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Health and Safety Executive		Sector Information Minute	
Agriculture and Food Sector		SIM 01/2002/56 (formerly 05/2002/11)	
Cancellation Date	18/06/2006	Open Government Status	Fully Open
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Target Audience

FOD Inspectors responsible for the food and drink industries

FOOD INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY GROUPS

This SIM lists regional food industry health and safety groups known to the Food Section. Advice is given on the setting up of new regional groups and topics are suggested for presentations/discussions.

BACKGROUND

1 In recent years food manufacturers have been keen to set up health and safety groups in their local area or region. These groups usually represent a wide variety of food and drink manufacturers which also organise the administrative and secretarial arrangements. The groups are usually well supported by representatives from member companies and often have large numbers attending meetings.

2 Local HSE inspectors are frequently involved in assisting these groups, for example by participating at meetings and giving presentations. HSE is keen to support such groups as an efficient means of informing local food manufacturers of current HSE/HSC priorities and to assist them in complying with health and safety requirements. Representatives from the F&E Sector have attended inaugural meetings and occasionally subsequent events.

FOOD INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY GROUPS

3 Local food industry health and safety groups known to the Food Section are listed at the [Appendix](#) along with other details.

4 Topics appropriate for group presentations/discussions for the next year or two would include current HSE/FOD priority topics, unless already covered recently. These topics include musculoskeletal disorders, slips/trips, falls from height, workplace transport, stress, noise and possibly respiratory sensitisers (eg flour dust). The free HSE publication *A Recipe for Safety* is a useful 'core' booklet.

5 If any new groups are set up, the Food Section may be able to offer advice and can usually offer a speaker to assist at the inaugural meeting.

ACTION BY INSPECTORS

6 Inspectors already involved with regional groups are encouraged to continue and participate, subject to resource availability and local management agreement.

7 Inspectors approached by the food industry wishing to set up a local group, should

offer encouragement. Inspectors may be able to offer some Divisional input such as attending meetings and giving some presentations, subject to local management agreement. However, the administration and general running of the group should normally remain with the member companies.

8 The F&E Sector (Food Section) would be grateful for any additions or updates to the list given in the [Appendix](#).

Date first issued: 18 June 2002

APPENDIX
(paras 3 and 8)

REGIONAL FOOD INDUSTRY HEALTH AND SAFETY GROUPS

Name of group (and any abbreviation)	Geographic area covered	Number of companies in group	HSE contacts (and office)	H&S Group contact
Food Industry Safety & Health Network (FISHnet) Website: www.east-anglian- fishnet.org.uk	Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex	70.00	Barbara Riley Martin Kneebone (Chelmsford)	Barbara Riley email: barbara.riley@hse.gsi.gov.uk Tel: 01245 706208
Food Industry Regional Safety Team (FIRST)	Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire	37.00	Steve Spence John Marshall (Northampton) Rick Brunt (Birmingham) Gill Saunders (Basingstoke)	Ron Reid (Head of Shoosmiths Occupational Safety), Shoosmiths Solicitors, Northampton email: ron.reid@shoosmiths.co.uk Tel: 01604 543317
West & North Yorkshire Health & Safety Forum (temporary title)	West and North Yorkshire	17.00	Julian Franklin (Leeds)	Andrew Grange (Britvic) email: andrew.grange@britvic.co.uk Tel: 0113 256 2222
Somerset Food Industry Group	Somerset	30.00	Bob Standing (Bristol)	Chris Bradford (PROSPER) Tel: 01458 241118
Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Food Industry Safety Group	Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire	30.00	David Appleton Alan Scobbie (Nottingham)	David Lloyd (Geest plc) Tel: 01775 763219
Humber-side Occupational H&S Group (RoSPA)	Hull & Yorkshire	100 (includes about 25-30 food companies)	Barry Clinch (Sheffield)	Colin Smith (Associated British Ports, Port Offices, Northern Gateway, Hull Docks, Kingston- upon-Hull)

<i>[[listed due to prevalence of food/drink member companies in group]</i>				
South Humberside H&S Group (RoSPA) <i>[[listed due to prevalence of food/drink member companies in group]</i>	Grimsby and Lincolnshire	80 (includes about 20-25 food companies)	Barry Clinch (Sheffield)	Mgggie Transwell (Associated British Ports, Dock Offices, Grimsby) Tel: 01472 359181
(No group currently, but one may be formed in the future)	South Wales	-	Clare Owen (Carmarthen)	

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