

## **Agriculture Sector Safety and Health Awareness Days – 2007/ 2008**

**SIM 01/2007/06**

**Target Audience:** FOD HSAOs and inspectors involved in SHADs

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## **Summary**

This SIM outlines the programme of farming, forestry and arboriculture Safety and Health Awareness Days (SHADs), provides targeting guidelines and links to guidance for those organising and running SHADs and involved in follow-up visits.

## **Aim**

1 SHADs continue to be the main FOD intervention method in the agriculture sector, seeking to raise awareness among the farming, forestry and arboriculture industries and promote a climate of culture change, leading to a reduction in risk taking behaviour amongst this typically 'hard to reach' group, due to geographical, organisational and attitudinal factors.

## **Background**

2 This is the third year of the programme of agricultural SHADs and associated activities under IRP/Fit3 Programmes. For convenience a single instruction has been produced this year. Research has shown that they are an effective influencing tool and the format, content and target audience is tailored to maximise the impact of the limited programme of events in each industry. SHADs are cross-cutting, contributing principally to the Transport, Falls from Height and MSD Programmes and targets, as well as Disease Reduction.

3 Agriculture suffers from significant under-reporting but the Labour Force Survey indicates that the sector continues to experience the highest rates of fatalities, major injuries and ill health compared with other industries.

## Targeting

4 The attached table indicates the target audience, planned location, type and number of SHADs planned per Division and the allocation of HSAO and inspector resources to each project. Investigations of accidents and complaints and any enforcement work arising out of follow-up visits should be selected and carried out as per HSE's Operational Procedures. This SIM does not cover these activities.

## Details of Agriculture SHAD Programmes 2007-08

5 A table summarising the target audience, timing, location and resources for each of the 3 types of 'agriculture' SHAD, i.e. farming, forestry and arboriculture, is attached. Points to note:

### Farming SHADs

**Number/Location** - 18 SHADs, allocated 3 per Division (excluding London).

**Organisation/Resources** - SHADs are organised by HSAOs. Any HSAO resource not absorbed by planning, organising and attending SHADs should be used for follow-up activities, within the total allocated HSAO resource, which comprises 20 days effort for each SHAD. Inspector input will be helpful to identify the most appropriate timing, location and topics for SHADs, and to provide support on the day (1 day B3/4 allocated per farming SHAD).

**Lead HSAO** - Divisions should nominate an HSAO to liaise with the Ag Sector to discuss and agree the content of each SHAD and to arrange for the appropriate instructors to be booked by the Sector through Lantra Awards. Dates for events should be proposed as soon as possible in the year, to ensure that the required instructors are available.

**Format/Content** – 'Main' SHADs are normally based on 6 demonstrations (scenarios) presented to two groups of farmers in separate morning and afternoon sessions. An appropriate 'light lunch' is normally provided to encourage discussion with instructors and between farmers.

'Mini SHADs' may be preferable (and more cost-effective) for remote locations. Mini SHADs consist of a single series of presentations and allow for potentially lower numbers within a reasonable catchment area, e.g. due to the limitations of local geography, number of farmers within a reasonable travelling distance, etc. (NB Mini-SHADs do not include HSE-led 'farm walks'.)

The content, location and timing of SHADs should suit local agricultural production, and follow the detailed guidance available on the Ag Communities website. Most, if not all, scenarios are normally delivered by Lantra-Awards registered instructors.

**Approval** - Each event should therefore be agreed with the Ag & Food Sector's Project Manager, as the Sector is managing the budget and is responsible for liaison with Lantra Awards, who coordinate the provision of instructors and ensure quality of delivery.

**Target audience** - Holdings with less than four 'family' workers should be the priority target. Due to difficulties reported in delivering SHADs in some areas, events in 2007/08 have been allocated equally between Divisions and thus do not reflect the geographical variations in the distribution of self-employed and family-run farms, as in previous years. However, sponsorship is being sought by the Sector and work with stakeholders may lead to a pilot event targeting employers/employees – probably one of the events in the East or Midlands.

**Follow-up visits / Evaluation** - To help evaluate the impact of SHADs and to promote attendance at future events, HSAOs should continue the programme of follow-up visits from last year's SHADs. Follow-up visits are proposed to 20% of non-attendees in SHAD catchment areas. However, this will be limited by the total resource allocated (i.e. 20 days/SHAD) and it is recognised that this proportion may not be achievable, as it depends upon the number invited to attract an adequate audience at a SHAD.

HSAOs should inform the appropriate FOD inspection group of any necessary follow-up investigation and enforcement action. [NB: Further guidance for HSAOs (including a check list for use at advisory visits) is available on the Ag Communities site.]

**Publicity** - The findings of follow-up visits and any action taken should be collated and publicised locally, e.g. through local media and intermediaries networks, (NFU Journal, etc) to promote the benefits of attending SHADs, to raise awareness of the main health and safety risks on farms and to encourage dutyholders to take action of their own volition to control these risks. Where events are held close to borders of Divisions, the outcomes and benefits of attending SHADs can be publicised in adjacent divisions, e.g. WSW and Scotland/NW and YNE.

**Reporting** - A brief summary report (on COIN) *evaluating* each SHAD and analysing the findings on follow-up visits, enforcement action taken (or proposed) and any associated publicity would be helpful to enable the Project Manager to assess and improve this method of intervention. COIN reports should also indicate which SHAD a follow-up visit relates to. See further guidance on reporting SHADs below. [NB: A draft attendees feedback form for use at SHADs is also available on the Ag Communities site.]

**'Novel Interventions' and Local Projects** - No additional financial resources are currently available from the Sector in 2007-08 to fund local 'novel intervention' initiatives. As HSAO resource will only be used for SHADs and follow-up visits after SHADs, it is not expected that there will be any resource for novel or other interventions. However, in the unlikely event that such interventions take place, HSAOs/divisions should identify and (in accordance with COIN guidance) report on their involvement.

**Farming SHAD Project Manager** - Alan Plom, Agriculture and Food Sector, Stoneleigh (VPN 534 8356)

## **Forestry**

**Additional background** - 11% of agriculture fatalities are tree-work related and the incidence rate of fatal and major injury in the forestry industry has been over 60 times higher than the national average. (Fig 16 “Comprehensive injury statistics “ – Agriculture HSE web site. ) Over the 10-year period to 2003 forestry workers had the highest number of fatalities to a specific occupation group in agriculture (incidence rate = 5 times agriculture average).

This project seeks to improve awareness of health and safety issues and facilitate changes in behaviour within the industry by maintaining improvements in the standards of health and safety management on forestry sites, particularly through Forestry Works Managers and Site Safety Coordinators, by sharing and promoting good practice within the industry.

**Organisation/Location of SHADs** - HSAOs to assist Ag Sector with the organisation and delivery of three joint HSE/Industry SHADs, one each in Scotland, Midlands and the South West. The SHADs are to be targeted at both Forestry Work Managers and Site Safety Coordinators. They will be held in partnership with the UK Forest Products Association and the Forestry and Timber Association/Confor.

**Resources** - 20 days HSAO and 2 days B3/4 support per SHAD.

**Evaluation** - Given the relatively small workforce involved in the forestry industry and statistical variations it is difficult to monitor accident and ill health data from RIDDOR to identify emerging trends and evaluate project effectiveness. Therefore, local feedback at events is important and the Bomel ‘barometer of culture change’ tool will be employed by the Sector to measure any changes in behaviour resulting from the project outcomes, e.g. actual increased awareness of risks and best practice solutions.

**Forestry Project Manager** – Jason Liggins – Agriculture and Food Sector, Edinburgh (VPN 520 2087)

## **Arboriculture**

**Location of SHADs (and other work)** - 4 joint HSE/industry (Arboricultural Association) Arboricultural Client SHADs, as allocated (see table – likely to be 1 in Scotland, E&SE (Kew), then possibly Midlands, (Stoke Office to cover Staffs and Shropshire, and Nottingham Office for an event covering Lincolnshire and Norfolk.) and/or Y&NE.

**Other Activities:** In addition, all Divisions (including London) are expected to continue the work initiated under this 3-year project with HSAOs contacting arboriculture contractors. This is to be resourced using any balance of time available from the 20 days per division running SHADs, and 12-15 days per division (HSAO/B6) from other divisions. This work is

aimed at raising awareness of the specific application of the Work at Height Regulations, ELC Insurance, training records, LOLER examination reports and AFAG/industry guidance, and is to be done using a combination of a standard letter, telephone contacts and visits to arb businesses. Full details of what is required is given on the AgCommunities web site

**Resources:** 20 HSAO/B6 team days for those divisions running SHADs and 12-15 days from others. Full details on organising an Arb Client SHAD are given on the Ag Communities web site. One contact day B3/4 ops inspector resource is also allocated per SHAD.

**Arboriculture Project Manager** – Frances Hirst – Agriculture and Food Sector, Stoneleigh (VPN 534 ADD NUMBER)

## **Reporting**

FOD will provide full guidance on COIN recording for next year, but COIN entries should indicate the particular SHAD to which they relate. Further, current, guidance on creating records for SHADs is given in OM 2006/08, para 38 – but this will be replaced from April 2007.

## **Further Guidance/Sector Contacts**

Detailed guidance and supporting material for these projects can be found on the Agriculture Community webpage. For further information please contact the Project Manager indicated under each SHAD project above.