

Revitalising Health & Safety Strategy

The National Specialist Contractors' Council (NSCC) is fully committed to the health, safety and welfare of Specialist Contractors and firmly believes that good health and safety management is part of any successful business.

At the Revitalising Health and Safety Summit held in February 2001, the construction industry committed to the following targets:

- A reduction in the number of working days lost per 100,000 workers from work-related injury and ill health by 30% by 2010
- A reduction in the incidence rate of fatal and major injury accidents by 10% by 2010
- A reduction in the incidence rate of cases of work-related ill health by 20% by 2010

NSCC is committed to assisting its Specialist Contractors to improve awareness and understanding of health and safety issues. In order to work towards the above targets, NSCC has developed this Revitalising Health and Safety Strategy specifically aimed at Specialist Contractors.

The four strands of the strategy are:

1. **Commitment** – To encourage Specialist Contractors to commit to, and integrate, health and safety in the day to day running of their business
2. **Competence** – To recruit and retain a fully qualified workforce including managers and supervisors
3. **Communication** – To collate and respond to the results of accident statistics
4. **Co-operation** – To form alliances with those organisations representing the supply chain.

The NSCC Health and Safety Committee and NSCC Council will regularly review the contents of the strategy to ensure it is appropriate and effective. You, your business and your trade association are urged to embrace this strategy and join NSCC in 'Revitalising Health and Safety' within our industry.

1. Commitment

In partnership with its member organisations, NSCC promotes health and safety as a key business issue. To assist Specialist Contractors in incorporating health and safety into the day to day management of their businesses, NSCC will encourage commitment to the following actions:

a) Review of the company health and safety policy

NSCC offers a sample health and safety policy for use as a model by NSCC Specialist Contractors.

b) Inclusion of health and safety on agenda for Board

Every company Board of Directors should have a Director appointed as 'Health and Safety Champion' to ensure that senior management within the company discusses and implements good health and safety practices. Issues discussed at Board meetings should not just concern recent accident statistics, but include choosing not to work with clients or contractors who have a poor health and safety record, ensuring the company is implementing good health and safety practices and addressing any repeat health and safety problems.

c) Ensuring the workforce is provided with a basic induction on arrival at each new site

Inductions should be specific to each site but the following five points should be covered as a minimum:

- Site rules
- Welfare facilities
- Emergency procedures
- Particular hazards on the site
- Who to report health and safety problems to.

2. Competence

NSCC Specialist Contractors are encouraged to assess the competence of their workforce and support the use of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) and affiliated schemes.

Objectives

- a) NSCC will identify the number of CSCS and affiliated scheme cardholders amongst NSCC Specialist Contractors
- b) NSCC Specialist Contractors will be encouraged to identify managers and supervisors and, where appropriate, register individuals for the CSCS managers and supervisors card
- c) NSCC will identify trades that have less than 50% CSCS cardholders and target those sectors to register employees with the appropriate CSCS card
- d) NSCC will remind its Specialist Contractors to renew their workers' CSCS cards at the appropriate time
- e) NSCC will encourage all Specialist Contractors to register members of their workforce who do not currently hold a CSCS card
- f) NSCC will encourage an increase in the number of qualified assessors for specialist trades.

3. Communication

NSCC believes that its Specialist Contractors have a better safety record than non-members. In order to demonstrate this, NSCC member organisations are required to collate and provide accident statistics to NSCC every year. Trends and areas of high risk are identified so that lessons can be learnt and problems are addressed through the provision of information, training etc.

4. Co-operation

Whilst Specialist Contractors can address health and safety within their activities, other parts of the supply chain have a part to play in working towards the industry targets e.g. clients, contractors, material and product manufacturers, suppliers and plant hirers. By working with other organisations within the supply chain, NSCC should be in a better position to identify short-term solutions to health and safety problems on site and start addressing longer-term issues.

In order to facilitate this process, NSCC works with appropriate organisations to discuss the following:

- a) Information provided by manufacturers, suppliers, contractors and clients
- b) Ease of use of materials and equipment
- c) The packaging of products.

Further Information

NSCC will endeavour to keep its members, Government and the HSE informed of progress made with this strategy.

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