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<b>Health and Safety Executive</b>		<b>Sector Information Minute</b>	
<b>Commercial and Consumer Services, Transportation and Utilities Sector (CACTUS)</b>		<b>SIM 05/2004/05</b>	
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Target Audience:  
FOD inspectors

## CACTUS INDUSTRIES' CONTRIBUTION TO SECTOR STRATEGIC PROGRAMME

This SIM supports FOD's operating plan for 2004/05 and advises inspectors of a number of areas where inspection effort should be best directed, in areas of employment covered by CACTUS. Work in these areas will support the 'other sectors' contribution to the sector strategic programme (SSP). Where CACTUS has been able to develop more specific projects, separate SIMs will be issued.

1 CACTUS is responsible for a vast range of industries. Due to the short time available to consider its contribution to the SSP, it proposes a number of specific field projects for 2004/05, together with more advice on targeting work within other sector industries, based on an initial assessment of the available incident and ill health data.

2 Some divisions have already planned interventions in several industries and this SIM should not replace such locally determined work.

3 In future years more detailed guidance will be possible, based on a more systematic assessment of incident and ill health data.

4 The [appendix](#) lists under each CACTUS section heading several potential areas of work inspectors may wish to consider for interventions this year.

5 CACTUS would welcome feedback from any staff doing work on any of the listed topics.

Date First Issued: 1 April 2004

### Appendix ([Para 4](#))

#### Commercial Services

##### *Catering and Hospitality*

Catering and hospitality activities generate particularly high levels of slips accidents, both in the private and public employment spheres. A number of information sheets cover this topic

and other key areas relevant to this broad industry. CACTUS liaises nationally with industry representatives through the Hospitality Liaison Committee and efforts in this industry by both HSE and local authority inspectors would support this work.

Recent topical subjects include use of cleaning chemicals, ventilation and gas supply interlocking and provision of anti slip shoes as PPE without charge. Either information sheets or press releases cover all these.

### *Cleaning*

The cleaning industry generates particularly high levels of MSD injury and ill health and appears an industry that has remained relatively invisible to inspectors. HSG234 Caring for Cleaners was published by HSE last year and could be used as the basis for targeted efforts in this industry. Slips are also known to occur at a high level.

New guidance on safety in window cleaning was published late in 2003 in the form of three information sheets - on use of ladders, cradles and MEWPs and rope access. Compliance with traditional safeguards is low, especially amongst self-employed window cleaners. In recent years a number of divisions have completed projects jointly with local authorities and the sector would encourage others. Use of long pole deionised water cleaning systems is becoming more widespread and it is hoped further guidance on their safe use will be published to further promote this technique.

### *Advertising*

The outdoor advertising industry was identified in London last year as having particularly low standards of compliance with established standards for prevention of falls accidents and a project under the hazards strategic programme is planned, building on this work. CACTUS has reports of this work that may assist inspectors.

## **Utilities**

### *Gas*

Where CO incidents are shown to arise from lack of appliance servicing, and there is no duty holder involved, would inspectors please look for opportunities to publicise what has happened preferably through local TV and with the cooperation of the person/family involved. Sector can provide supporting material e.g. stats/quotes. Around two thirds of all gas fatalities are caused by failing to have appliances serviced, and this is an important message to get across to the public.

Where inspectors in any industry are aware of 'tied'/temporary work-based accommodation, they raise the profile of GSIUR landlord duties i.e. maintenance and annual checks.

### *Electricity*

At sites where there is a high risk of contact with overhead live lines, your local SG electrical specialist should be informed so that consideration can be given to getting the electricity company to divert, underground, or cover the lines.

If inspecting a distribution network operator, (formerly known as the REC or electricity board), please look at hot glove working. Such work should only be done if a full and proper justification exists to demonstrate compliance with regulation 14 of EAWR. [SIM 05/2003/54](#)

refers.

## Transportation

### *Ports*

In addition to the topic pack, inspectors may wish to note that:

- The government's reply to a recent select committee report emphasised the prevalence of the priority hazards in docks accidents and ill health
- CACTUS has worked with several industry players (including Other Government Departments) to address the issue of unmarked fumigated freight containers. Industry guidance is in place.
- We are working with industry to develop internal guidance on loading and unloading containers with slewing jib cranes. We are also exploring ways of publishing guidance on workplace transport in docks.

### *Air transport*

In addition to the topic pack, inspectors may wish to note that:

- There have been several falls from catering hi-loaders due to loose 'bridge plates' giving way beneath workers. CACTUS will be publishing internal guidance, developed with the industry, in the near future.
- CACTUS is sponsoring research to assess the impact of HSG209 *Aircraft Turnround*, and collate emerging industry good practice.
- We are continuing to work with local divisions and industry to develop good practice in baggage handling and assisting disabled and incapacitated passengers.
- Trade unions and industry are rolling out maximum bag weights across several airports (32kg – an internationally agreed level, but a stepping stone to lower limits). We are supporting this initiative. Inspectors may wish to enquire locally what airports/airlines and ground handlers are doing.

### *Bus industry*

Violence is a major issue and results in many reported accidents in both the bus and industry. DfT guidance on preventing violence on buses has recently been updated and could be used as the basis for addressing this issue with bus companies.

