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FOD Inspectors

SAFETY AND RISK EDUCATION

This SIM advises on the developing work of the Risk Education Team in HSE's Strategy and Analytical Support Division (SASD) and on new guidance published by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on safety education in schools in England.

1 '*Revitalising Health and Safety*' has two action points intended to promote better education in risk concepts: in the school curriculum (Action Point 33), and relating to courses designed for those entering professions where safety is critical (Action Point 34).

2 The Risk Education Team (RET) in SASD are taking forward these action points. The Commission has recently agreed to proposals for further work (Commission Paper HSC/02/10). Four projects have been agreed and these are:

(1) **Gathering and dissemination of intelligence** the project will identify relevant research and collect significant statistics to assist HSE in the development of better strategies for promoting risk education. Ron McCaig from HD has agreed to Chair the project board taking this work forward.

(2) **Education in schools:** this project will look at ways that all schools in England, Scotland and Wales can become engaged in delivering consistent messages on risk awareness tailored to meet the needs and abilities of pupils. Kate Timms has agreed to Chair the project board taking this work forward.

(3) **Education for safety critical professionals** the project will consider initiatives for ensuring that safety critical professionals such as architects and engineers receive adequate education in risk management. Much work has already been done in this area and consistency of approach within HSE will be important. The Director General has agreed to Chair the project board taking this work forward.

(4) **Support materials:** this project will contribute to the production of a range of support materials and positive images about risk that are suitable for a variety of communication routes. The target audience of these materials will be teachers, trainers, safety critical professionals and others with an interest in raising levels of risk awareness and reducing accident and ill health levels. Andy Gay from DIAS has agreed to Chair the project board taking this work forward.

3 RET have prepared a leaflet outlining their work. Copies will be issued to Subject File 356. Further copies of the leaflet are available from RET. General enquiries on issues relating to RET's work from organisations or individuals within the education sector should be referred to HSE Risk Education Team, Tel: 020 7717 6617, email ret@hse.gsi.gov.uk.

4 [SIM 7/2000/05](#) advised on the integration of health and safety and risk concepts in the National Curriculum in England and on a new health and safety general teaching requirement. In Scotland, the teaching of risk concepts is voluntary although it is covered in guidance issued to schools. In Wales there is no formal mention of the teaching of risk concepts at present although the curriculum is regularly reviewed and revised.

5 DfES have now published *Safety Education - Guidance for Schools* (an electronic copy of the guidance is available from the DfES website at www.teachernet.gov.uk). The guidance is available to all schools in England and it explains how the curriculum for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship can address the issue of accidental injury and death in children and young people.

6 Inspectors may find the DfES guidance helpful in general discussions with teaching and other education staff on risk management and risk concepts and when dealing with local authorities and other employers responsible for schools. The guidance recommends some sources of support for schools and provides some examples of good practice.

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