

Revitalising Health & Safety – The National Targets

- 20% reduction in rate of work related ill health (10% by 2004)
- 10% reduction in rate of fatalities and major injuries (5% by 2004)
- 30% reduction in rate of working days lost (15% by 2004)

'Revitalising Health & Safety' (RHS) - is a 10-year strategy to improve health and safety at work, launched jointly by the Government and Health and Safety Commission on 7 June 2000.

The targets are for the health and safety system as a whole, not just for HSC or HSE. Everyone engaged in work, be they trade associations, employers, trades unions and workers need to think what they can do to deliver them.

"British Glass is committed to maintaining and improving the industry's health and safety record. Through major initiatives such as the GLASS Charter, an industry-wide programme to reduce health and safety incidents."



The glass industry is made up of a full range of companies across the size range. From large manufacturers employing 100s of people with very strong and structured health and safety management and cultures, to very small companies which may only employ a handful of people, with very limited expertise and resources.

"We needed a system that recognizes and rewards the efforts of the big companies but also facilitates help and support for the less able companies, breaking the overall health & safety requirements into bite-size pieces. The system also allows us to feed in direction at any time, i.e. accident stats may drive a focus in a particular area, or direction from the HSE such as Slip, Trips and Falls in October, or the next European safety week focusing on Noise also in October 2005."

GLASS Charter

The GLASS (Goal: Less Accidents, Safe Sites) Charter is a major initiative to reduce accidents across the industry by 30 per cent over 10 years.

Launched in April 2001, in response to the earlier launch of HSE's RHS initiative, participation in the Glass charter scheme involves meeting the sign up criteria by:

- providing evidence of an up to date health & safety policy;
- appointing a director/ senior manager with responsibility for health & safety;
- submitting accident statistics;
- preparing an action plan with at least three target areas for improvement over the following 12 months; and
- participating in the Glass Charter Merit Scheme to ensure continuous improvement throughout the companies operation.

The overall direction and indeed destination of the Glass Charter is to meet the government targets, whilst ensuring the improved performance comes from every part of the industry.

British Glass - The British Glass Manufacturers' Confederation represents the UK's glass industry. From our offices in Sheffield we act as the industry's focal point, playing the principal role in communicating the concerns and aspirations of our Members to the Government, the European Union and other external interest groups and trade bodies. With more than 40 years' of experience of serving our members, we are instrumental in promoting glass as the first choice material for containers, flat glass, domestic glass, scientific glass and glass fibre applications

The Glass and Glazing Federation - is the recognised leading authority and voice for employers and companies within the flat glass, glazing, window, home improvement, plastics and applied window film industries in the UK. With members in over 1,000 business locations - there is a GGF member in almost every UK town. Our members work across the industry from emergency glazing, applied film, conservatories, windows, doors, fire resistant glazing, glazing components, flat glass, curtain walling, mirrors, toughened glass, curved glass, extrusions, hardware, glass merchandising, insulated glass and laminated glass.

Benefits

We have had many benefits which we expect to grow as we increase our membership. We have achieved a 21% reduction of reportable accidents so far, however as our membership continues to grow, we have more numbers to incorporate in the base line figures. As we continue to educate, the understanding of what a reportable accident actually is, continues to grow and this in turn facilitates better reporting.



- BGMC members now enjoy free access to health and safety information/legislation and assistance.
- Access to specific industry best practice
- A model for continuous improvement
- A proactive stance towards managing health and safety.
- An improved understanding and ability to meet insurance company requirements
- Less fear of HSE intervention and more welcoming of the help and support available.

The way forward

We have to continue to drive our Glass Charter forward; we have in place the systems to achieve the desired results. We have the full commitment and support of most of the big companies within the industry. The area which we are currently focused on developing are our small/medium sized companies, of which there are many.

Throughout 2005 we have been running the Glass Charter road show around the country, providing the opportunity for smaller companies to access the Glass Charter locally, this has been quite successful and the attendance has been very encouraging. In fact we have been so over subscribed for our London event; we may have to do it over two days. In addition we are working on or will have released by the end of the year the following Industry specific guidance;

- Stillages - Supply of
- Stillages - Use of
- Working at Heights
- Safe installation of Windows
- PPE in the Glazing Sector
- Window Installation - Risk assessment
- Safe Removal of Asbestos
- Health and Safety training standards in the glass industry
- Health Surveillance in the Glass Industry

During 2006 we will also focus our efforts towards further support to companies which have signed up and shown willingness to progress but lack the skills.

We fulfil a dual role here at British Glass as we are also the safety resource for the GGF, (glass and glazing federation). We currently have 264 companies actively signed up to the Glass Charter. These companies have a total of 26,103 employees.

"The Glass Charter has enabled the glass industry to take a more focused approach to Health and Safety, which has been reflected in the positive outcomes over the last 3 years. We hope to continue to build on the success of the charter to enable smaller companies to benefit from the support now available through this scheme."

Alison Bettac-Rodgers – Founder of the Glass Charter