



ISSUE 2 – DECEMBER 2009

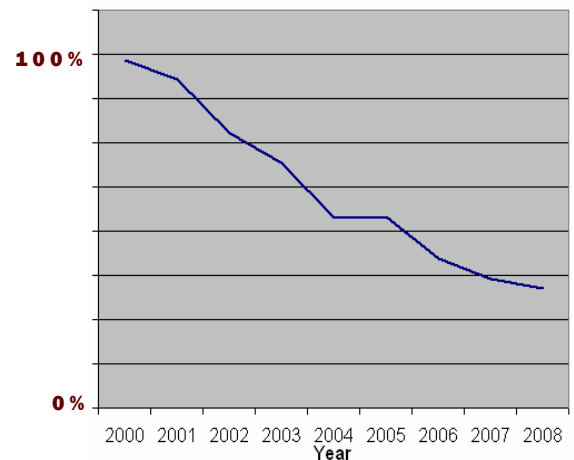
CT2010 SCHEME MEMBERS CONTINUE TO REDUCE ACCIDENTS

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tions and allows them to learn from each other, and from the experiences of the HSE.

With the Chair of the HSE, Judith Hackitt, booked as main speaker at the BPCF Concrete 2010 event on the 11th May 2010 in Leicester, and development of the next scheme almost complete, there is every reason for members to have pride in the progress they have already achieved, and to be confident about their ability to reduce accidents further in the future, until zero accidents can become a reality.



Graph showing the continuing reduction in CT2010 members' Incident Rates since 2000.

With the input of the HSE and Proskills, the scheme remains vital to our members opera-

BRITISH PRECAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION AND BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

The largest UK concrete industry event next year, Concrete 2010, will be held on 11th May at the Athena Conference Centre in Leicester. Entry is FREE to registered delegates. Main Speaker for the event is Judith Hackitt, Chair of the HSE and Keynote speakers include leading architect and Rab Bennetts, of Bennetts Associates. The event will also feature briefings from Associate members, presentation of British Precast Best Practice awards for health & safety, sustainability, innovation and construction project, technical and environmental advice surgeries including Key2Concrete, a major exhibition of supply chain members and partners and the **launch of the BPCF Concrete Targets 2015 scheme.**

Concrete Targets CT2010 sponsor: SIG Construction Accessories, Safety Award sponsor: Lafarge Cement UK

Exhibition spaces are FREE to Associate members; (available for £900 plus vat to non-members) subject to availability. Sponsorship opportunities on application to info@britishprecast.org

INTERPAVE REDUCE FLAG HANDLING RISKS

Interpave and its members have joined an HSE 'Construction Supply Chain Initiative' to help reduce the risks from manual handling of paving flags. Working groups have been set up to examine the problem from the manufacturing perspective, from specification & design, and from the installation process.

With manual handling coming under increasing focus, the traditional trade of flag laying, in particular the laying of very large natural stone paving (up to 1m² per unit), has attracted the attention of the HSE

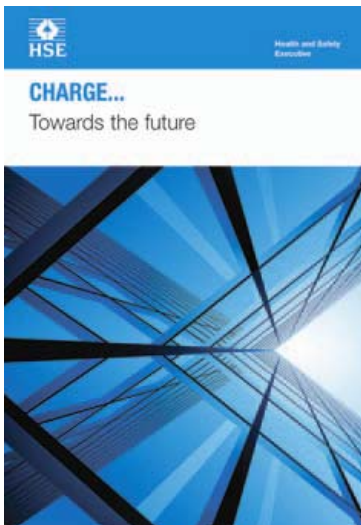
With Interpave members represented on all three working groups set up to tackle the

problem, the Association is making sure that the experience of its members helps the HSE to reduce the potential risks of handling paving flags to a minimum.

Interpave had already taken the initiative on this subject four years ago when the HSE looked into the handling of kerbs, and Interpave published "Handling Flags—Guide to the Handling of Precast concrete Paving Flags" in response to the future needs of flag layers across the UK.



CHARGE!



The Charge group (sometimes referred to as 'C3harge'), is a tripartite body with representation from Industry (including BPCF), trade unions and the HSE. Charge have just published 'Charge... Towards the future', an in depth look at the strategy of the group, its aims and ambitions.

Charge provides a forum for exploring common health and safety themes, identifying priorities, sharing key learning points, good practice and more.

To find out more, visit the Charge homepage on the HSE's website or request a copy of the strategy document from the BPCF offices.

"Charge provides a forum for exploring common health and safety themes..."

ROBERT HALL LOOKS AT TRAIN TO GAIN

Trent Concrete Ltd is a specialist manufacturer and installer of architectural precast concrete. Based in Nottingham, the company employs around 135 employees. Looking to take advantage of the Government's funding for workplace training, Robert Hall, Works Manager, contacted Train to Gain to find out what was available.

A Business Adviser contacted Robert and carried out an Organisational Needs Analysis to look at various options for training. As a result, Fork Lift Truck Training was identified as a key priority and with their Adviser's help, suitable providers were sourced and a grant was obtained through the Train to Gain initiative. "We have trained over 50 staff and the training is being fully funded by Train to Gain. This is a real boost as without this it would have cost us around £70,000.

"In addition, around 50 staff are working towards their first Level 2 NVQ qualification and enhancing their Health & Safety skills," adds Robert. "To take into account the skills development that is taking place, we are reviewing written job descriptions to ensure they fully reflect the skills people have." "By working towards these qualifications, our staff increase their skill levels, which in turn boosts confidence and helps the company to increase efficiency and competitiveness."

"Longer term, we want to look at possible training programmes for senior management and other important areas such as energy efficiency and sustainability so we'll definitely be back in touch with Business Link. "

Robert Hall—Trent Concrete

REPIRABLE CRYSTALLINE SILICA AND NEPSI REPORTING UPDATE

British Precast members, through the auspices of the BIBM, are signatories to the European Social Dialogue agreement on Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS). As part of the agreement, British Precast supports the full distribution of the documented agreement to all interested parties and to help organize the bi-annual reporting from our industry,

Two years after the first round of reporting, it is time for the second round of reporting to NEPSI (NEPSI is the acronym for the resulting European Network for Silica formed by Employee and Employer European sector associations having signed the Social Dialogue).

The NEPSI website (<http://www.nepsi.eu/>) contains downloadable 'best practice' documents, videos and background information that will help you to continually monitor and improve your company's performance is reducing and, where possible, eliminating exposure to respirable silica.

Reporting results for the period 2008/2009 will start in January and the necessary forms will be issued by British Precast early in the new year. The forms are not

complicated and should be able to be completed using information that each member company should already be recording.

Q. Why should I bother?

A. The Social Dialogue Agreement (SDA) is designed to restrict exposure to RCS as an alternative to punitive restrictions in use and the possible inclusion of RCS into the regulations covering asbestos, severely restricting the use of aggregates etc.

By reporting, our Industry is demonstrating our responsible attitude to the control of this material, and therefore that the material does not need to be strictly controlled from Brussels.

The British Precast Health and Safety Committee recently unanimously agreed that every effort should be made by ALL MEMBERS to submit figures – so when you receive your submission papers, please complete and return them as soon as possible. Information posters are available from the BPCF offices in Leicester.,

Background from BIBM—During the NEPSI Council meeting of 17 June 2008, the NEPSI employees representatives requested the associations representing the employers of the NEPSI signatory sectors to “strive to find a solution aiming at providing them, before the next NEPSI Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 17 June 2009, with reporting information by country and sector, in a way which on one hand respects confidentiality requirements and on the other hand is acceptable to all Signatories”.

As part of the original agreement, competitively sensitive information should only be published in an aggregated form which does not permit identification of information specific to an individual company, the NEPSI Employers representatives agreed on the following rules for the aggregation into national reports of the reporting data produced by their members:

Data per country and per sector will only be released where there are more than 5 companies (> 5);

If less than 5 companies, data will be clustered with other small companies on a geographic basis;

Aggregation of some sectors' data could also be a possibility.

Data at a national level only was presented from the UK Precast Industry , by BPCF, to NEPSI.

GETTING THE INFORMATION YOU NEED

Downloadable guidance documents, examples of best practice, videos, PDF's, Press releases and further links to useful information can be found at the NEPSI website (<http://www.nepsi.eu/>).

Full details of the submission procedure and forms will be circulated in the new year.



“...every effort should be made by ALL MEMBERS to submit figures...”

HSE PLEDGE

British Precast, with Council approval, has signed up to the 'HSE Pledge', following the launch of the new HSE strategy.

The pledge asks organisations to commit to:

- Agreeing to play our part in reducing the numbers of work-related deaths, injuries and ill health in Great Britain.
- Calling on employers to put health and safety at the heart of what they do and to take a

common sense approach to health and safety.

- Committing to debunking myths around health and safety that trivialise the impact of injuries, ill health and deaths on individuals and their families.
- Recognising the importance of health and safety in difficult economic times and the dangers of complacency.
- Pledging to work with the

Health and Safety Executive and its partners to "Be Part of the Solution".

For more information about the strategy and pledge, including downloadable copies of the strategy documents, please visit:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/index.htm>



CT2015

The British Precast Health and Safety Committee have been debating the next stage of development of the Concrete Targets CT2010 Health and safety scheme, as the current scheme will come to an end after next year.

The current scheme has helped member companies to reduce their accident rates which, when added to the reductions seen from its predecessor, the Four Star Scheme, has seen British Precast members reduce their accident rates by more than 65% by the end of 2008.

The new scheme, to be launched at the

British Precast Concrete 2010 Awards event on 11th May 2010, will provide new targets and direction for scheme members, and is intended to more closely follow the new HSE strategy launched earlier in 2009.

Approval of the basic principles of the scheme is expected to be made by BPCF Council in early December, and to be fully approved in the new year.

Full requirements for the scheme will be developed and the scheme will start in earnest in January 2011.

"..member companies.. reduced their accident rates by more than 65%.."

REVITALISING NETWORK

The Revitalising Network consists of Trade Associations, Employer Association, Trade Unions, HSE representation and a limited number of key employers across manufacturing industries.

Meetings are held approximately every ten weeks and are topic based. Last years workshops covered WPT –Securing loads safely to vehicles, Safety Management Systems, Managing Workplace Stress and Incident Investigation.

The Network exists to promote the sharing of ideas and good practice; hence meetings are informal with the emphasis on participation.

Regular workshops are run on current HSE topics of interest. For more information, contact:

lisa.weston@hse.gsi.gov.uk



THE SUSTAINABILITY ISSUE AND H&S—OPINION FROM ROBERT HALL

In looking at the Concrete Targets 2010 scheme, it is noticeable how crucial health and safety is to the sustainable message.

When I first became involved in safety, the 'environment' (as sustainability was called back then) seemed to be a tag clipped on to many safety professionals job titles. That was several years ago, and of course in the last few years the environment issue has evolved into sustainability and is now very high up on the agenda of both business and government. We've gone a long way from thinking that looking after the environment meant sweeping the floor and having a bright green recycling bin in the corner of the office! (Though of course, we all still have one I hope!)

Health and safety is a CRUCIAL part of sustainability. If we cannot safeguard the health and well being of our most important assets, our employees, how can we expect to look after the environment and the future prosperity of our industry? To me, health and safety and the well-being of our employees is a cornerstone of sustainability. It is particularly important to our industry as more and more alternative employment opportunities present themselves to young people. We must show ourselves as an attractive, safe and modern industry to attract new labour and new lifeblood into our ranks. Offering a safe and healthy working environment is an absolute necessity if we are to do this.

This then brings me to the Concrete Targets scheme.

The original scheme was introduced in 2000 and set out to help the precast concrete industry reduce its accident figures. With the backing of BPCF's health and safety committee, the scheme was targeted to those that mattered most – managing directors and company chairmen. It sought from them a commitment to sign up to the scheme and over the next five years, to actively encourage and promote safety initiatives to help push down accident figures. We set ourselves high targets:

To halve the number of reportable accidents over 5 years.

To halve lost time due to accidents

To train employees

To develop and implement strategies for safety initiatives.

These were lofty goals for a new scheme. However, our first eight years, covering two iterations of the scheme since 2000, have been a great success. The headline figure speaks for itself:

We have achieved a more than 65% reduction in reported accidents and in lost time to the end of 2008.

Health and safety is now a crucial component in many of our member companies business operations.

Health and safety strategies have been developed in both large

companies and SME's.

The number of entries to the safety award has steadily increased year on year.

We have seen real results and increased participation across the board.

We have also been able to demonstrate to the HSE that our scheme, with the vital support of BPCF's health and safety committee, is able to deliver real advantages to member companies. Indeed, we now enjoy the full backing of the HSE, and my thanks goes to David Appleton, and to Dr Phil Smith and his team at the HSE for their hard work and invaluable support for the scheme and the help they provide to the safety committee.

So we are now ready to commit to another five-year programme. Far from resting on our laurels, we have decided to move the scheme forward with even more demanding targets. Our aim to 2015 is to reduce accident rates by 50% from a 2010 baseline. This may seem a difficult target, but given the progress made since 2000, I am sure it is one we can achieve.

Each year, using various initiatives closely linked to the HSE's hot topics, we will look to generate progress in various areas, including Physical Safety, Occupational Health, and Human Factors

The health and safety committee will also be producing supporting documentation where required to help push each initiative, and to provide advice and assistance to member companies. We will be helped by Proskills, the sector skills training body, and the HSE, to provide training resources and help to companies to help them achieve the concrete targets and of course, in doing so, making the working environment a safer place for everyone.

Together with the ongoing work of the health and safety committee, I believe that the Concrete Targets scheme forms a vital part in our industry's sustainability programme.

I am sure we can build on the success of the first eight years and look forward to the new scheme delivering real benefits and successes to those who join up. I commend the scheme to you.

Robert Hall

“We must show ourselves to be an attractive, safe and modern industry...”

ROSPA SURVEY

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) has recently published their third report into OSH assistance to Small and Medium Enterprises, which includes a review of the Concrete Targets scheme, as well as several other industry based initiatives.

The inquiry looked into the availability of the scheme to SME's, the success of the scheme to date and other important features of the schemes available from BPCF and other industry bodies.

The report recognizes the significant contribution from schemes such as the Concrete Targets CT2010 scheme, and encourages both SME's to be more active in seeking help from schemes such as ours, and for Industry schemes to be more accessible to SME's and to cater for SME's needs more specifically wherever possible.

Copies of the report can be obtained from Colin Nessfield at colin.nessfield@britishprecast.org

ROSPA NOSH INQUIRY INTO OSH ASSISTANCE TO SMEs

Third report: Sector initiatives

Howard Fidderman, 26 October 2009
hfidderman@mac.com

ROSPA NOSH INQUIRY INTO OSH ASSISTANCE TO SMEs

BRITISH PRECAST HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The British Precast Health and Safety Committee is an active and well attended group which maintains, as its first guiding principle, the free exchange of knowledge and experience.

The Committee, chaired by Andy Butler of Tarmac, continues to be supported by representatives from HSE and Proskills with a focus on supporting member companies in the reduction of accidents and risks, with the overriding aim of eliminating accidents in the workplace.

If your company does not have a representative on this Committee and you would like to get involved; if you would just like to know more about its activities or want to suggest new items for discussion or inclusion in future editions of this newsletter, then please contact the Committee Secretary, Colin Nessfield, at: colin.nessfield@britishprecast.org

NEXT EDITION:

- Concrete Targets CT2015
- Annual H&S Awards
- News and current articles of interest
- Useful links
- Let us know what YOU would like to see next time...

**BRITISH
PRECAST**

**BRITISH PRECAST HEALTH &
SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER**

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