



Important News

9th May 2007

**To: All BFFF Members
All BFFF Members' Health & Safety Contacts**

FOOD AND DRINK 'BETTER BACKS' INITIATIVE – SURVEY FINDINGS

In June 2006, the food and drink industry conducted a major survey across the various trade sectors of the industry as a follow up to the HSE Backs! 2005 initiative. The objective behind the survey, which was co-ordinated by the Food Manufacture Health and Safety Forum was to :

- establish the injury incidence rate for 'back injuries'
- identify practical working examples of applications used to eliminate manual handling within the food sector
- help provide solutions for small/ medium enterprises where they may not have the benefits of large food manufacturers.

The Survey Findings and Working Examples are now available for all interested parties; these illustrate key issues in both preventing and managing situations where back injuries are prevalent.

The survey findings have set a baseline injury incidence rate for the food and drinks sector as a whole, and for the sectors that took part in the survey. This will enable companies and employers to review their activities alongside best practice approaches found within the survey and working practice examples.

The survey findings have helped identify what action is being taken around key issues such as Occupational Health involvement, rehabilitation, employee involvement and job rotation. In addition, it indicates where there is a real need to consider raw material delivery weights and finished goods weight and design in conjunction with suppliers and customers.

To view the survey findings [click here](#)

To view the working examples [click here](#)

BFFF

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