

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 6TH OCTOBER 2005

SUBJECT: RECENT HSE UPDATES

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 recent updates in Health and Safety information, advice and guidance.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A revised version of guidance designed to help employers who supply and use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at work meet their duties under the law has been published by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The guidance, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at Work Regulations 1992 (L25), which was first published in 1992, has now been updated to reflect changes to the Regulations, developments in PPE and to clarify guidance queries commonly received by the HSE.

The Regulations require PPE; for example, safety helmets, gloves, eye protection and high-visibility clothing, to be supplied and used at work wherever there are risks to workers' health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled in other ways.

Copies of A Short Guide to the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations INDG 174 are available from HSE books. Alternatively the booklet can be downloaded from the HSE website at: www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg174.pdf

- 2.2 The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) have published the latest detailed statistics on fatal injuries in HSE and local authority (LA) enforced sectors in 2004/05. The document can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/overall/fatl0405.pdf

The figures show that the numbers of fatally injured workers decreased by 7% to 220 in 2004/05 from 236. The rate of fatal injury also decreased by 7% to 0.75% per hundred thousand workers, from 0.81. This is the lowest rate on record. There was a general downward trend in the rate in the 1990's, however it has risen twice since then, in 2000/01 and in 2003/04.

Falling from a height continues to be the most common kind of accident, accounting for 24% of fatal injuries in 2004/05. The number of fatal injuries of this kind decreased in 2004/05 from 68 to 53. Being struck by a moving or falling object, and being struck by a moving vehicle, are the next most common kinds of fatal injury.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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