



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 14TH JULY 2004

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE INITIATIVES

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives of two recent initiatives aimed at reducing the incidence of accidents and ill health resulting from moving and handling operations.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 KERB LAYING

- 2.2 The H.S.E. has recognised that kerb laying, which is in many cases a manual operation, poses a significant risk of injury because of the weight of the components and the repetitive nature of the work.
- 2.3 The operation involves the moving of kerb stones, weighing approximately 67 kgs, by hand, at least once during the kerb laying process and it is considered that this work contributes greatly to the large total, (more than a third of all over 3 day accidents), of injuries caused by handling in the construction injury.
- 2.4 At a meeting between the H.S.E. and major stakeholders, some months ago, an action plan for kerb laying was formulated. This requires a risk assessment approach to be applied to the laying of kerbs weighing over 20 kgs.
- 2.5 Where long stretches of kerbs are being laid, mechanical means must be employed. In the event that no lifting aids are immediately available, contractors must produce a time bound action plan outlining the control measures to be used and specifying a deadline for implementation. Both actions are to be taken into use immediately. For short stretches of kerbs, employers must change to mechanical handling solutions for kerb laying by the end of June 2004.
- 2.6 Early this year, Local Authorities, as employers of contractors, were advised of these requirements.
- 2.7 H.S.E. Construction Inspectors were also informed of the instruction, issued to the industry, and of the enforcement policy on kerb laying. They were advised of the agreed hierarchy of controls and instructed to issue enforcement notices where there is no or insufficient evidence that it has not been followed.
- 2.8 Managers of staff who undertake kerb laying have been made aware of the new requirements.

3. SITE INSPECTIONS

- 3.1 The H.S.E. recently announced that inspectors would, for the remainder of the summer, be undertaking “spot checks” at construction sites throughout Britain.
- 3.2 Appropriate Managers have been informed of this recent initiative and are making the necessary arrangements to secure compliance.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the contents of the report be noted

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