Health and Safety
Executive

Health and Safety Executive Update

Phil Chester

HM Inspector of Health and Safety

- HSE Construction Division Annual Plan
- Preventing Occupational Disease in Construction
- Go Home Healthy Campaign
- Enforcement Expectations

HSE Construction Division Annual Plan

HSE Construction Division Annual Plan Overview

- The Construction Division Annual Plan is revised annually, building on past achievements and maintaining the Division's focus on targeting our knowledge, skills and expertise where we can have greatest impact on the health and safety performance of the construction industry.

- Priority of Work:
  - Timely investigation of incidents.
  - Training our staff, including new staff recruited in the year.
  - Targeted proactive inspections, including inspections and assessment visits in support of the asbestos licensing permissioning regime.

HSE Construction Division Annual Plan Priorities and Actions

- Lead and engage with others to improve workplace health and safety:
  - Engagement and collaboration
  - Campaign activity
  - Guidance and support materials

HSE Construction Division Annual Plan Priorities and Actions

- Provide an effective regulatory framework.

- Secure effective management and control of risk.

HSE Construction Division Annual Plan Priorities and Actions

- Reduce the likelihood of low-frequency, high-impact catastrophic incidents.
- Sustain regulatory excellence.
- Investing in people and capability.

HSE Construction Division Annual Plan Investigations

- The purpose of an investigation is to find out what happened in an incident, and why, and to take enforcement action, where appropriate, that accords with the principles of HSE's Enforcement Policy Statement:
  - Proportionality
  - Targeting
  - Consistent
  - Transparency
  - Accountability
- We aim, wherever possible, to conclude our investigations within 12 months.

HSE Construction Division Annual Plan Training

- Training for HSE Inspectors:
  - 2 year Regulatory Training Programme for all new starters
    - Assessed continuously throughout this period and verified by NEBOSH.
    - Award of Diploma in Regulatory Health and Safety.
- Continuous Professional Development
  - HSE commitment to minimum of 5 days per year learning tailored specifically to area of inspection, e.g. Construction.

HSE Construction Division Annual Plan Inspections

- Emphasis is on spending time at sites according to perceived risk. Types of inspection:
  - Asbestos (Inspection of licensed work)
  - Refurbishment, including ‘Intensive Inspection Initiative’
  - Major Projects (including tunnelling)
  - Home Build
  - Fire in Timber Frame
  - CDM Dutyholder Trackback
  - Construction in the Events and Entertainments Industry
  - High- Hazard Demolition Initiative
  - Architects Project
  - Materials Handling Project

HSE Construction Division Annual Plan
Role of the Visiting Officer

- To support and contribute to the delivery of HSE's Strategy and the Construction Division Plan of Work by undertaking a combination of proactive and reactive duties. In particular:
  - to support the investigation work of inspectors to facilitate the timely delivery of investigations, including taking statements/Victim Personal Statements, evidence management;
  - making further enquiries into RIDDORs and workplace concern follow up;
  - following up and enforcing non compliance with Employers Liability Compulsory Insurance;
  - other pro-active work including WWT support and organising WWT events and SHADs

Preventing Occupational Disease in Construction

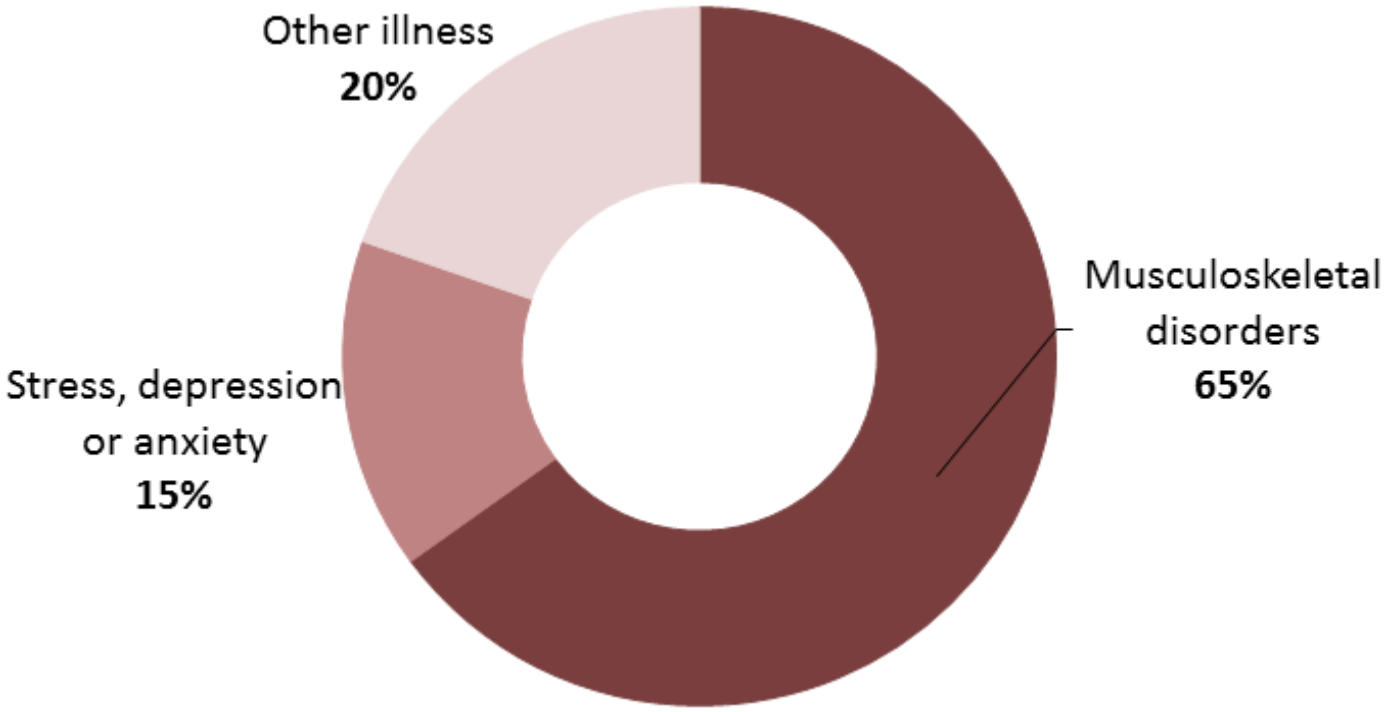
Preventing Occupational Disease in Construction

- Every year more working days are lost due to work-related illness compared to injuries.

80,000 construction workers suffering from work-related ill health each year (LFS)

- Construction workers have a high risk of developing diseases from a number of health issues due to
  - The construction environment
  - The nature of the work
  - Risk appreciation
  - Employment

Preventing Occupational Disease in Construction



Annual number of cases of self-reported work-related ill health in construction by illness kind

Preventing Occupational Disease in Construction

- Musculoskeletal Disorders:
  - Each year around 3000 (2.2%) of workers in the sector suffer from a musculoskeletal disorder they believe was work-related.
  - This rate is statistically significantly higher than the rate across all industries.
  - This rate is highest in Specialised construction activities.

- Stress, depression or anxiety

Preventing Occupational Disease in Construction

- Other work-related ill health conditions:
  - Occupational Lung Disease
    - Occupational Asthma
    - Silicosis
    - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
  - Occupational Cancer
    - Mesothelioma
  - Skin Disease and Other Health Conditions
    - Skin Disease
    - Occupational Deafness
    - Hand Arm Vibration

Preventing Occupational Disease in Construction

- Who has duties to manage construction health risks?
  - Clients
  - Designers
  - Principal Designers
  - Principal Contractors
  - Contractors
  - Workers

Go Home Healthy Campaign

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News

Take part in our consultation

HSE is reviewing the delivery and scope of the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) on behalf of Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

I am interested in...

- Risk assessment
- COSHH
- RIDDOR
- Report a workplace problem

Tweets by @H_S_E

HSE @H_S_E

Next up at the Future of Gas conference in Leeds we'll hear

Go Home Healthy Campaign

- Launched in 2017 to focus on the following areas of ill-health:
  - Work-Related Lung Disease
  - Musculoskeletal Disorders
  - Work-Related Stress

Enforcement Expectations

Enforcement Expectations

- We take enforcement action to ensure dutyholders:
  - deal immediately with serious risks (so they prevent harm)
  - comply with the law
  - are held to account if they fail in their responsibilities

- Types of enforcement:
  - providing information and advice face-to-face or in writing
  - serving notices on dutyholders
  - withdrawing approvals
  - varying licences, conditions or exemptions
  - issuing simple cautions
  - prosecution

Enforcement Expectations
Case Study 1

- A natural gas storage facility was sentenced after 13 employees and contractors were exposed to asbestos fibres.
  - Team of three tasked with the removal of a valve. Some of the sealing gasket material was difficult to remove so they used a wire brush mounted on an electric drill to remove it.
  - A sample of the dust was tested and found to contain chrysotile (white) asbestos fibres.
  - Following investigation HSE identified that the company failed to identify the asbestos gaskets in the risk assessment, that records on site were not adequate to identify the presence of asbestos, and that the team leader involved in this task had not undertaken asbestos awareness training.
- The company pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc, Act 1974 and were fined £300,000 and ordered to pay costs of £12,670.72.

Enforcement Expectations
Case Study 2

- A Housing Association has been fined £100,000 after failing to take adequate measures to protect workers from the hazard of Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS).
- A company reported six cases of HAVS following a health surveillance programme launched in June 2015.

- HSE investigators found conditions of the workers involved were likely to have been caused or worsened by the use of vibratory power tools whilst employed by the company
  - The company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulations 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005. The company was fined £100,000 and was ordered to pay costs of £9,896.88

Enforcement Expectations
Case Study 3

- A Principal Contractor was fined £40,000 in 2017 after failing to plan, manage and monitor work under its control, leading to gross exposure of workers to Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS).

- A proactive site inspection in July 2016 found workers had been dry cutting approximately 250 bricks to shape them for use in bay windows.
- Workers had not been informed of the dangers of inhaling the dust, they were not made aware of the correct controls, and the work was not supervised by a competent person.
- The company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 13(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.

Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS)

Approximate crystalline silica content of different materials

MATERIAL	RCS %
Sandstone	70–90%
Concrete, mortar	25–70%
Tile	30–45%
Granite	20–45%, (typically 30%)
Slate	20–40%
Brick	Up to 30%
Limestone	2%
Marble	2%

Questions