

Health and Safety Executive		Sector Information Minute	
Manufacturing		SIM 03/2006/11	
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Target Audience:

HSE Inspectors covering Manufacturing.

The UK Wire Industry Live Wire! Initiative

This SIM alerts inspectors to the UK Wire Industry's Live Wire! initiative for accident reduction. It provides details on the background, aims, objectives and approach for this initiative that runs from July 2006 to December 2007. A wire industry company is one that draws wire or produces wire products.

BACKGROUND

1 No improvement in the UK Wire Industry accident rate has been demonstrated since 2003. In fact, there has been a small but gradual increase in accident frequency year-on-year during this period. In line with other manufacturing industries, the most common causes of accidents within the wire industry are manual handling activities, and slips, trips and falls; with the addition of struck by falling or flying objects (especially flying wire).

2 The Wire Industry Health and Safety Committee, together with UK Steel (the trade association representing the main wire companies) launched Live Wire! in July 2006 as its response to a challenge from HSE's Manufacturing Sector. Live Wire! is a campaign to reduce accidents in the UK Wire Industry and refocus industry efforts on accident reduction. HSE, Trade Associations and Wire Companies made presentations at the launch.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3 The Live Wire! campaign aims to reduce accidents in the industry by 10% during 2007 over the 2006 rate. Accident frequency per 100,000 hours worked will be used as the baseline and performance measurement. This is an ambitious target that, if achieved, will contribute towards HSE's Revitalising and Fit 3 targets for accident reduction.

4 Live Wire is also encouraging worker involvement by making an award to the individual who contributes most towards health and safety during the campaign.

THE APPROACH

5 Participation in Live Wire! is open to any UK wire industry company. The company does not have to be a member of UK Steel. Eligibility criteria stipulate that participating companies will need to conduct an active campaign involving management and the workforce to reduce accidents in their workplaces. Campaign eligibility specifics include an agreement for: sharing best practice with other wire companies; reporting all accidents in a verifiable way; confidential disclosure to UK Steel of annual RIDDOR incidents and total hours worked; permission for an anonymous inclusion in an industry league table; and conducting an internal selection process to put forward an individual who has contributed most towards health and safety in their workplace.

6 The campaign is supported by an awards scheme, funded by a small one-off payment (£50) from each of the company sites involved. In Spring 2008, after completion of the campaign, an event will be held at which an award will be given for the site with the largest reduction in accident percentage over their 2006 figure. There will also be an award for the individual who is judged to have contributed most to health and safety during the period. A panel of judges from HSE, industry management and trade unions will decide on award allocation.

7 While the Live Wire! campaign is targeted solely on accident reduction, Manufacturing Sector believes the re-freshening of focus on health and safety within the industry should have spin-off benefits in reviewing and taking action on ill-health and considering ways of improving rehabilitation to reduce days lost.

ACTION REQUIRED

8 None. This SIM is to raise awareness of the campaign for Inspectors involved with the wire industry.

CONTACTS

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