



ISSUE 1—JUNE 2008

WELCOME FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

INTERPAVE REDUCING SILICA RISK	2
BETTER BACKS CAMPAIGN	2
APRIL 2008 HSE/HSC MERGER	2
HSE NOISE CONTROL CAMPAIGN	3
CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY - LEGAL CHANGES	3
HSE MIGRANT WORKERS WEBSITE	4
LOCAL EXHAUST VENTILATION PROJECT	4

NEXT EDITION:

- CT2010 Awards
- Annual H&S Awards
- News and current articles of interest
- Useful links
- Let us know what YOU would like to see next time...

As Chairman of the British Precast Health and Safety Committee, I would like to welcome you to this, the first edition of the new British Precast Health and Safety newsletter.

The newsletter has been designed to keep you up to date with what is happening with regard to Health and Safety matters within our industry, as well as topical Health and Safety issues of interest to us all.

I hope you will find this and future editions stimulating and I would actively encourage you to let us have your thoughts on topics and any projects that you would like to see included in future editions.

The precast concrete products sector has experienced successive years of improved Health and Safety performance. Against our 'Hard Targets' initiative which commenced back in the year 2000 we can feel proud of our achievements in reducing accidents by over 60% to date, but we must not allow ourselves to become in any way complacent.

I feel sure you will agree we all want to see similar, or greater reductions in accidents over the coming years. Achieving our goal of reducing

accidents year on year will get harder and harder. We need the support of everyone in our endeavour and that is where you and your organisation can make a difference. Help us to share 'Best Practice' ideas in Health and Safety by entering your projects and initiatives into the Concrete 2010 Awards each year. This way we will be able to raise standards for Health and Safety across the whole sector.



David Gilbert—Chairman British Precast Health and Safety Committee

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 continues to be supported by representatives from HSE and Proskills with a focus on supporting member companies in 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 Issue 2 of this newsletter, then please contact the Committee Secretary, Colin Nessfield, at: colin.nessfield@britishprecast.org

INTERPAVE 'KERB' SILICA AND HANDLING RISKS

Interpave, the precast concrete paving and kerb association, has worked closely with the HSE in developing good practice for the use, handling and cutting of kerbs on site.

Interpave have now released a new Case Study. 'Efficient design for safe construction using precast concrete kerbs'. The advice on reducing or even eliminating the cutting of kerbs on site using the HSE's hierarchy approach of AMC, which is to:

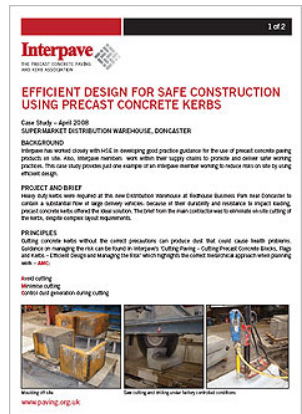
- Avoid cutting,
- Minimise cutting, and
- Control any dust which could be generated

during cutting.

The guidance can be applied to other precast concrete products as well.

By elimination or reduction of cuts, manual handling is also avoided or reduced on site. The data sheet can be downloaded from the Interpave downloads page at: <http://www.paving.org.uk> alongside many other useful and practical data sheets and guidance notes to help ensure safe installation of Interpave members' products.

The HSE have noted their support of the data sheet and are placing it on their own website for download.



Interpave's new "Efficient design for safe construction using precast concrete kerbs" Data Sheet

BETTER BACKS

'Better Backs' is a national campaign to tackle back pain and upper limb disorders (ULDs) at work. This year the focus of the campaign will be on prevention of manual handling and ULD related injuries in the workplace. HSE will also continue to promote the importance of managing back pain more generally by "staying active" and good return to work practices. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/campaigns/index.htm>

For details of the 'Better Backs' campaign, to show that you and your company are serious about reducing the incidents of musculoskeletal disorders in your workplace, or to download a campaign pack, then visit:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/campaigns/campaignpack.htm>

The sign-up pack details information to help you share and promote good practice and help you to network, in return for signing up, a company link to your website will be placed on the HSE site. Sign-up details can be found at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/campaigns/join.htm>

"Better Backs is a national campaign to tackle back pain and upper limb disorders at work"

APRIL 2008— HSE/HSC MERGER

The Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive were originally established as part of the 'Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974' as two separate Non-Departmental Public Bodies.

From 1 April 2008 HSE became the single national regulatory body responsible for promoting the cause of better health and safety at work. The Board of the new Executive will assume responsibility for running all aspects of the organisation, including setting the overall strategic direction, financial and performance management and prioritisation of resources. HSE will be revisiting its strategy to develop a long term view for the next five years, which will be published towards the end of 2008.

- All the fundamental contents of the Health & Safety at Work Act remain
- None of the statutory functions of the previous Commission and Executive will be removed
- There is no change in health and safety requirements, how they are enforced or how stakeholders relate to the health and safety regulator – no health and safety protections will be removed

For further details, including the new structure of HSE, see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/index.htm>

HSE NOISE CONTROL CAMPAIGN

HSE inspectors are addressing noise during their 2007-8 campaign in three priority industry sectors - plastic products, woodworking and concrete & cement products. They will expect to see evidence of reduction of noise risks to the lowest level that is reasonably practicable.

Where noise risks remain, inspectors will be looking for evidence that the risks are being managed adequately and that suitable hearing protection and health surveillance is in place. The link below gives information on established good practice for managing noise risks in the concrete industry

www.hse.gov.uk/noise/goodpractice/concrete.htm

Key messages (With Links)

- Hearing loss caused by work is [preventable](#) ⁽¹⁾ but once your hearing has gone it won't come back.
- Damage can cause [loss of hearing](#) ⁽²⁾ ability and people may also suffer a permanent sensation of ringing in the ears, known as tinnitus.
- Hearing loss caused by exposure to noise at work continues to be a significant occupational disease. Some 170,000 people in the UK suffer deafness, tinnitus or other ear conditions as a result of exposure to excessive noise.
- There are many practical, cost-effective ways of [protecting yourself and your workers](#). ⁽³⁾
- Full compliance with the new [Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005](#) ⁽⁴⁾ would eventually eliminate occupational noise-induced hearing loss. HSE aims that by 2030 there should be no new cases of noise-induced hearing loss through noise at work.
- Factors that contribute to hearing damage are noise levels and [how long people are exposed](#) ⁽⁵⁾ to the noise, daily or over a number of years.
- The most efficient and effective way of controlling noise is by technical and organisational means that protect workers at source, e.g. changes in process, reducing vibration (damping) and reducing time spent in noisy areas.
- [Health surveillance](#) ⁽⁶⁾ or hearing checks are vital to detect and respond to early signs of damage

Links:

- (1) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/worried.htm#protect>
- (2) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/demonstration.htm>
- (3) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/reducenoise.htm>
- (4) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/regulations.htm>
- (5) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/calculator.htm>
- (6) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/noise/protect.htm>



Visit the HSE Noise website for helpful guidance on reducing and eliminating noise related risks

CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER AND HOMICIDE ACT 2007

The Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 came into force on 6 April 2008. It clarifies the criminal liabilities of companies, including large organisations, where serious failures in the management of health and safety result in a fatality. The Ministry of Justice leads on the Act and more information is available on its Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 webpage. ⁽¹⁾

Prosecutions will be of the corporate body and not individuals, but the liability of directors, board members or other individuals under health and safety law or general criminal law, will be unaffected. The corporate body itself and individuals can still be prosecuted for separate health and safety offences.

HSE welcomes and supports the Act. Although the new offence is not part of health and safety law, it will introduce an important new element in the corporate management of health and safety. More information is available at www.hse.gov.uk/corpmanslaughter/faqs.htm ⁽²⁾

In conjunction with the Institute of Directors, HSE has published guidance for directors on their responsibilities for health and safety - entitled; 'Leading health and safety at work: leadership actions for directors and board members' (INDG417) ⁽³⁾

Links:

- (1) www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporatemanslaughter2007.htm
- (2) www.hse.gov.uk/corpmanslaughter/faqs.htm
- (3) www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg417.pdf

“..an important new element in the corporate management of health and safety”

WORKING IN GREAT BRITAIN FROM OVERSEAS

HSE migrant workers website

The HSE migrant workers website is designed to provide essential information, guidance and advice on workplace health and safety for workers from overseas and their employers, available at:

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

The Government is concerned at the potential for abuse and exploitation of workers from overseas. HSE are committed to improving health and safety protection for all workers, whatever your employment or immigration status.

All workers get the same level of protection under British health and safety law whether they are entitled to work here or not. It applies to employers, self employed people, employment businesses (including agencies and gang-masters) and employees whether working full-time, part-time or on temporary contracts - for example as 'agency' workers.

Workers from outside Britain may encounter unfamiliar risks in the jobs that they will be undertaking and from a working environment and workplace culture that may be very different from that of their country of origin.

A number of HSE publications have been translated into languages other than English. These can be downloaded from the following link:

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



LOCAL EXHAUST VENTILATION PROJECT

The HSE Project aim is "To bring about a significant and measurable improvement in the coverage and effectiveness of engineering exposure controls, particularly Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV), in Great Britain".

In around 10% of UK businesses there is some respiratory exposure risk. About a quarter of these businesses have LEV and about 40% of these carry out a 14 month thorough examination and test. The standard of examination and test is often poor. Far fewer LEV systems are routinely checked and maintained by employers between thorough examinations. Inspectors are asked to ensure, at premises where LEV is used to control exposure, that it is well designed, properly installed, properly checked, maintained, tested and examined. Further information is available at; <http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sectors/manuf/030805.htm>

Other Project activities include supply-side stakeholder agreements and training to improve industry standards of design, application, maintenance, testing and examination. Stakeholder activities will include supply-side 'roadshows', communication activities (including targeted activity within the woodworking sector), revised Chartered Institute of Building Service Engineers (CIBSE) written guidance, a new LEV introductory course provided by the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS).

New guidance due for publication in Spring 2008 includes: Priced HSE guidance HSG 258 "LEV: Principles and Practice"

Free leaflets, INDG 408 'Buying using LEV - an employers guide' and INDG 409 'LEV - a guide for employees'.

These, plus further information, will be available via the new website which is due to be in operation by May/June 2008.

**BRITISH
PRECAST**

**BRITISH PRECAST HEALTH &
SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER**

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