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HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONIAC)

Construction work-related health and safety statistics 2005/06(p)

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Summary

This paper provides an overview of the construction-related elements of the work-related health and safety statistics for 2005/06. Headline figures show that progress is being made but there is no room for complacency. The rate of fatal and major injuries in the construction industry is continuing to fall; figures for falls from height are down and those for slips and trips, and manual handling are up. HSE will give a presentation on the statistics at the 23 November meeting with a view to discussion of the implications for HSE's Construction programme 2007/08.

Issue

1. An overview of key construction work-related health and safety statistics for 2005/06(p)¹.

Timing

2. Routine. Work-related health and safety statistics for 2005/06 were published on 2 November.

Recommendation

3. That CONIAC notes the statistics for the construction sector for 2005/06 and considers how HSE and the industry could better focus attention on preventing slips, trips and handling injuries.

Background

4. Work-related ill health, workplace fatalities and injuries statistics for 2005/06 were published on 2 November 2006. Statistics relating to construction are at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.htm>

¹ Figures for 2005/06 are provisional at this stage.

5. The Health and Safety Statistics 2005/06 report shows:
- The rate of reported fatal injuries (to all workers, including the self employed) in construction between 1999/00 and 2005/06 has reduced by around 36%;
 - The rate of reported major injuries to employees in construction between 1999/00 and 2005/06 has reduced by around 22%;
 - The rate of reported over three day injuries to employees in construction between 1999/00 and 2005/06 has reduced by around 31%.
6. There has also been good progress towards the all-industry Revitalising targets of 2000, although the industry is still falling short of its own ambitious targets set at the 2001 Construction Summit. (See Annex 1).

Falls down, trips up

7. The Health and Safety Statistics 2005/06 report also shows:
- There were 981 major injuries in construction caused by slips, trips or falls on the same level;
 - There were 917 major injuries in construction caused by falls from height;
 - There were 577 major injuries in construction while handling, lifting or carrying;
 - There were 572 major injuries in construction caused by struck by moving, including flying/falling object.

(The graph at Annex 2 shows the trends in major injuries to employees in construction by kind of accident between 1996/97 –and 2005/06p).

8. For the first time the proportion of major injuries due to falls from height has been overtaken by those resulting from slips, trips and falls on the same level. Injuries due to slips and trips and manual handling have risen steadily over the past few years while those from falls from height and struck by object have been reduced substantially.
9. The picture is therefore mixed with a welcome and continued improvement in some areas, less so in others. The rise in slips and trips and manual handling injuries is of concern and a clear focus is now needed in these areas.
10. Headline construction statistics will be published on HSE's construction web site, together with comments from Stephen Williams, Chief Inspector of Construction, shortly. The link to the website is at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/index.htm>

Action

- 10 HSE will provide a full presentation on the construction statistics at the 23 November meeting in preparation for HSE's Construction Programme 2007/08.

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The Revitalising targets: for 2010 are to reduce the:

- incidence rate of fatal and major injury accidents by 10%;
- incidence rate of cases of work-related ill health by 20%;
- number of working days lost per 100,000 workers from work-related injury and ill health by 30%. Full details of the targets can be seen at: www.hse.gov.uk/revitalising/.

Industry's own targets: In 2001, following the Construction Summit, the industry set itself targets for improvement by 2010 to reduce the:

- incidence rate of fatal and major injuries by 40% by 2004/5 and 66%;
- incidence rate of cases of work-related ill health by 50%;
- number of working days lost per 100,000 workers from work-related injury and ill-health by 50%.

Construction injury rates since 1999/2000



