



**Partners for Better Health at Work  
Newsletter 10  
March 2007**



**Welcome to issue 10 of the Partners for Better Health at Work Newsletter**

In this quarters edition I am pleased to bring you information on the new web guidance for Worker Involvement, along with details of workshops on safe and healthy cleaning and information on how to keep up to date with forthcoming legislation.

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.

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**Involve yourself with our new web guidance!**

**Involving workers is key to improving health and safety performance in the workplace, and it is not difficult to achieve – as new guidance from HSE shows.**

Involving your workers improves your health and safety performance- and that's good news for everyone. A workforce that feels involved is key in tackling many common health problems, from slips and trips, to back pain and stress.

Workers are best placed to inform changes to processes and the work environment, as they perform the tasks, but many businesses find involving workers difficult. However, recent research from MORI has shown that:

**70%** of employers want to involve their workers more – **FACT!**

**40%** of workers want to be *personally* more involved in managing health and safety – **FACT!**

There are clear benefits for both managers and workers.

For managers, involving workers will help to:

- develop a positive health and safety culture,
- improve communication with staff, and
- gain increased commitment to tackling health and safety issues from the workforce.

Workers gain the ability to:

- influence the direction of health and safety management;
- ensure that issues of concern are addressed;
- develop competencies and skills which can be applied in other areas; and
- have a genuine stake in improving performance.

HSE has published online guidance for employers who want to develop consultation and involvement arrangements. This gives a simple, 5-step process for the involvement of workers, suitable for businesses of all sizes.

Information is also available for workers who want to become involved in the management of health and safety, including safety representatives.

How to find out more:

Employers can find more information on involving workers at: [www.hse.gov.uk/involvement/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/involvement/index.htm), including links to the five-step involvement process.

Workers may wish to access the HSE Workers' WebPages at: [www.hse.gov.uk/workers/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/workers/index.htm)

**Workplace Health Connect (WHC)**

Workplace Health Connect had its first anniversary on the 22 February 2007 and the Workplace Health Connect Year One Progress Report will be available from early March 2007. This will be placed on the Workplace Health Connect pages on the HSE website at: [www.hse.gov.uk/workplacehealth/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacehealth/index.htm)

## Securing Health Together Web Pages

Since the launch of the 'Securing Health Together' (SH2) Strategy in July 2000, HSE has been running a website to promote work and initiatives under the SH2 banner. Following the launch of the 'HSC Strategy for 2010 and Beyond' and excellent recent improvements in the occupational health statistics (we are currently on track to meet our targets on reducing both work-related ill health and days lost due to work-related ill health), we feel the time is now right to close the original SH2 site and to bolster the SH2 presence on HSE's own website.

The new SH2 web pages include a 'news' section to highlight occupational health issues, a selection of occupational health initiative case studies and links into HSE's diary of forthcoming events and statistics pages. You can also download past and present copies of this newsletter.

You can access the new pages via the HSE website on [www.hse.gov.uk/sh2/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/sh2/index.htm).

## Safe and healthy cleaning

From April this year, HSE will be hosting a series of workshops for those responsible for overseeing cleaning processes. The principal focus of the workshops will be on reducing slip accidents caused by floor cleaning. Effective cleaning is a key control measure as it affects the surface properties of floors, the safety of those walking across them (including cleaners themselves), minimises contamination and ensures adequate levels of hygiene. This intervention is one of a number of initiatives to drive down accidents caused by slips and trips, the most common cause of workplace injury.

The workshops will also include sessions on dermatitis (cleaners are in the top 5 occupational groups with the highest number of cases per year), musculoskeletal disorders and low falls from height.

Keep an eye on [www.hse.gov.uk/slips/cleancampaign.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/cleancampaign.htm) for more information.

## How to keep up to date with forthcoming occupational health and safety legislation.

Public consultations are held by HSE whenever it plans to introduce new occupational health and safety legislation or amendments to existing legislation. More information about this process is available from the Consultations site at: [www.hse.gov.uk/consult/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/index.htm)

Any new or revised legislation that results from this process is laid before Parliament and comes into force on one of two 'Common Commencement' dates. The two dates are 6 April and 1 October each year. Some European-driven legislation may come into force at other times of the year.

Find out about the legislation coming into force in various industry sectors in the current year from the Statement of forthcoming regulations at: [www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/regulations/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/regulations/index.htm)

HSE advertise new and amended legislation so that you can keep up to date with the changes that affect your industry and working environments. Look out for these in the following areas:

- Press releases
- The 'What's New at hse.gov.uk' HSE E-bulletin service
- HSE Newsletter
- Specific HSE journals
- Trade and specialist press
- Events (in some cases)

## HWWB – Events

As part of the Health, Work and Well-being (HWWB) Strategy's communication's activity, the team will be attending various events (listed below) throughout the country in the next few months. Dame Carol Black will be speaking at some of these events outlining the Government's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of working age people.

IOSH Annual Conference, (27 March - 28 March, Telford)  
UK Annual Public Health Forum, (28 March - 29 March, Edinburgh)  
HRD 2007, (17 April - 19 April, London)

**Next issue due out in June 2007**