

**Partners for Better Health at Work
Newsletter 4
September 2005**



Welcome To the fourth issue of the Partners for Better Health at Work Newsletter

In this quarters edition I'm pleased to bring you details on HSE's campaigns on sensible risk, slips and trips and the Euro week topic- Noise, as well as the Worker Safety Advisor Challenge Fund- now on its third round.

The newsletter is now a year old and I hope you all have found it useful and interesting. We have tried to find the most relevant articles and present them in a brief but informative style. If you have any comments, requests or suggestions for future content or style please email me.

As always you are more than welcome to extract information from the articles or distribute this newsletter to anyone you feel may have an interest in its contents. If you have received this through a contact and would like to sign up, my contact details are below.

Simon Thornhill (simon.thornhill@hse.gsi.gov.uk (020 7717 6245))

WSA Challenge Fund – Round 3 open for applications soon!

The bidding window for applications to participate in Round 3 of the Workers' Safety Adviser (WSA) Challenge fund is open from 14 November 2005 until 16 December.

A number of awareness raising seminars have been organised in September and October, to assist potential applicants.

All workshops will begin at 11.00am and finish with a buffet lunch. There will be a presentation from the fund managers and a Q&A session about the application process.

For more information, including a list of venues and dates, see <http://www.wsa-cf.org/resources/venues.htm>, call Les Johnson or Stuart Anderson on 0191-261-6009 or email info@wsa-cf.org

Join the risk debate

If you believe some stories you hear, health and safety is all about stopping any activity that might possibly lead to harm. This is not our vision of sensible health and safety; rather we seek a balance between the unachievable aim of absolute safety and the kind of poor management of risks that damages lives and the economy.

Concentration on trivial risks and unnecessary paperwork places burdens on business and can restrict personal freedoms. But it also turns attention away from the 235 people killed at work and the 30 million working days lost each year due to ill health.

That is why we are promoting a debate on where the sensible balance lies in health and safety. A web forum is already running and various events will follow over the course of the next few months. Join the debate now at www.hse.gov.uk/riskdebate

Sound off!

Over 2 million people in the UK are regularly exposed to loud noise at work, of which 1.1 million people are exposed to levels above 85 decibels where there is significant risk to health. An estimated 170,000 people suffer deafness, tinnitus or other ear conditions as a result.

Noise at work will feature as part of this year's European Week for Safety and Health at Work in October 2005. If you haven't already done so, look at HSE's website at www.hse.gov.uk/campaigns/euroweek for relevant information. This year's campaign seeks to draw attention to the practical issues and ways of controlling noise in different working environments. HSE is about to publish new guidance to help employers and those advising them on noise at work issues, along with free leaflets and information for employees.

Sound Off Conference- HSE in partnership with the Institution of Occupational Safety & Health (IOSH) is supporting the European Week campaign's flagship event, 'Sound Off - Noise Reduction at Work'. This takes place before the week itself on 11th and 12th October at Earls Court in London. The conference will give attendees valuable information from industry experts on the new Noise Regulations. There will be presentations, demonstrations and sessions on noise hazards, particularly addressing construction, manufacturing, local authorities and musicians' issues. There may still be time to book a place on the Sound Off website www.sound-off.co.uk.

A number of other events are going on to coincide with Euro week including; The Engineering Employers' Federation/HSE Noise and Vibration Roadshow 2005 - a series of seminars to help explain the new regulations

www.eef.org.uk/UK/whatwedo/healthandsafety/training/seminars/Roadshow

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health/HSE seminars on 'Noise Management in the Entertainment Industry'- See www.cieh.org/events/2005_noise_workplace.htm for more information.

See also HSE's website at www.hse.gov.uk/campaigns/euroweek/events.htm

'Watch Your Step'!

HSE is leading and coordinating a major national promotional campaign including workplace inspections to reduce the biggest cause of major injuries at work, slipping and tripping accidents.

The "Watch Your Step" campaign involves HSE, Local Authority partners, stakeholders including major employers, unions, health and safety groups and trade associations. The campaign includes publicity; educational events, inspections and many stakeholder led activities between 3-28 October 2005.

The aim is to promote sensible risk management and control, particularly in sectors with the highest incidence of reported major injuries, such as construction, public administration, food, health services, transport and warehousing, postal services, retail and hospitality. We aim to achieve a substantial reduction in the 11,000 major injuries reported each year and this should also reduce the costs to society, which are about £800 million a year, and the costs to employers, which are about £500 million pa. The campaign will be evaluated to inform future initiatives.

For more Information see www.hse.gov.uk/watchyourstep/index.htm

Next issue due November/December 2005