



Construction Division

Plan of Work

2011/2012

For public information

Foreword

The construction industry remains one of the largest in Great Britain, bringing employment to around 2 million people; it is also one of the most hazardous. The characteristics of the industry and the challenges it creates in tackling health and safety are well documented.

The industry has achieved many improvements in health and safety over the past few years; however, there is no room for complacency. In 2009/10, 42^(provisional) construction workers lost their lives, 3120 reported major injuries and 2.6 million working days were lost through work related ill health. These figures are not acceptable and we must continue to reduce this unacceptable burden of injury and ill health. The challenge is clear, and will need both HSE and the industry to continue to play its part in achieving this reduction.

Some parts of the industry have made significant steps forward over recent years, this is particularly noticeable on larger projects. However, these improvements are not mirrored to anything like the same extent on smaller sites where we still find many instances of unacceptable standards.

Over the next 12 months we will be devoting more of our time and effort to regulating smaller sites and businesses and at the same time evolving our approach to larger contractors. We want to utilise our resources more effectively so that we concentrate on helping small businesses (SMEs) and dealing with serious breaches of health and safety law. We need to find new ways to help SMEs understand and meet their obligations in a proportionate way. We will continue to visit larger projects to investigate accidents and complaints and undertake visits when there are good reasons to do so, this will result in fewer site visits. However, we will be placing more emphasis on challenging large contractors at Board level. We are committing time and effort to adapt and customise our approaches to both smaller and larger projects and businesses.

Economic uncertainty is still affecting the construction industry, though sectors show signs that they may be beginning to emerge from recession. As the industry deals with these uncertainties it is paramount that health and safety is not ignored or sidelined.

I am pleased to provide this summary of the Construction Division's Plan of Work for 2011/2012. I hope you will continue to help us in delivering this plan, particularly as the industry comes out of recession, in whatever way you can.

Philip White
Chief Inspector of Construction

The Construction Plan of Work 2011/2012

The Plan of Work sets out the work of the Construction Division for 2011/12 and outlines the direction of our work over a longer three-year period.

The plan is designed to improve the health and safety performance of the construction industry; it builds on work carried out previously and continues our mission to deliver sustainable improvements in the industry's health and safety performance. The focus is on making best use of our resources to sustain and, where possible, accelerate long-term improvement in health and safety outcomes.

Securing Justice

We will continue to hold to account those who put others at risk, particularly where there is a deliberate flouting of the law. Our commitment to the investigation of work related incidents and ill health will continue and we will take enforcement action, in accordance with our stated policies, to secure justice in cases where people choose to ignore their duties and responsibilities or have failed to comply with them.

Construction Operational Activities

Our main operational activities will target the following sectors:

- Asbestos (licensing and licensed work)
- Small sites/projects
- Refurbishment
- Major clients/projects.

There are five generic issues that will be considered at all site visits. These are:

- Work at height
- Asbestos risks
- Provision of welfare facilities
- Good order
- Respiratory risks.

Any matters of evident concern or potential catastrophic events identified during site visits will also be addressed.

As well as considering the five generic issues, we will also tackle:

- **Management of health risks** – we will promote awareness and knowledge of health risks in construction to achieve improved management and a corresponding reduction in occupational disease.
- **Leadership** - we will examine how effective directors & other senior management are at leading health and safety.

- **Contractor Competence** - we will raise awareness and promote the key themes in the Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2007, in particular competence of organisations and individuals.
- **Temporary Works** - we will promote awareness and knowledge of the importance of managing temporary works effectively and ensure that adequate management arrangements are in place.
- **Worker Involvement** - we will encourage effective worker involvement on site, so that workers (including those who work for subcontractors) play an active role in the identification and control of workplace hazards.
- **MEWPs** – we will promote knowledge of, and assess the overall standard of adherence to industry guidance.
- **Emerging Energy Technologies**
 - **On-Shore Wind Farms** - we will examine the standard of safety management during the construction of on-shore wind farms.
 - **Solar Capture Equipment** – we will ensure that the significant risks arising from the installation of photovoltaic and solar heating technology on small sites are properly controlled.
- **Temporary Demountable Structures** – we will examine the standard of safety management during the erection and dismantling of temporary demountable structures in the events and entertainments industry.
- **Stonemasons and Renovation** – we will raise awareness of respiratory disease risks from exposure to respirable crystalline silica.
- **Employers Liability and Compulsory Insurance (ELCI)** – we will raise the profile of ELCI compliance and enforce the law where necessary.

Enabling Activities

We will work in partnership with key stakeholders and intermediaries. Key areas of collaboration include:

- Support to the Working Well Together (WWT) Campaign in raising awareness of health and safety issues within micro and small construction businesses.
- The launch and continued development of an interactive web-based product (Leadership and Worker Involvement Tool) to enable users to lead, engage and develop the workforce.
- Use of the supply chain to influence standards - such as focusing on realistic/industry agreed guidance and enforceable standards on:

- managing health risks associated with paving, roads and highways
- improved standards in ground work
- MEWP machine design.
- On-going work to improve the health and safety content for undergraduate courses and improved continued professional development (CPD).
- Continuing to improve the ways in which we can work more closely with other regulators on matters of evident concern.
- Evaluation of the Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2007.

Summary

This plan re-affirms Construction Division's commitment to improving health and safety in the construction industry. We recognise that we cannot achieve the improvements alone and look to all those in the construction industry to play their part in bringing about change and improvements in health and safety performance.