



HSE Construction Division  
Chief Inspector for Construction: K Myers

## **FaTaL RISKS CAMPAIGN 2004**

### **GUIDANCE FOR ALL INVOLVED WITH CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

HSE Construction Division is now conducting a nationwide campaign which aims to have a significant impact on control of risk from the three major causes of fatal and serious injuries in construction. The campaign will include an intensive period of construction site inspection between 7 and 25 June 2004.

During this period HSE Inspectors will focus on:

- **F** alls            - **during work at height**
- **T** ransport      - **movement of vehicles and mobile plant**
- **L** ifting           - **operations involving heavy loads**

Almost 300 people working in the construction industry have died during these activities in the last five years and they account for over 70% of all fatal injuries in construction. The information in this document is provided to assist construction clients, designers, planning supervisors, contractors and employees.

The matters below should be considered by designers and included in contractor risk assessments and the project health and safety plan that is accepted by the client before work starts. These matters are a high priority for HSE and it is likely that enforcement action, including prohibiting work, will be taken where effective precautions are not in place.

In addition, Inspectors will follow-up on all site visits where formal enforcement action is taken, or where significant failings are identified. They will require dutyholders to identify the underlying causes of any failings, and to prepare a programme to secure improvements. This follow-up will involve clients, designers and planning supervisors, where appropriate. However, we trust that by giving this advice such action will be found to be unnecessary.

**I urge you to review your current plans and activities in the light of the guidance in these pages. May I offer you my best wishes in your efforts, before and during work on site, to reduce the levels of injury that arise from these sources.**

Kevin Myers  
Chief Inspector for Construction  
May 2004

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### **FaTaL RISKS HELPLINE**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS CAMPAIGN PLEASE CONTACT HSE AT  
01582 444248 or [infonet@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:infonet@hse.gsi.gov.uk)**

**YOU WILL NOT BE ASKED YOUR NAME, COMPANY OR PROJECT DETAILS  
HOWEVER, AN INSPECTOR WILL BE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY OF YOUR QUESTIONS  
IF YOU WISH TO DISCUSS A PARTICULAR PROJECT PLEASE CALL YOUR LOCAL HSE OFFICE**

**FREE information is available from:** HSE Infoline on 08701 545500 or the HSE website Construction Industry Section at [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk) **Priced publications can be obtained from:** HSE Books on Tel: 01787 881165 or Fax: 01787 313995.

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### **Falls - during work at height**

The biggest single cause of fatal and serious injury in construction. Falls occur on major projects, during work on industrial and commercial buildings and when contractors are working on domestic properties.

#### **HSE INSPECTORS WILL EXPECT TO FIND**

- **Assessment of the risk** from all work at height and avoidance of work at height where possible;
- **Working platforms used** with guard-rails, toe-boards etc in preference to working from ladders;
- **Ladders used only for light, short duration work** and secured to prevent displacement;
- **Rooflights and other fragile materials protected** to prevent falls through the material;
- **Fall arrest equipment used** if prevention is not practicable e.g. safety nets, harnesses with running lines;
- **Instruction, training and supervision** regarding the precautions required for all those at risk from falling;
- **Inspections undertaken** to check the integrity of working platforms and fall arrest equipment etc

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### ***Transport* – movement of vehicles and mobile plant**

The second biggest cause of fatal and serious injury in construction. Deaths occur during the reversing of vehicles and mobile plant, when excavators are slewing and when dumpers or MEWPS overturn.

#### **HSE INSPECTORS WILL EXPECT TO FIND**

- **Traffic management plan** as part of H&S Plan prepared, implemented, updated and enforced;
- **Pedestrians separated from movements** e.g. at site entrance/exits and during plant slewing and loading;
- **Reversing minimised and controlled** e.g. by one-way systems and use of trained banksman;
- **Safety and warning devices** e.g. ROPs, seat belts, mirrors, CCTV, radar, reversing alarm etc;
- **Maintenance systems for checking** brakes, steering, lights etc and all safety / warning devices;
- **CTA training card or equivalent** held by drivers or operators and a verification system in place;
- **High visibility clothing** provided to, and worn by, all persons at risk

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### **Lifting – operations involving heavy loads**

The third biggest cause of fatal and serious injury in construction. Deaths occur when persons are struck by falling or moving loads during lifting operations or when lifting machines overturn.

#### **HSE INSPECTORS WILL EXPECT TO FIND**

- **Lifting operations planned** by trained, competent and appointed person(s);
- **Lifting plan / method statement prepared** as part of the project H&S Plan;
- **Responsibilities established**: clarity as to whether *contract* or *crane hire* terms apply;
- **Crane outrigger support assessed** i.e. identify loadings and load bearing-capacity of the ground;
- **Slinging arrangements planned** and slinging undertaken by trained and competent persons;
- **Lifting operations supervised** by trained persons and carried out in accordance with the lifting plan;
- **Maintenance of machines and equipment** supported by up to date examination reports

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