

Sector plan for health and safety: **Manufacturing**

This sector covers a diverse range of industries, from small-scale motor vehicle repair, woodworking and metal fabrication, paper and plastic manufacture, mineral products, food and drink production to car manufacture, aerospace and shipbuilding. It excludes the manufacture of chemicals and explosives.

Some large employers remain but much of the sector is made up of SMEs. Around 3 million people work in the sector, representing around 9% of the GB workforce. It contributes around £140 billion to the economy, around 10% of the total.

Current position

The sector has a mixed health and safety record and more improvements need to be made. There are some key strategic partners such as EEF (the manufacturers' organisation), alongside other effective trade associations which provide good support and advice. Trade unions continue to have an important role.

On average, 27 workers are killed each year in this sector, accounting for almost 20% of all workplace fatalities. The rate of fatal injury is higher than the all-industry average, with main causes being struck by objects, fall from height and contact with machinery.

Around 3% (78 000) of workers are injured in workplace incidents annually, higher than the all-industry rate, and the main causes are lifting, handling, slips, trips and falls.

Annually, around 3% (86 000) of workers suffer an illness they believe to be work-related, a similar level to workplace injury. Known health issues across the sector include work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs), stress and lung disease.

The development of new and advanced manufacturing methods, such as collaborative robots, 3D printing and new materials, provide both a challenge and an opportunity for the sector.

Outcomes and priorities

Manufacturing will continue to be a priority sector for HSE. We want to see improvements in all areas

of health and safety performance, particularly to achieve the following outcomes:

- Reducing the cases of occupational lung disease, MSDs and work-related stress
- Reducing serious and fatal incidents, particularly those caused by heavy loads, maintenance and catastrophic events
- Increased cooperation between all parts of the sector, and sub-sectors, to identify and solve health and safety problems



What HSE will do to #HelpGBworkwell

We will secure effective management and control of risk by:

- delivering an active programme of interventions and inspections focused on where we need to make the most difference, with a particular focus on health risks.

We will lead and engage with others to improve workplace health and safety by:

- implementing HSE's Health and Work strategy, with the aim of preventing ill health and encouraging the adoption of effective controls;
- sharing lessons, using insight, research and industry intelligence to:
 - develop suitable guidance for SMEs;
 - use a variety of communication channels to target and promulgate key messages;
 - understand the effect of changing demographics and work with partners to implement solutions to key hazards and risks;
 - keep pace with developing and emerging technologies, including robotics and autonomous systems, additive manufacturing, new materials etc, and work with partners to find solutions to managing any risks;
- collaborating with trade associations, trade unions, partnership groups and dutyholders to:
 - ensure effective leadership and competence on the key hazards and risks across the sector;
 - develop and implement a clear strategy for effective utilisation and gearing from the supply chain;
 - demonstrate effective leadership, particularly on health risks;
 - influence and assist SMEs to raise and maintain standards, particularly on health risks;
 - encourage stakeholder groups to work effectively together;
- developing sustained strategic engagement at the appropriate level with key dutyholders;
- working with specific industry sub-sectors to enable them to develop their own plans to implement the priorities of this overall Manufacturing sector plan, taking account of their specific hazard and risk profile and the themes in Helping Great Britain work well.

We will reduce the likelihood of low-frequency, high-impact catastrophic events by:

- ensuring there is a clear understanding of catastrophic events in the sector by working with trade associations, trade unions, partnership groups and employers to embed the importance of avoiding catastrophic events and the control methodologies required to prevent serious incidents.