

<b>Health and Safety Executive</b>		<b>Sector Information Minute</b>	
<b>Agriculture and Food Sector</b>		<b>SIM 01/2006/02</b>	
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Target Audience:

FOD Inspectors and other frontline FOD staff involved in inspecting agriculture

## **FATAL ACCIDENTS IN AGRICULTURE: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The SIM reminds field based staff of the reporting procedures for FATAL accidents and requests additional information be gathered during investigations to support the Agriculture & Food Sector's Food Supply Chain Project and Stakeholder Engagement work

### BACKGROUND

- 1 British agriculture continues to have the worst accident and ill health record for major and fatal accident of all mainstream industry in the UK.
- 2 The farmers and growers that are having these accidents and developing ill health are part of the food supply chain that feeds into companies that are safer and better able to deal with health and safety risks. In addition on tenanted farms, many of the landlords are large well managed companies that are part of other stakeholder initiatives within HSE.
- 3 Work done by the sector shows that these type of intermediary companies may well be willing to **help** the farmer improve their health and safety performance. In order to support this initiative the sector is looking into what information, tools and mechanisms will be needed.
- 4 Currently, **information on who the ultimate customer of the farm is** does not routinely get collected in our investigations. Ideally, we need to know where the produce from the farm ends up. It is proposed that the Sector would keep the information with its fatal accident records and use it in the supply chain work it undertakes.
- 5 All fatal accidents have to be reported promptly to HSE and FOD Secretariats (done automatically by the online form). This information must be copied to the Sector as described in Step 1.2 of the investigation procedure. The relevant flow chart and instructions are in the Operations Group Operational Procedures.

## ACTION BY INSPECTORS

6 Ensure that when the notification of the fatal accident is sent to HSE and FOD Secretariats, that it is copied to the Agriculture and Food Sector email account "agfoodsec".

7 When investigating fatal accidents in agriculture (in the widest sense – see para. 10 below) it would be helpful if staff ascertain who the customer (and / or ultimate customer) is. In the case of tenanted farms, please find out who the landlord is.

8 Some amount of probing may be required to ensure the farmer does not simply give information on his initial customer or point of contact. This may be a marketing company and it is important that the ultimate customer is identified wherever possible.

9 This information is sought even if the accident does not relate directly to the food production, such as maintenance of buildings and where there are multiple customers. Information should be recorded in the notes attached to the case in COIN, and copied to [agfoodsec@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:agfoodsec@hse.gsi.gov.uk) e-mail address where there are particularly important food chain links discovered.

10 Further guidance on the definition of "agriculture" (and the range of industries this encompasses) for the purposes of accident recording and reporting are available on the Agriculture Communities site. This also highlights some issues that are particularly relevant to the Agriculture & Food Sector.

## CONTACT

Bruno Porter, VPN 519 6234  
Agriculture & Food Sector, VPN 534 8353

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