

Sector plan for health and safety: **Waste and recycling**

This sector covers activities associated with the collection, handling, transfer, sorting and processing of industrial, commercial and household waste.

Around 120 000 are employed within the private, public and third sector, encompassing the self-employed, SMEs, local authorities and large national and international companies.

Current position

Waste and recycling has a high rate of workplace injury and work-related ill health. In the five years to March 2016:

- the fatal injury rate was around 10 times the average across all industries;
- the main causes of fatal injury include being struck by moving vehicles, contact with moving machinery and being trapped by something collapsing or overturning;
- there were 12 fatalities to members of the public as a result of work activity in the sector, excluding road traffic accidents.

Generally, around 5% of workers are injured annually in non-fatal incidents, around double the all-industry rate. Main causes include lifting and

handling and slips, trips and falls.

Every year around 5% of workers believe they suffer a work-related illness; higher than the all-industry rate. Most common health issues suffered include musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) and work-related stress, while other conditions include occupational lung disease and skin disease.

The Waste Industry Safety and Health (WISH) forum, their members and other key stakeholders in both the private, public and third sector are committed to improving this record.

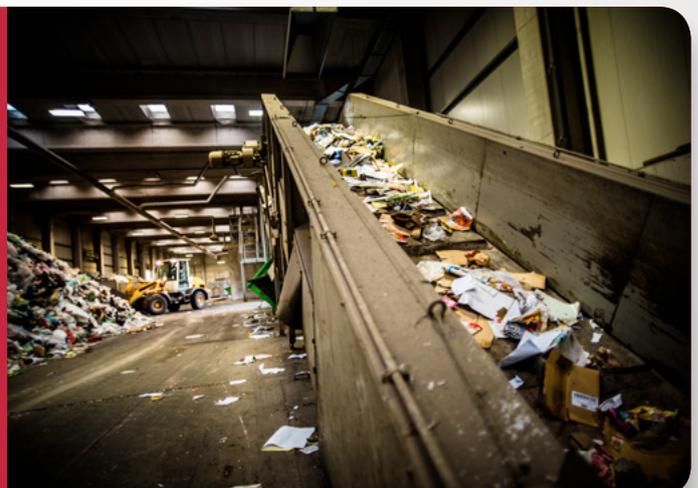
However, there are a number of dutyholders within the industry who need further assistance to ensure they comply with health and safety laws.

Outcomes and priorities

Waste and recycling will continue to be a priority sector for HSE. We want to see significant

improvements in all areas of health and safety performance, in particular the following outcomes:

- A reduction in the number of people killed by moving vehicles/caught in moving machinery
- A reduction in the cases of MSDs and occupational lung disease
- Ownership of the challenges by industry and leadership on implementing solutions



What HSE will do to #HelpGBworkwell

We will secure effective management and control of risk by:

- directing inspection activities and enforcement activity on risks posed by moving/reversing vehicles, contact with machinery and MSDs;
- sharing information and intelligence and working jointly with other regulators, eg Environment Agency, National Resource Wales, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, fire authorities and local authorities;
- engaging with manufacturers and designers of work equipment, to design out risks to workers' health and safety;
- developing an appropriate blend of interventions to highlight safety and health risks, and exemplify control measures, solutions and innovations;
- helping SMEs manage health and safety sensibly and proportionately.

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

- engaging and collaborating with WISH, their members, private and public employers, employee representatives, insurance companies and other key stakeholders to ensure effective leadership, encouraging all groups to act together;
- supporting and promoting strategic industry initiatives that show leadership in tackling key problems, eg violence and aggression, driver safety, improving competence, people being injured or killed after entering bins;
- challenging existing stakeholder groups to ensure individual members dedicate sufficient resources to their activities for them to function effectively;
- supporting and promoting WISH industry health and safety guidance and information;
- adapting flexibly and proportionally to technological developments and demographic changes by using horizon scanning and research;
- carrying out a review of the key health and safety challenges faced by the sector, leading to actions which will:
 - identify any new problems and solutions;
 - re-energise under-used solutions;
 - identify further HSE interventions where needed.