

Cleaning Industry Newsletter

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Cleaning Industry Liaison Forum

Sensible risk management



Despite the stories you hear, the HSE is about saving lives, not stopping people living. We've identified ways of making sure attention is on the issues that really matter.

We believe that risk management should be about practical steps to protect people from real harm and suffering – not bureaucratic back covering. If you believe some of the stories you hear, health and safety is all about stopping any activity that might possibly lead to harm. This is not our vision of sensible health and safety – we want to save lives, not stop them. Our approach is to seek a balance between the unachievable aim of absolute safety and the kind of poor management of risk that damages lives and the economy.

See www.hse.gov.uk/risk/principles.htm for more details.



Health & Safety – Statistics 2008/09



This document gives the latest statistics on work-related health and safety in Great Britain. Find further details at www.hse.gov.uk/statistics. Key facts for 2008/09 are:

Ill health – 1.2 million people who worked during the last year were suffering from an illness (long-standing as well as new cases) they

believed was caused or made worse by their current or past work. 551 000 of these were new cases. 2156 people died of mesothelioma (2007), and thousands more from other occupational cancers and lung diseases.

Injuries – 180 workers were killed at work, a rate of 0.6 per 100 000 workers. 131 895 other injuries to employees were reported under RIDDOR, a rate of 502.2 per 100 000

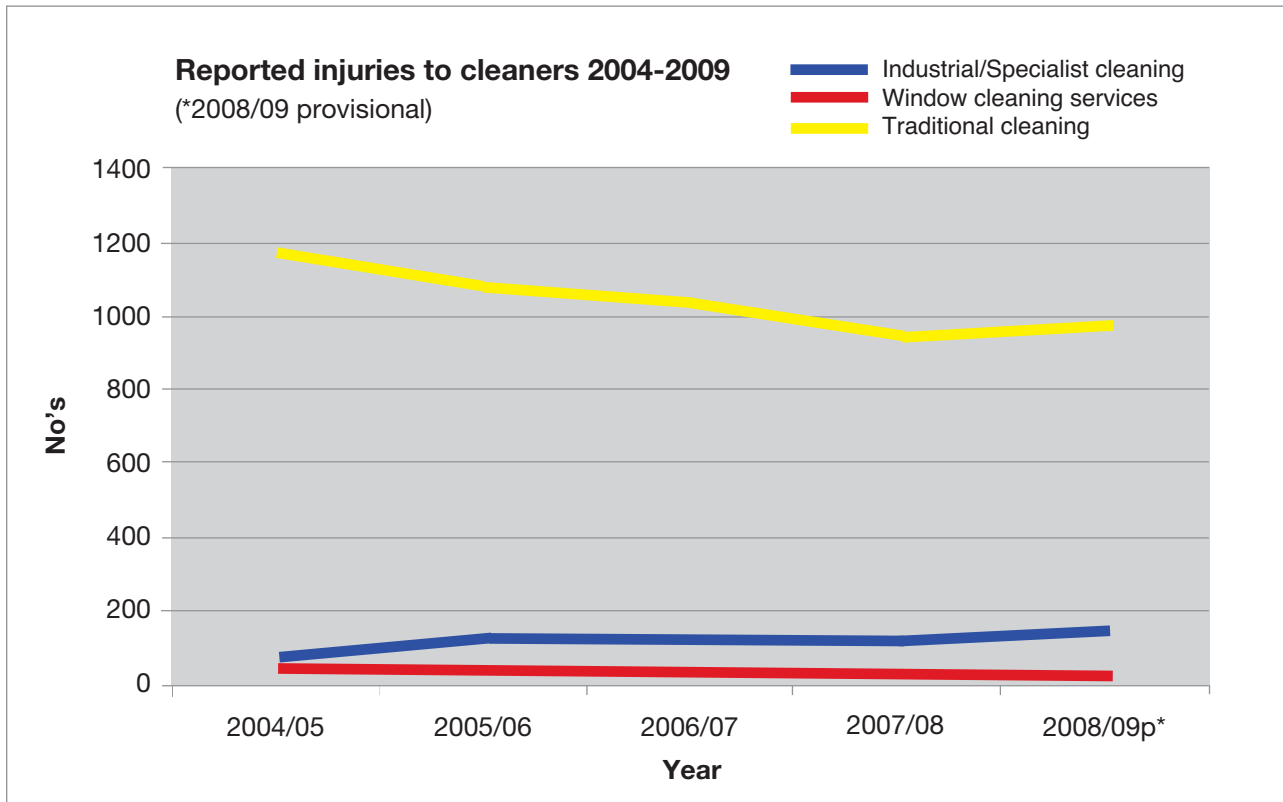
employees. 246 000 reportable injuries occurred, according to the Labour Force Survey (LFS), a rate of 870 per 100 000 workers.

Working days lost – 29.3 million days were lost overall (1.24 days per worker), 24.6 million due to work-related ill health and 4.7 million due to workplace injury. Health and safety targets: progress to 2008/09 ill health: probably not on track to meet Revitalising target. Fatal and major injuries: on track to meet Revitalising target. Days lost per worker: probably on track to meet Revitalising target.

Enforcement – 1245 offences were prosecuted by HSE and ORR. 329 offences were prosecuted by local authorities.

Health & Safety – Statistics in the cleaning industry 2004 – 2009

An analysis of the reported accident statistics for the cleaning industry over the last five years shows that overall the trend remains downward, but last year saw a small but significant rise, bucking the national trend.



CIEH Level 2 Award in emergency first aid at work

Following a review of first aid training and approval arrangements by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) will be launching a series of first aid qualifications in 2010.

The CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work is a one day course suitable for workplaces classed as lower-risk and those with fewer than 100 employees. The qualification is also accredited by Ofqual, the government's qualification regulator. It enables successful candidates to act as a first aider in the workplace and deal with first aid issues calmly, confidently and effectively.



To find out more visit: www.cieh.org/firstaid

Health and safety in the cleaning industry

The cleaning industry covers all types of cleaning, from dusting and vacuuming, to cleaning windows, factory roofs and industrial equipment. Key causes of accidents are slips and trips, manual handling and falls from height. The main health risks are back injuries and occupational dermatitis.

The main cleaning page on the HSE website leads to resource and advice pages as well as providing case studies from the industry. On average 1380 people visit the site each month.

To view the site visit:
www.hse.gov.uk/cleaning/index.htm

