

MAINSTREAM RESEARCH NEWS



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□ OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO REVIEW HSE'S SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

In December 2001, the Ministerial Committee on Science Policy agreed that the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) – Professor Sir David King, should be responsible for maintaining the quality and vigour of science across Government. Following on from the Government's Cross-Cutting Review of Science and Research, published in March 2002, a rolling programme of external scrutiny and benchmarking of the way in which Government Departments use and manage research is to be taken forward by the CSA. The programme has started with a review of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to be followed HSE. The review will be a major undertaking and its outcome will reflect on HSE as a whole not just our science.

The Science Review will:

- be external and independent, open and transparent;
- focus on the quality and use of science, not value for money;
- use a broad definition of science to include all disciplines. R&D together with monitoring, surveillance and technical inspection are included (We are currently seeking clarification of how this applies to our activities);
- be published openly, together with the HSE's response;
- be responded to - Departments are expected to report on how the recommendations are being implemented or justify why they are not appropriate.

The Office of Science and Technology will follow HSE's progress in implementing the Review's recommendations within 12 to 18 months.

Given the importance of the Review, HSE's Board has agreed that, as such a high proportion of HSE's resource is related to application of science on a day-to-day basis, significant effort should be directed towards the Review. Within HSE, the Chief Scientist Unit (part of the Corporate Science and Analytical Services Directorate) will take the lead, but there will need to be significant input from HSE's other Directorates.

The review team from the Office of Science and Technology has indicated that they expect to interview around 60 members of staff and will be based in HSE for some 3 to 4 months.

Initial planning is already underway and a series of meetings have been held to brief HSE's operational and policy groups about the review and its scope. The scope is broad and will focus on a number of areas designated as success criteria.

Fundamental to the review is the ability to measure and draw sound conclusions about the quality and use of science by HSE in these particular areas, which are:

- horizon scan – to identify future science-related issues; develop a clear, overall science strategy;
- review and harness existing research and identify gaps and opportunities for future research;
- commission and manage new research; ensure the quality and relevance of sponsored work;
- use research and scientific advice in formulating policy; publish results and debate their findings and implications openly;
- share, transfer and manage knowledge;
- have implemented Guidelines 2000 and the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees; and
- to use, maintain and develop scientific expertise (within the department itself and in the scientific community – capacity and capability building).

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□ WHAT'S NEW?

□ A STUDY OF THE SLIP CHARACTERISTICS OF TIMBER AND ENGINEERED WOOD MATERIALS USED FOR FLOORING

(Contractor: Health and Safety Laboratory)
Timber flooring has been used throughout all UK and European industrial, commercial, retail and public sector buildings in a variety of forms for many centuries. It appears as blocks, boards or strips and is also used for building components, such as stair treads and staircase landings. Many varieties of timber are used to make floors. Timber flooring has become very fashionable for use as a designer flooring material in the retail, commercial and leisure sectors where its appearance is the reason for choice rather than its other characteristics. Timber flooring and its derivatives now account for the highest volume of annual sales compared to tile, resilient, man made and natural stone flooring. The aim of this work is to gain a better understanding of the slip resistance characteristics of all types of timber and timber derivative flooring materials to complement and augment HSE's knowledge of flooring materials. The study will look at the interaction between shoe soling material and a wide variety of timber flooring types. The information gained will be used to enable HSE and Local Authority Inspectors to assess the suitability of flooring. The information will influence HSE's guidance on slip resistance flooring and will feed into British and EU Standards.

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□ EVALUATION OF VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION TRAINING IN THE HEALTHCARE SETTING: A GUIDE FOR TRAINERS AND MANAGERS

(Contractor: University of Nottingham)
Work-related violence is now considered by many to be one of the most serious occupational hazards facing staff working in the health sector. Training is often used as a primary element of an organisation's strategy for combating work-related violence. However, effective tools to systematically assess the impact and effectiveness of this training are not currently available. This project will produce an evidence-based evaluation of the effectiveness of current violence and aggression training programmes across a range of healthcare scenarios. The project will use a broad range of outcomes against which the effectiveness of violence management training can be assessed. A suite of tools and instructions for their use will be developed covering: the assessment of training needs and the extent to which available training meets them; the evaluation of training; and the analysis of current provision against best-practice standards. The project will seek to establish how management training works at three distinct time points: before incidents occur (prevention); as they unfold (interaction); and in the period following an incident (rehabilitation) to identify the value of different elements within an overall training approach to the management of violence. A number of relevant case studies will be produced.

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□ INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE RELATING TO THE BENEFITS OF LIMBERING UP EXERCISES AT WORK

(Contractor: Human Engineering Ltd)

Warm-up exercises are commonplace in the world of sport, but the evidence to suggest the beneficial effects of limbering up prior to work is somewhat variable. The general impression is that there is benefit in limbering up before lifting, carrying or undertaking other work activities in order to prevent pain, discomfort or damage to the joints and muscles leading to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). However, the existing research is inconclusive. Even in Japan, where limbering up exercises are frequently performed, the evidence to prove the long or short term positive health effects is questionable.

HSE receives many requests for information regarding the potential benefits of warming up prior to work activities and needs to acquire reliable, independent information so that clear advice can be provided. This project, in collaboration with the Waseda University, Japan will start by examine the published literature (a preliminary literature search already undertaken by Waseda University has found 13 studies that potentially indicate the benefits in limbering up prior to work) and will go on to consider if there is evidence that particular exercises would be useful in tackling particular forms of ill health - such as back pain or upper limb disorders. If evidence in support of limbering up is found, the project will go on to look at cultural differences between British and Japanese workplaces to investigate potential obstacles to the adoption of warming up exercises by industry in this country.

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□ WHAT'S NEW?

□ DERAILMENT OF TRAMS: PHASE 1 – DETERMINATION OF CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

(Contractor: Health and Safety Laboratory)

The UK has 7 operational tramway and light rail systems in Birmingham, Blackpool, Croydon, Docklands, Manchester, Sheffield and Tyne and Wear. A number of others are either nearing completion or are in the planning stage. Each of these systems has a unique wheel profile and a variety of rail sections and rail switch designs are used. This is in contrast to Continental Europe where 'Standard' wheel profiles have generally been adopted, together with the installation of 'standard' switches and crossings. However, on some systems in the UK, different rail sections are used within the same system and this has caused concern about the potential risk of derailment. This work will assess the wheel profiles, rail sections and the design of switch blades that are currently used by tramways and light rail systems in the UK and will examine the experience of UK operators to derailments, the potential to flange climb, rates of wheel and rail wear and the success or otherwise of any modifications adopted or implemented. The experience of European operators to rail wear and derailment will be investigated to identify good practice. Wheel profiles, rail sections and switch blade designs will then be selected for modeling and analysis in the subsequent phase of this work.

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□ BAROMETER OF CULTURAL CHANGE

(Contractor: BOMEL Ltd)

The Agricultural Sector gives rise to a disproportionately high number of deaths and serious injuries and for this reason it has been identified by HSE as a Priority Programme under the Revitalising Health and Safety and Securing Health Together initiatives.

A key element in monitoring progress towards the targets for measurable reductions in accidents, work-related absences and ill health set for the sector, is to understand the success of the specific interventions. Also, the Priority Programme management team needs to be able to adapt and redirect its resource to achieve greatest effect. The ultimate outcome measures, such as RIDDOR reportable accident numbers, lag behind the changes in practice from which health and safety benefits accrue and therefore more sensitive leading indicators of change are required. Also, incomplete levels of reporting and bias in reporting profiles mean that more representative measures are needed.

This project aims to develop a cost effective tool (a barometer) to test whether HSE interventions are working and/or awareness is being raised within the industry.

The barometer will be piloted in a range of contexts to establish a baseline of information and will be developed and refined as a toolkit for HSE implementation.

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□ EVALUATION OF 'REDUCING RISKS, PROTECTING PEOPLE'

(Contractor: Institute for Employment Studies)

'Reducing Risks, Protecting People' (R2P2) is HSC/E's risk framework. It explains the basis for HSC/E's decisions regarding the degree and form of control of risk from occupational hazards. It aims to contribute to maintaining the trust that HSC/E stakeholders have in the health and safety regulatory system and in HSC/E in particular. R2P2 is thus a key document for HSC/E.

It is important that this document has a real impact on HSC/E's stakeholders. HSE needs to know whether the document has been successful in achieving its aims, how it could be improved or indeed whether something else would achieve the aims better.

This project will provide a qualitative or semi-quantitative evaluation to assess the extent to which R2P2 reached its target audience, was understood by this audience and explained adequately to them the basis for how HSE takes decisions about regulatory actions.

The evaluation will also consider whether the document allowed its audience to scrutinise the decision-making process and informed them of the factors that lead to HSE's risk-based decisions. The evaluation will look at whether R2P2 has reassured the public that risks from work activities are properly controlled and whether it has adequately informed other regulators of the basis for the management of health and safety arising from work activities.

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□ WHAT'S NEW?

□ EVALUATION OF NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE FOR SMEs IN SCOTLAND

(Health Scotland)

The Scottish Executive, as part of its contribution to Revitalising Health and Safety and Securing Health Together, which are GB-wide initiatives, has provided £2m over 2 years (2002-04) to fund an occupational health service for SMEs in Scotland. The Health Education Board for Scotland (HEBS) is managing this service, the key elements of which are a confidential national help line, workplace assessment and a specialist referral system. The pilot occupational health and safety help line, based in Lanarkshire (which was funded by HSE) has been upgraded to a free national telephone advice line for employers and workers in Scotland and is central to this new service. The service aims to empower small businesses and their workers to better recognise and address occupational health and safety problems they are experiencing, particularly when they relate to basic health and safety compliance, stress and musculoskeletal disorders.

This project will evaluate the impacts (both positive and negative) of the service on SMEs (the primary target group) and other service users and will assess its estimated health impacts on the wider workforce in Scotland. The project will look at how well the planned implementation system works in practice to meet the objectives, in particular the regional delivery and referral system and the mobilisation and integration of the occupational health service with other workplace health initiatives.

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□ TECHNIQUES TO REDUCE NOISE AT WORK: CASE STUDIES

(Contractor: Philip Dunbavin Acoustics)

To help to achieve HSE's aim of reducing the incidence and severity of ill health caused by noise at work and, in due course, to eradicate occupational noise-induced hearing loss, HSE needs to ensure that good practical guidance is available on controlling noise at source. The introduction of new regulations on noise at work in 2006 will place greater emphasis on the control of noise at source as the preferred means of compliance with duties to manage noise exposures. HSE's existing guidance on noise at work is 'Sound Solutions'. This guidance contains case studies, which are now eight years old and which need to be updated to reflect current techniques and costs. Also, the existing case studies tend to be from the traditional manufacturing industries, which have a fairly long history of intervention compared to other sectors, such as entertainment and call centres. There is a need to collect case study material from a wider, more representative cross section of sectors. This work will identify companies that have successfully implemented appropriate noise control techniques. Factual (and where possible, photographic) information about the original problem, the techniques adopted to overcome the problem, the impact of the intervention and the costs will be collected and collated. Each case study will then be written up in a consistent format and will provide information to illustrate how the application of basic noise control techniques could be used in other situations.

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□ FARMERS, FARM WORKERS AND WORK-RELATED STRESS

(Contractor: Policy Studies Institute)

Research on farmers and stress to date has mainly consisted of quantitative surveys that have focused on farm owners' and managers' experiences at the expense of their family members or farm workers. Whilst this previous work has highlighted the range of stressors that farmers are exposed to, the research has not disaggregated these from other non-work related factors or explored risk factors that might be associated with diversification practices. This research will conduct qualitative interviews with key informants and farmers in 5 locations in England and Wales to capture the experiences of all those who work in farming, from the owners and managers of farms through to casual or seasonal workers and family members. The project will aim to draw out some of the key differences between farmers and farm workers in different regions of the UK, working on a range of different sizes and types of farm. The work will identify areas of farming and agricultural work where stress is caused by the nature of the work, and highlight the flash points where stress occurs and the factors that contribute to it. Interventions to tackle stress will be explored with farmers and farm workers, together with ways that stress might be reduced through the promotion of health and safety policies that seek to reduce the risk of work-related stress.

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□ EXAMPLES OF RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

□ THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KNOWLEDGE-BASED SYSTEM TO DELIVER HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION TO DESIGNERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

(Contractor: NNC Ltd)

In order to help improve the health and safety record within the construction industry, this project aimed to encourage designers to give more consideration to health and safety issues during the design stage. This is in keeping with the principles of the Construction (Design and Management) [CDM] Regulations 1994, that place a responsibility on designers to ensure that their designs are not only adequate in their final state, but can be safely constructed and maintained. This project sought to prototype a method of providing designers with easy access to relevant health and safety information, by establishing a means of structuring this as a knowledge-based system (KBS) and delivering it to designers when they need it. A KBS was taken to be a system in which human expertise is structured, enabling the system to diagnose situations and provide information and recommendations without the human expert being present. The project was an initial development project to demonstrate the principles of delivery and potential acceptance of a KBS-based approach and to provide recommendations for full-scale implementation. A requirements analysis was undertaken in order to establish more detail on the best means to deliver relevant information to designers and also to get a better idea of what the 'relevant information' was. The development of the prototype system was split into three main areas: provision of health and safety information by the KBS, either interactively within a computer aided design (CAD) tool or standalone; provision for the designer to add attributes (relevant to health and safety) to objects in their designs - such as the fragility of a roof light or the method of cleaning; and the investigation of the viability of a system, which would carry out checks on a design in order to establish whether it contained any health and safety risks. Risks found are alerted to the designer, together with information on how to reduce the risk or remove the hazard completely. Evaluation of the prototype showed positive feedback about having easy-to-access health and safety information. The tool in the prototype that checks for health and safety risks has great potential for also checking other authorities' regulations. The downside is that designers do not generally take the definition of construction procedures to be their responsibility, and so the uptake of the KBS may be limited in this area. There is also an issue concerning whether designers will spend their time accessing and using the KBS, even though it could save them time in the long run. The report from this project has been published in HSE's Research Report series as RR173

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□ QUANTITATIVE STUDY OF THE CAUSES OF THE PARTIAL COLLAPSE OF PIPERS ROW CAR PARK, WOLVERHAMPTON ON 20 MARCH 1997

(Contractors: Structural Studies and Design Ltd, Amey Vectra Ltd, Building Research Establishment and The Royal Military College of Science)

On the night of 20 March 1997, a 120 tonne section of the top deck of Pipers Row multi storey car park collapsed. Although open, the car park was unoccupied and no one was injured. Pipers Row was a flat slab structure, designed and built in 1964/5, using a technique called lift slab. It was believed to be the first lift slab structure to have failed in service. Following concerns about car parks built using the lift slab technique and about the safety of other flat slab structures subject to aggressive environments, a comprehensive programme of work was commissioned to quantify a wider range of factors that, in combination, led to the partial collapse of this car park. The work involved detailed investigation and testing of the construction, materials, degradation and repairs to the reinforced concrete lift slab structure. The sensitivity of the reactions, moments and shear stress distributions to construction tolerances, cracking and the repair procedures have been evaluated, as have the actual vehicle and thermal load effects. The research identified that if properly maintained, Pipers Row car park should have had a reasonable margin of strength in relation to the actual loads imposed in use. However, deterioration of the concrete over and around the column/slab zone led to punching shear failure of the concrete slab. The mechanical column/slab connection (unique to the lift slab method of construction) did not fail. Concrete deterioration resulted from localised breakdown of the overlying waterproof membrane. This allowed water access to areas of poor quality concrete in the upper part of the slab, leading to frost damage and a loss of strength. The report from this work has been published on HSE's website at the following URL: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/misc/pipersrow.htm> with supporting documentation available to view in hard copy at HSE's Bootle Information Centre.

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□ EXAMPLES OF RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

□ COST OF COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS IN SMEs

(Contractor: Entec UK Ltd)

An initiative in 1999, conducted by the Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF), considered the regulatory barriers to start-up, success and growth of small businesses and found that smaller companies are often at a competitive disadvantage compared with larger organisations because of the cost and time involved in regulatory compliance. This was supported, in the case of health and safety regulations, by a recent evaluation of the Manual Handling Operations Regulations (HSE Contract Research Report 351). This further work aimed to assess whether the costs of compliance were indeed disproportionate across a wider range of regulations, what the nature of expenditure was and how effective the action taken had been. A combination of postal survey and follow up visits was conducted across a range of sizes of organisations and sectors. Large organisations with >5000 employees were found to report considerably less expenditure per employee for all regulations compared with smaller organisations. Medium and large organisations reported training as their greatest expenditure, whilst for small companies it was training and provision of personal protective equipment. Larger organisations were more likely to think that the benefits of complying with health and safety regulations outweighed the costs. Although the reported benefits were broadly similar across all organisations, construction companies perceived an added benefit of being accepted onto tender lists and success in gaining contracts. The main motivators underlying the development of health and safety systems were legal obligations (larger organisations), health and safety publicity (SMEs) and requirements from other existing internal systems and procedures. Larger organisations preferred internet based sources of information, whilst SMEs preferred paper-based information. Finally, the main frustrations identified when establishing health and safety systems for newly formed organisations were issues such as time restrictions, cost, lack of knowledge/skill and lack of information/guidance. Encouragingly, a third of respondents reported no frustrations when setting up health and safety systems.

The full findings from this work have been published in HSE's Research Report series as RR174

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□ THE EXTENT OF USE OF HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AS A FALSE EXCUSE FOR NOT EMPLOYING SICK OR DISABLED PERSONS

(Contractor: IRS Research)

Funded collaboratively with the Disabled Rights Commission, the aim of this research was to establish the nature and extent of this potential problem. The work undertaken comprised of several interrelated elements. From a literature review of UK and international studies, health and safety was cited as justification for discrimination in a significant proportion of employment tribunal cases. However, there was a dearth of rigorous research on the extent to which health and safety issues conflict, or are in harmony, with disability management. A major disparity between the importance of the issue (as indicated by employment tribunals) and evidence-based knowledge was identified. An examination of employment tribunal decisions considered those cases in which employers had cited health and safety concerns as reasons for not recruiting or retaining disabled persons, or for subjecting them to some other employment detriment. The review concluded that stereotyped views, wrong decisions and excessively cautious risk assessments may all act as unnecessary, lawful, barriers so long as they did not give rise to decisions so perverse as to fall outside the range of responses open to a reasonable employer. A telephone survey of SME employers was carried out. This involved 501 interviews with a representative national sample. Also, postal surveys of large employers, occupational health practitioners, health and safety practitioners and health and safety representatives were undertaken. For these, the average response rate was 12%. In-depth case studies were completed with 17 employers to look at policy and practice towards employment of people with disability or ill health. Sixteen interviews were conducted with disabled people, who felt that their employment had been affected by health and safety decisions made by a potential or existing employer. Overall, the survey and case study research provided evidence of organisations taking steps to overcome health and safety barriers to recruitment or retention of people with a disability, ill health condition or injury. Equally, there was evidence of a substantial number of organisations not recruiting someone (or even dismissing an existing employee) with a disability or ill health condition on the grounds of health and safety risk.

The report from this research has been published in HSE's Research Report series as RR167.

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□ EXAMPLES OF RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS

□ AN EVALUATION OF THE 'LIFESKILLS – LEARNING FOR LIVING' PROGRAMME

(Contractor: Oxford Evaluation Group)

Lifeskills is a permanent regional education and training facility, built in a realistic village at the CREATE Centre in Bristol. The centre is designed to help children (and other members of the community) learn about safety in a fun and practical way and to practice the skills they have learnt in a realistic setting. The learning for living programme stresses the importance of taking responsibility for personal safety, of assessing risks and learning how to cope when faced with dangerous or difficult circumstances. School visits are tailored to Year 6 children (10-11 yrs old), with each session accommodating 40 pupils. Each session involves 10 scenarios with the same trained guide spending 10 minutes on each scenario. At the end of each session, each child is given a Lifeskills Detective survey sheet, designed to encourage children to take their family on a safety investigation of their own homes.

This evaluation sought to explore how well the Lifeskills programme achieved its aims, to help children who have visited the centre: be more alert to potential danger to themselves and others; know what to do in potentially dangerous situations; learn practical skills in coping with hazards; and develop self confidence to use these skills to deal with hazards. The evaluation considered to what extent they had acquired safety knowledge and assessed the extent to which this was retained at 3 and 12 months after their visit to the Lifeskills Centre.

Three months after a visit to Lifeskills, children were more knowledgeable and performed better than a control group of children in all areas studied (home safety, fire safety, first aid, road safety and drugs) and on all tests except for two of the road safety tests. A year later, the Lifeskills children were still more knowledgeable about home safety, fire safety and road safety, but they were no longer more knowledgeable than the control group children about first aid and drugs. The children's confidence in dealing with emergencies was assessed by how quickly they started to act in performance tests and by their response to direct questions about their confidence in paper and pencil tests. The Lifeskill children were more confident than the control children on both measures. Their confidence, as measured by speed of reaction, was appropriate since the Lifeskills children who were quicker to react were the ones who performed the tasks better.

Although the need for improvement was identified in some areas, the evaluation concluded that the Lifeskills programme was succeeding admirably in improving children's knowledge and, more strikingly, their self-confidence and capacity to put what they have learned into effect. The results imply that Lifeskills own interactive safety skills programme can achieve Lifeskills stated aim of bridging the gap between knowledge and performance. The report from this work has been published in HSE's Research Report series as RR187.

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□ MANAGEMENT OF WORK-RELATED VIOLENCE TO LONE WORKERS, INCLUDING MOBILE WORKERS

(Contractor: Health and Safety Laboratory)

HSE identified the need for additional guidance on work-related violence for employers who are responsible for people working alone, including mobile (peripatetic) workers, and for people who are self employed. A review of work-related violence, commissioned by HSE from the Tavistock Institute (published as CRR143), concluded that the most vulnerable occupations were those in which employees are required to leave the work base and go to unfamiliar places and/or work alone.

This project was a key element of a programme of work designed to reduce the incidence of work related violence by 10% and it aimed to find examples of good practice in preventing and managing such incidences from small, medium and large enterprises in England, Scotland and Wales and to make these available to employers and the self-employed. The examples needed to: be suitable for publication and have the relevant organisation's agreement for publication; represent a range of occupational sectors and organisation sizes, including the self employed; and demonstrate cost-effective solutions which are transferable to other sectors.

Nineteen case studies have been produced, which focus on organisations from industrial sectors where there is a higher risk of violence. The case studies, along with more general information about violence, lone workers and a summary of the main findings from this project have been published on the work-related violence pages on HSE's website, at the following URL: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/violence/index.htm>

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□ PROJECT LISTING

NEWLY COMMISSIONED PROJECTS: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2003		
Project No	Project Title	Project Officer
Block 1 - Priority Programmes		
R33.108	Health guidance for designers of construction works – Practical guidance sheets	Mr S Cartney. Tel: 0151 951 4832 stephen.cartney@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R33.116	Safer foundations by design	Ms D Kahlon. Tel: 0207 717 6174 debo.kahlon@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R53.200	A study of the slip characteristics of timber and engineered wood materials used for flooring	Ms D Kahlon. Tel: 0207 717 6174 debo.kahlon@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R53.203	A study of the slip characteristics of metal flooring materials	Ms D Kahlon. Tel: 0207 717 6174 debo.kahlon@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R54.090	Supporting the development of management standards on work-related stress	Dr C Mackay. Tel: 0151 951 4565 colin.mackay@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R55.103	Effective management of upper limb disorders by occupational physicians and general practitioners	Ms D Brown. Tel: 0207 717 6037 dorothy.brown@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R55.106	International review of the literature relating to the benefits of limbering up exercises at work	Ms D Brown. Tel: 0207 717 6037 dorothy.brown@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R55.108	Defining the extent and source of manual handling problems in agricultural and horticultural enterprises	Ms D Kahlon. Tel: 0207 717 6174 debo.kahlon@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R58.064	Occupational health case studies in construction	Ms D Kahlon. Tel: 0207 717 6174 debo.kahlon@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R63.070	Toolkit for social responsibility and construction clients: design, test and launch	Ms D Kahlon. Tel: 0207 717 6174 debo.kahlon@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R64.105	Barometer of cultural change	Ms D Kahlon. Tel: 0207 717 6174 debo.kahlon@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R67.162	Farmers, farm workers and work-related stress	Ms D Kahlon. Tel: 0207 717 6174 debo.kahlon@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R67.163	Evaluation of violence and aggression training in the health care setting: A guide for trainers and managers	Ms J Gravell. Tel: 01582 444200 josephine.gravell@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R68.093	Training of large goods vehicle (LGV) drivers in the use of closed circuit television (CCTV) reversing aids	Ms D Kahlon. Tel: 0207 717 6174 debo.kahlon@hse.gsi.gov.uk
Block 2 - Work in the Major Hazards Industries		
R01.034	Assessment of fire and explosion risks from coatings mixing operations	Dr S Welsh. Tel: 0151 951 4784 shaun.welsh@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R32.107	Derailment of trams phase 1 – Determination of current knowledge and experience	Mr A Jackson. Tel: 0114 291 2453 alan.jackson@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R32.108	Gas turbines (and major driven equipment) integrity – Inspection guidance notes project	Mr D Shuter. Tel: 0114 291 2375 danny.shuter@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R33.117	Testing and standards for rock reinforcement	Mr D Shuter. Tel: 0114 291 2375 danny.shuter@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R33.122	ISO TC67/SC7 offshore structures editing JIP (Phase 2)	Mr C Ransome. Tel: 0151 951 3866 charles.ransome@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R34.007	Weather safety in NW approaches: Use of satellite data in offshore energy dynamics	Mr C Ransome. Tel: 0151 951 3866 charles.ransome@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R39.001	Extension of simplified explosion analysis methods – Phase 1	Mr D Shuter. Tel: 0114 291 2375 danny.shuter@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R64.097	Impact evaluation of the control of major accident hazards (COMAH) Regulations 1999	Ms P Stenhouse. Tel: 0151 9513888 pauline.stenhouse@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R64.112	Maintenance system assessment guidance document	Ms P Stenhouse. Tel: 0151 9513888 pauline.stenhouse@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R68.091	Benchmarking employee supervisory processes in the chemical industry	Mr A Jackson. Tel: 0114 291 2453 alan.jackson@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R69.001	Analysis of standby vessels (SBV) rescue trials and exercise PRO144	Ms P Stenhouse. Tel: 0151 9513888 pauline.stenhouse@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R71.059	Pilot study to evaluate the effects of HSE's development control advice around major chemical hazard installations and notified pipelines	Dr S Welsh. Tel: 0151 951 4784 shaun.welsh@hse.gsi.gov.uk
Block 3 - Compliance		
R32.103	Small scale fracture toughness testing – Phase II	Mr A Griffin. Tel: 0151 951 4674 adrian.griffin@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R42.116	The assessment of different metrics of the concentration of nano (ultrafine) particles in existing and new industries	Dr C Elliott-Minty. Tel: 0151 9514217 celia.elliott-minty@hse.gsi.gov.uk

□ PROJECT LISTING

NEWLY COMMISSIONED PROJECTS: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2003		
Project No	Project Title	Project Officer
Block 3 – Compliance (Cont.)		
R51.253	Use of chemical protective gloves to control dermal exposure in the printing sector	Mr J McAlinden. Tel: 0151 951 4525 john.mcalinden@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R53.201	Excursion tables in saturation diving – Decompression implications of current UK practice	Mr R Moss. Tel: 0151 951 3302 richard.moss@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R53.202	Yo-yo diving and the risk of decompression illness	Mr R Moss. Tel: 0151 951 3302 richard.moss@hse.gsi.gov.uk
Block 4 - Mandatory Activities		
R44.038	Techniques to reduce noise at work: Case studies	Mr D Fletcher. Tel: 0207 717 6004 david.fletcher@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R51.249	Interdepartmental group on health risks from chemicals (IGHRC)	Mr D Fletcher. Tel: 0207 717 6004 david.fletcher@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R56.106	Clinical occupational respiratory provision in the UK	Mr D Fletcher. Tel: 0207 717 6004 david.fletcher@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R58.063	Evaluation of National Occupational Health Service for SMEs in Scotland	Mr D Fletcher. Tel: 0207 717 6004 david.fletcher@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R64.098	Evaluation of 'Reducing Risks, Protecting People'	Mr R Sanger. Tel: 0207 717 6457 ross.sanger@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R64.100	Workplace health and safety survey (WHASS) – Feasibility study	Mr J Hodgson. Tel: 0151 951 4566 john.hodgson@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R64.104	Further development of the HELA training coordination portal in support of HSE's revitalising initiative and wider dissemination of LA training material	Mr J Grant. Tel: 0207 717 6096 john.grant@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R64.108	HSE S&I strategy development	Dr J McGuinness. Tel: 02077176414 john.mcguinness@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R64.110	Further development of a health and safety performance management index for use by business, investors, employees, the regulator and other stakeholders	Mr J Grant. Tel: 0207 717 6096 john.grant@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R64.111	Further development of a health and safety performance management index for use by business, investors, employees, the regulator and other stakeholders	Mr J Grant. Tel: 0207 717 6096 john.grant@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R71.058	Machinery risk assessment methodology for the new informative annex of ISO14121: Safety of machinery – Principles for risk assessment	Mr R Sanger. Tel: 0207 717 6457 ross.sanger@hse.gsi.gov.uk
RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2003		
Project No	Project Title	Project Officer
Block 1 - Priority Programmes		
R51.067	Development of analytical methods for mercapturic acids in urine	Mr R Pedersen. Tel: 0207 717 6216 richard.pedersen@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R54.086	Occupational analysis of the 2000 survey of psychiatric morbidity in Great Britain (ONS)	Dr S Clarke. Tel: 0151 951 3832 simon.clarke@hse.gsi.gov.uk
Z54.086	Occupational analysis of the 2000 survey of psychiatric morbidity in Great Britain (University of London)	Dr S Clarke. Tel: 0151 951 3832 simon.clarke@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R72.073	Development of a knowledge-based system to deliver health and safety information to designers in the construction industry	Mr P Cunningham. Tel: 0207176318 paul.cunningham@hse.gsi.gov.uk
Block 2 - Work in the Major Hazards Industries		
R33.086	Field studies of the effectiveness of concrete repairs	Dr T McNulty. Tel: 0151 951 3624 tony.mculty@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R33.106	Chemical storage tank systems – Design, construction and installation good practice	Mr A Holt. Tel: 0151 951 3067 andrew.holt@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R38.035	Learning from incidents involving electrical/electronic/programmable electronic (E/E/PE) safety-related systems	Mr M Bowell. Tel: 0151 951 4064 mark.bowell@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R51.192	Use of self-rescuers in hot and humid mines	Mr T Forster. Tel: 0114 291 2300 tony.forster@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R72.085	Development of an intermediate societal risk methodology: An investigation of FN curve representation	Dr S Welsh. Tel: 0151 951 4784 shaun.welsh@hse.gsi.gov.uk
3984	Investigation of bending fatigue in multi-strand rope over polymeric sheaves	Mr J Macfarlane. Tel: 01224 252500 jim.macfarlane@hse.gsi.gov.uk

□ PROJECT LISTING

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS: OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2003		
Project No	Project Title	Project Officer
Block 2 - Work in the Major Hazards Industries (Cont.)		
3991	UKOOA collision risk management guidance	Mr G Boothby. Tel: 0207 717 6921 george.boothby@hse.gsi.gov.uk
4001	Summary reports on the ICON and EDICS projects	Mr A Stacey. Tel: 0207 717 6774 alex.stacey@hse.gsi.gov.uk
4013	Critical evaluation of active pendulation control system	Mr G Boothby. Tel: 0207 717 6921 george.boothby@hse.gsi.gov.uk
4017	Effect of corrosion on performance of 34LR wire rope	Mr J Macfarlane. Tel: 01224 252500 jim.macfarlane@hse.gsi.gov.uk
4042	Lifting incident review 1998 - 2003	Ms P Stenhouse. Tel: 0151 9513888 pauline.stenhouse@hse.gsi.gov.uk
4047	Review of methods for demonstrating redundancy in dynamic positioning systems	Mr C Ransome. Tel: 0151 951 3866 charles.ransome@hse.gsi.gov.uk
Block 3 - Compliance		
R04.087	Control of fire risks from packaged flammable dusts	Mr I Essa. Tel: 0161 952 8200 iqbal.essa@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R31.080	Integrity of repaired welds	Mr H Bainbridge. Tel: 0151 9514651 harry.bainbridge@hse.gsi.gov.uk
Block 4 - Mandatory Activities		
R51.234	The role of occupational exposure limits in other EU member states	Mr T Gissane. Tel: 0207 717 6596 tony.gissane@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R54.083	Management of work-related violence to lone workers, including mobile workers	Ms N Lunt. Tel: 0207 717 6986 norma.lunt@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R63.064	Small firms: How they approach compliance with health and safety regulations	Mr C Collinson. Tel: 0207 717 6409 chris.collinson@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R68.071	The extent of use of health and safety requirements as a false excuse for not employing sick or disabled persons	Ms J Manson. Tel: 0207 717 6229 june.manson@hse.gsi.gov.uk
R72.066	Evaluation study of the life skills programme	Ms K Brown. Tel: 0207 717 6959 kerrie.brown@hse.gsi.gov.uk

□ RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Series No.	Research Report: Title
RR139	Sample analysis of construction accidents reported to HSE
RR145	Reaction inhibition in the control of exothermic runaway
RR161	Deeper learning for safe diving: Using video scenarios to develop professional expertise in the application of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997
RR162	Assessment of gas failures in the offshore oil and gas sector
RR163	A review of carbon monoxide incident information for 2001/02 produced from the full investigation of incidents which had resulted from the use of piped natural gas and LPG within Great Britain
RR166	An appraisal of existing seismic hazard estimates for the UK continental shelf
RR167	The extent of use of Health and Safety requirements as a false excuse for not employing sick or disabled persons
RR168	Occupational and mental health: Secondary analyses of the ONS psychiatric morbidity survey of Great Britain
RR169	Psychosocial risk factors in call centres: An evaluation of work design and well being
RR172	The role of occupational exposure levels in the health and safety systems of EU member states
RR173	The development of a knowledge based system to deliver health and safety information to designers in the construction industry
RR174	Cost of compliance with health and safety regulations in SMEs
RR176	Development of an intermediate societal risk methodology – An investigation of FN curve representation
RR179	Learning from incidents involving E/E/PE systems. Part 1 – Review of methods and industry practice
RR180	Use of self-rescuers in hot and humid mines
RR181	Learning from incidents involving E/E/PE systems. Part 2 – Recommended schemes
RR182	Learning from incidents involving E/E/PE systems. Part 3 – Guidance examples and rationale
RR187	Evaluation of the life skills 'Learning for Living' programme
RR188	Measuring compliance of the Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (ELCI) Act 1969

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