



HEALTH AND SAFETY INVOLVEMENT ADDING NEW DIMENSION

It is just over a year since BFFF expanded its services to include providing advice, influencing regulators and forming influential partnerships in the health and safety area. During the last 12 months, we have been contacted by wholesalers, producer and associate member companies, and dealt with many detailed enquiries and made a real difference in our activity to influence in this area.

We are the first trade association to sign a tripartite agreement, known as LAPS (Lead Authority Partnership Scheme) and we now meet the Health and Safety Executive and Boston Local Authority at regular intervals. Our members now have the opportunity to talk, through Joanna Hancock, to the HSE on an entirely anonymous basis without involving any risk to them.

We have presented members' evidence highlighting that our industry cannot practically meet the Working at Heights Directive on Cold Stores and their guidelines must reflect the practical and economic reasons involved. Our survey has been used as a model by the HSE for other trade associations to use. In terms of the HSG76 guidelines that are being written and will be introduced, probably in the Autumn, we have achieved redrafting of the guidelines that will save our members money either through not having to follow prescribed breaks, or follow mandatory thermal clothing requirements or having to provide heated cabs. Our risk-based argument has been accepted. In summary, we can be pleased that we have already made real differences that have saved our members having to spend wholly unnecessary money.

BFFF
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