



A COMMON STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING HEALTH AND SAFETY OUTCOMES IN THE FOOD AND DRINK MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY 2016-2021

The Food and Drink Manufacture Forum (FDMF) is a partnership between Trade Associations, Trade Unions and HSE. This voluntary strategy demonstrates FDMF members' clear intent to act together, build upon previous achievements (such as the *Recipe for Safety initiative*) and to improve the health and safety (H&S) performance of the food and drink manufacturing industry.

This forward-looking strategy demonstrates commitment from the food and drink manufacturing industry to the wider national H&S system strategy *Helping GB Work Well*. In order to protect people, central to this strategy is sensible and proportionate risk management which supports and enables business productivity and innovation. The strategy has a particular focus on tackling work-related ill-health. Actions on sharing success and supporting small employers are set out in the strategy. Delivery of the strategy will only be effective through industry leadership (from directors and all other levels within organisations, and by representative organisations) coupled with effective worker engagement.

Strategy Objectives 2016-2021

Objective 1: Ill-health / injury reduction

Reduce the HSE RIDDOR reportable ill-health and injury rate, for the food and drink manufacturing sector, by 10% year-on-year (starting point 1st April 2016 = 1002 / 100,000).

Objective 2: Musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) including manual handling and upper limb disorders

Food and drink manufacturing companies to have in place effective arrangements to manage MSD risks. Examples of key actions which companies are encouraged to implement:

- identifying and assessing key MSD risks using an effective method, such as the ART, MAC, VMAC, RAPP assessment tools or others.
- an action plan to reduce MSD injuries.
- removing or reducing MSD risks to as low as is reasonably practicable e.g. by redesigning tasks, changing work station design and lay-out, mechanisation, job rotation etc.
- providing practical task-specific MSD training.
- applying root-cause analysis to the investigation of MSD injuries.



Objective 3: Slips and trips

Food and drink manufacturing companies to have in place effective arrangements to manage their slip and trip risks. Examples of key actions which companies are encouraged to implement:

- identifying and assessing key slip and trip risks using an effective method, such as SAT or others.
- an action plan to reduce the number of slip and trip injuries.
- eliminating and reducing slips and trips e.g. by eliminating wet (or other) contamination of floors, walkways, staircases, gantries etc.
- applying root-cause analysis to the investigation of slip and trip injuries.

Objective 4: Occupational health

Food and drink manufacturing companies to have in place an effective occupational health (OH) management system. Examples of key actions which companies are encouraged to implement:

- identifying key OH hazards.
- an action plan to reduce the biggest causes of work related ill-health.
- developing closer links with OH health providers to involve them in the risk assessment process.
- specifying key performance indicators for OH.
- establishing procedures for monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of their OH management system.

Key Delivery Actions: FDMF

- promote the strategy and develop an action plan to deliver the strategy's objectives and monitor delivery against it.
- develop and implement initiatives in line with this strategy and encourage member organisations to adopt and promote them.
- share experience and knowledge to determine and communicate the best ways to further reduce injuries and work related ill-health in the food and drink manufacturing industry.
- promote the importance of effective board / director level leadership, and effective worker engagement to strategy success.

Key Delivery Actions: FDMF Member Organisations

- promote the strategy and implement their own action plans to help their members deliver the strategy's objectives (within matters under their control).
- encourage their members to develop or integrate the strategy's objectives into their individual action plans.
- encourage their members (collectively and individually) to introduce their own initiatives in line with this strategy.
- promote, to their members, the importance of effective board / director level leadership and effective work force engagement.
- monitor and feedback on the progress of their members in delivering the strategy's objectives.
- collect and share their member's ill-health and injury data to inform strategy delivery and to benchmark performance.
- promote the *Recipe for Safety* [guidance](#).