

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 12TH APRIL 2006

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 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has announced it is to delay the coming into force of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRFSO). Previously the government has announced that the order would come into force throughout England and Wales on 1st April 2006. A new date is yet to be announced and the delay is to ensure that businesses and fire safety experts have more time to get ready for the new regulations.

The changes set out in the RRFSO will apply to non-domestic premises only and is designed to make the law easier to understand and comply with. It will consolidate existing fire safety laws, which are currently found within more than 70 pieces of legislation.

Specifically, the Order will repeal the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and amend or remove wherever possible the many other provisions dealing with fire safety contained in other legislation. The Fire Safety Order requires that a fire risk assessment be undertaken to ensure the safety of all persons in a fire situation. These are currently being undertaken within the Authority in readiness for the changes.

Further information is available at www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp

- 2.2 The HSE has announced that the revised Construction (design and Management) (CDM) Regulations will now not be implemented until the Spring of 2007. In response to a three-month consultation exercise the HSC has agreed to postpone implementation from 1 October 2006.

The revised CDM regulations will replace two key sets of existing regulations and will:

- Increase the focus on effective planning and management of construction projects,
- Take into account changes in the Working at Height Regulations 2005, and
- Reduce bureaucracy and look to simplify and clarify the law for duty holders.

The HSE intends to support these new Regulations with an Approved Code Of Practice (ACOP), it is envisaged that the ACOP will be available 3 months in advance of the regulations coming into force.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

Author: Karen Rogers, Senior Health and Safety Officer Ext 3763

Consultees: Steve Delahaye, Head of Public Protection Ext 5316

Mike Workman, Principal Commercial & Trading Standards Officer Ext 5221

Councillor Paul Ford, Cabinet Member