



Important News

2nd May 2007

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

FORTHCOMING HSE CAMPAIGNS- UPDATE MAY 2007

Further to our recent update meeting with our partners within the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Local Authority (LA), BFFF is delighted to be able to provide our members with an update on the HSE campaign profile for 2007/2008.

The campaigns stated within our February campaign article are still current and should be studied in conjunction with this update. To view the February campaign information please click [here](#):

Please note that some of the details may change as the priorities change within the HSE, however the information will provide our members with the additional main areas of focus in the near future.

CAMPAIGNS FROM APRIL 2007

From April 2007, HSE visits to food and drink manufacturing sites will concentrate particularly on:

- **Falls from Height**

The latest HSE figures show that 46 people died and 3351 suffered serious injury as a result of a fall from height in the workplace. As such this is a key area for HSE work. For further general information on work at height visit the HSE web site www.hse.gov.uk/falls/

- **Musculoskeletal Disorders**

There will be particular attention on the prevention of back injuries and work related upper limb disorders. Further information on Musculoskeletal Disorders can be found on the HSE web site www.hse.gov.uk/msd

- **Occupational ill health**

Inspectors will also focus on cases of occupational ill health within businesses in general. This will be a particular focus for LA inspectors as a recent central review of LA work identified 5 key priorities for LA's to target, and work related ill-health is one of them. For the food industry inspectors will particularly look into issues relating to occupational asthma.

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- **Safeguarding Packing Machines and Conveyors**

This is another key target area for the HSE particularly in light of the most recent cases of enforcement in this area. For more details please click [here](#).

- **Slips and Trips**

This is one of the key HSE campaigns, which will continue throughout the year. The aim of this campaign is to highlight the important issue of accidents caused by slips and trips.

The HSE reports that slips and trips are the most common cause of major injuries at work and they occur in all workplaces; 95% of reportable major slips result in broken bones. There are many separate factors that contribute to the slip potential of a particular workplace. These include the floor surface, footwear worn by pedestrians, contamination present, and cleaning, maintenance and management regimes.

In order to support businesses, the HSE has produced new technical guidance on assessing the slips resistance of flooring. The guidance considers a number of test methods for assessing floor slip resistance and is intended for manufacturers and testing bodies which need to perform accurate measurements of floor slipperiness. It will also help employers and other duty holders with assessing slip risks in workplaces by helping them to interpret flooring manufacturers' test data. This should allow them to make an informed decision in choosing new floors. The new guidance replaces Food information Sheet 22.

The guidance 'Assessing the slip resistance of flooring' is available from the following link:
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/web/slips01.pdf

Further guidance on the 'Role of manufacturers and suppliers of flooring' is available from the following link: www.hse.gov.uk/slips/manufactfloor.htm

The HSE has also devised a free downloadable computer software package called the 'Slips Assessment Tool' (SAT). It allows the operator to assess the slip potential of pedestrian surfaces. The tool needs to be used in conjunction with a small, portable surface microroughness meter, which users must obtain separately.

The package is easy to use and prompts the operator to gather relevant information concerning floor surface properties, contamination, cleaning regimes, footwear etc. When all the information has been entered into the package, a slip risk rating is produced. This will assist the user in determining whether site conditions are likely to give risk to a high or low risk of slipping. The assessment may then be repeated using alternative data such as a different cleaning regime or footwear type etc. to produce a different (theoretical) slip risk rating. This is a powerful way of demonstrating the importance of various slip risk control measures.

The data can either be entered into a laptop computer (preloaded with the SAT software) on site for an immediate assessment of slip risk, or can be recorded on site using a proforma and entered into a PC later.

The web site link to the Slips Assessment Tool is www.hsesat.info/

- **Workplace Transport and Moving Goods Safely**

The third Moving Goods Safely campaign will be taking place this year concentrating on the Logistics sector. In broad terms this will be targeting the Logistics industry looking at the following areas: - struck by and falling load, loading & unloading, manual handling, workplace transport, slips and trips, transport safety, roll cage safety and safe site/driver and vehicle. Further information on workplace transport can be obtained from the HSE web site www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/index.htm

- **Other Topics Covered by HSE Visits During 2007/08 may also Include:**

- noise
- occupational dermatitis
- work-related stress
- entry to confined spaces
- Machinery guarding (insert link to BFFF enforcement update document)

- **From April 2007 HSE inspectors will be looking particularly at the following industries, as these have the higher injury rates:**

- meat/ poultry slaughtering and processing
- fish processing
- bakeries

GENERAL FURTHER INFORMATION

The Federation will provide members with a further update on the HSE campaigns in July 2007. Please do not hesitate to contact Joanna Hancock on joannahancock@bfff.co.uk or 01476 515300 if you would like any further information in the meantime.

BFFF

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