors - enforcement guidance is to be produced to support this activity.

HSE will also:

- carry out targeted activity in the HSE enforced sector working with local authorities where whole supply chain issues are involved; and

- carry out interventions to reduce levels of slips and trips in the Health Service

Knowledge

- Continue research from (2001/02) and take forward new research into, for example, human factors/changing attitudes, efficacy of cleaning regimes, footwear trials, stairs and ramps etc.
- Monitor and evaluate field trials for the HSE/HSL Pedestrian Slipping PSES) in HSE and local authorities.

HELA strategy guidance to LAs has concentrated on slips/trips - HSE is monitoring LA run initiatives via LA annual returns. Examples include: one LA who inspected all catering establishments in their area, resulted in a reduction in slip/trip accidents. Another LA ran a year-long initiative involving local businesses with a history of slip accidents, resulting in a 41% reduction in slip/trip accidents among participating companies.

A Slips/Trips Inspection Topic with sections on good practice, legal requirements and enforcement was developed by HSE aided by LAs. This pack was introduced with a short training event in each Division in HSE and issued to all FOD inspectors. Available to LA inspectors through a training website.

Slips and trips risks are being inspected by HSE at all premises with significant risk as part of the FOD Topic Inspection System - about 20 000 site visits involved S&T input, with about 300 cases of very poor controls resulting in over 80 cases of formal enforcement action. This work is still being evaluated, particularly the examples of workplaces with some deficiencies. Work with LAs has developed with trial joint workshops aimed at the food industry, warehousing and retail chains. This joint work will be extended during 2003/04.

Development of an information summary sheet on controlling slips and trips risks to be used in the health services and the Pedestrian Expert System has been introduced in co-operation with one NHS Trust. This joint work will be extended in 2003/04.

Human factors - phase 1 (scoping study) completed, main study 2003/04 (see above), key research on cleaning regimes and footwear trials is underway (some completed - see above) and will report in 2003/04.

Other completed research includes: dynamics of pedestrian stair use; efficacy of floor matting; real workplace contaminants; evaluation of pedestrian slip expert system (PSES) - 1st phase.

PSES is emerging as a very useful tool that allows inspectors to estimate slip risks and can backup advice and enforcement as well as aiding decisions on the need for expert site testing and investigation.

- relaunch the *Stop slips* video; and

- review the impact of the Priority Programme and research to inform future targeting.

Skills

- continue training for enforcement officers from year one (Slips Roadshows and information tool kits); and
- develop training interventions for key stakeholders and intermediaries (including joint HSE/local authority workshops).

Discussions with advertising consultants revealed that the money available was insufficient for a national media campaign and that a local approach was appropriate. The publicity strategy was revised to co-ordinate better with the S&T Programme and to point the way for a new strategy to be launched in 2003/04. The video will be published as part of a new campaign. The video has been used successfully in seminars, workshops and joint work with firms.

Some evaluation of elements of slips/trips Programme undertaken (eg evaluation of slips road shows for LAs and food retail companies showed events to be an effective intervention to educate and galvanise delegates into action).

Impact evaluation due to start in 2003/04.

All FOD inspectors briefed on techniques for inspecting slips and trips and issued with the topic pack. A selection of 31 have received an additional intensive one day training as part of the PSES trial.

See above for 2002/03 training events for:

- large national food retailers;
- health and safety professionals;
- for larger companies, intermediaries; and
- SMEs.

Much of the above as partnership working between HSE and LAs.

Six seminars were organised by divisional HSE offices, with LA support for intermediaries and large companies, to improve management through better understanding of slips and trips and influence contractors and others. These attracted a total of 500 organisations around the UK. 11 workshops were held for SMEs by FOD Divisions in partnership with LAs.

Contacts made in 2002/03 with key firms of architects and also PFI project providers. Slips seminars for top 50 London based architectural practices planned for summer 2003/04. Events will run for other groups later in the year as well as for PFI project providers.

Support

- Disseminate the outcome of research findings and real life case studies.

- Commence a publicity programme backed up by sector specific guidance.

HSE information sheet on Testing of Floor Surfaces almost complete, launch in summer 2003/04.

Case studies prepared for slips/trips pages on HSE website, available in 2003/04. They are also used in seminars and workshops.

Series of technical articles published in Contract Flooring Journal and Safety and Health Practitioner written by HSL/HSE based upon research and field work.

Outcomes of research included in topic packs seminars, workshops and roadshows. Research reports used in dialogue with other national experts.

Publicity programme planned, to be launched in 2003/04.

HSE information sheet issued for the education sector.

Slips/trips Summary Sheet produced for Health Services sector.

Other significant activities

Other roadshows/exhibition stands, etc. Two slips roadshows for LAs as duty holders.

Speakers and exhibition stands at Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) & HELA conferences.

Support for major seminar for duty holders in Northern Ireland.