

## **Achieving the Revitalising Health and Safety targets:**

### **Statistical progress report, December 2002**

The statistics on health and safety at work inform the measurement of progress against the targets for reducing work-related ill health, injuries and working days lost set in the *Revitalising Health and Safety* strategy. HSE's approach to progress measurement is detailed in a *Statistical Note* published in June 2001, which is on the HSE website at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/statnote.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/statnote.pdf). Among other things, this states that progress will be assessed from trends estimated in statistical models, and that – for ill health – existing data sources will need to be refined and new ones developed, with a judgement on progress being made by integrating data from several of them. At this early stage in the strategy period it is not possible to make a full assessment of progress since the base year 1999/2000, but the following can be said with respect to the three targets: these statements, together with the material in *Health and Safety Statistics Highlights 2001/02* (on the website at [www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overpic.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overpic.htm)) comprise the “annual progress report” promised in the *Statistical Note*.

#### Fatal and major injuries

- The target is to reduce the indicator by 10% between 1999/2000 and 2009/10, and by 5% by 2004/05. The indicator includes an uprating factor for underreporting of major injuries.
- In the past 5 years, between 1996/97 and 2001/02, the indicator dropped 6% but most of this had occurred by 1999/2000, the base year of the *Revitalising* programme.
- Since 1999/2000 the indicator has fluctuated by small amounts that are not statistically significant. There is no discernible improvement since the base year.
- The indicator increased by 2.8% in 2001/02, reflecting an increase in the uprating factor for underreporting. This does not allow for the overstatement of major injuries in the validation process or the relative improvement in the reporting of major injuries following the introduction of the Incident Contact Centre (ICC). Initial estimates of these effects suggest that under the old system the indicator would have shown a small net drop in 2001/02. A fuller assessment of the effect of the ICC on reporting levels will be made next year when the averaged Labour Force Survey rates for 2001/02 are available.

#### Work-related ill health

- The target is to reduce the incidence rate (new cases) by 20% between 1999/2000 and 2009/10, and by 10% by 2004/05.
- The latest information from self-reporting (SWI) surveys suggest that the scale of the problem to be addressed by the strategies is now greater than previously estimated.
- Information from other sources, including surveillance by specialist doctors (ODIN), is consistent with the view that for several important kinds of work-related ill health there has been no significant decline in the numbers of cases reported in recent years and that for some – notably stress and related disorders – the numbers have increased.

#### Working days lost due to injuries and ill health

- The target is to reduce the rate per 100 000 workers by 30% between 1999/2000 and 2009/10, and by 15% by 2004/05.
- The latest information from self-reporting surveys suggest that the scale of the problem is now greater than previously estimated: a total of around 40 million days lost per year in 2000-02 compared with an earlier estimate, based on surveys conducted in 1995-98, of 24 million. Most of the difference relates to work-related ill health, but some of it is due to technical differences.