



21st July 2005

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Mr M J Walters
Backs! 2005 Stakeholder Liaison
Health & Safety Executive
East & South East Division
International House, Dover Place
ASHFORD,
Kent
TN23 1HU

Dear Mr Walters

I am writing this letter to show that **Comet** fully supports the Backs! Campaign. Comet is taking the following actions as part of this campaign and to raise the awareness of our colleagues.

- Re-design and review of the Manual Handling risk assessments in line with the latest guidance produced by the HSE,
- Launch of a dedicated H&S Intranet site with a specific section on Manual Handling to raise awareness across the business, and the publishing of accident statistics and trends on the Intranet site to help raise awareness of actual risks,
- Re-shooting of the internal Manual Handling training DVD - Backs for the future 2, ready for our peak intake of colleagues,
- Further development of Safe Working Practices used on training sessions and for monitoring activities, including the launch of an e-learning Manual Handling training package,
- Implementation of additional manual handling aids such as stair climbers and suction grips,
- New posters designed and issued to all Comet locations to reinforce the preventative message,
- Occupational Health partnership developed to assist colleagues who have a musculo-skeletal related injury through an accident at work.

It is anticipated that the above actions will bring about the following improvements in the workplace:

- Raised awareness of the risks from manual handling,
- Reduction in manual handling related injuries and reportable accidents,
- Improved sickness and absence rates,
- Greater support for those who do have a manual handling related incident.

In the area of Health and Safety, Comet seeks to achieve the highest standards. We do not pursue this aim simply to achieve compliance with current legislation, but because it is in all of our best interests. Comet is committed to working with the HSE and Local Authorities to help reduce in the long term, the significant costs to industry and society of back pain and other musculo-skeletal disorders (MSDs) in the workplace.

Yours sincerely

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