

ESA HEALTH & SAFETY STRATEGY

GOAL

A safe and healthy work environment for all involved in waste management activities.

TARGETS

ESA’s health and safety targets were set out in our Accident Reduction Charter which was launched in 2004. These targets are:

- to reduce the incidence rate of RIDDOR reportable accidents by 10% per year until 2007;
- to eliminate fatalities by the end of that period; and
- to reduce the incidence rate of cases of work-related ill health by 20% by 2010.

Target areas

This strategy will target four key areas over the next two years:

1. Slips, trips and falls
2. Manual handling incidents
3. Workplace transport incidents
4. Machinery safety

A breakdown of accident statistics as reported by ESA’s Members indicated that the majority of incidents are slips, trips and falls, manual handling incidents and accidents associated with workplace transport. Approximately one third of all accidents recorded during 2002-2004 were slips, trips and falls - on an overall industry basis and for the majority of individual companies. The majority of all slips, trips and falls were associated with Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs). Our figures also indicated that approximately one third of all accidents were manual handling accidents, the majority of which were associated with RCVs. The number of incidents associated with fixed plant and machinery were fewer, but almost always more serious.

This health and safety strategy specifically targets slips, trips and falls, manual handling, workplace transport and machinery safety, as well as actions which will target the sector as a whole.

ACTIONS

Commitment from Members

ESA expects all Members to sign and follow ESA’s Accident Reduction Charter. ESA’s Code of Conduct requires Members to report accident statistics on an annual basis in order to measure progress against ESA’s Accident Reduction targets, and to sign and display ESA’s Accident Reduction Charter. ESA expects our Members to take the following steps to demonstrate their commitment to a safe and healthy environment for those who work in the industry.

Actions	Target
All ESA Members to sign ESA’s Accident Reduction Charter	Immediate
ESA Members to confirm to ESA the names of a Director with responsibility for health and safety and a health and safety manager in their company	September 2006
ESA Members to develop, implement, regularly audit and review a health and safety plan for their company	December 2006
ESA Members to work with ESA and other Members to share experiences and good practice across the sector	Ongoing

Safe Workers

While many of ESA's Members provide the highest standards of training to their staff, there are no industry-specific guidelines on health, safety and welfare training for the waste management industry. ESA is committed to ensuring that all operators have a clear understanding of health, safety and welfare training requirements and has identified the following key areas where guidelines are required:

1. Slips, trips and falls
2. Manual handling
3. Workplace transport
4. Personal protection equipment
5. Legislation and responsibilities
6. Machinery safety
7. Fire and emergency procedures
8. Health and hygiene
9. Hazardous substances
10. Accident and incident reporting, including near misses

Actions	Target
To develop guidelines on health and safety training on slips, trips and falls, manual handling, workplace transport, personal protection equipment and legislation and responsibilities	Summer 2006
To make information and training support available to Members on slips, trips and falls, manual handling, workplace transport, personal protection equipment, legislation and responsibilities and machinery safety	Autumn 2006
To develop guidelines on health and safety training on machinery safety, fire and emergency procedures, health and hygiene, hazardous substances and accident and incident reporting	Summer 2007
To make information and training support available to Members on fire and emergency procedures, health and hygiene, hazardous substances and accident and incident reporting	Autumn 2007

Accurate accident statistics

Annual reporting of RIDDOR reportable accidents provides ESA with a means to monitor industry's performance. Detailed accident statistics also allow us to identify and target areas of concern. During 2005 we improved reporting of RIDDOR accident rates from operational Members - 52% of ESA's operational Members submitted RIDDOR reports to ESA for the calendar year 2004, an increase from the 23% who reported 2003 data. ESA aims to collect 2005 figures from all operational Members.

Industry figures for 2002-2005 indicated that the majority of all reported accidents are slips, trips and falls and/or manual handling incidents. ESA plans to collect more detailed information to allow us identify where, when and how these accidents occur. We plan to examine slips, trips and falls and manual handling incidents during 2006.

Actions	Target
To continue to monitor industry health and safety performance	Annually
To collect and analyse specific information on the locations and causes of slips, trips and falls	Summer 2006
To collect and analyse specific information on the locations and causes of manual handling incidents	Winter 2006

Communicating with Members

Member companies and individuals who work within these companies regularly develop new processes and initiatives to safeguard the health and safety of their colleagues and improve health and safety performance.

While ESA's Health and Safety Working Group provides an essential forum for exchanging information within the industry, ESA recognises that there is a need to ensure that information, best practice and the experiences of other companies is shared with the wider industry, particularly among ESA's small and medium-sized Members.

Actions	Target date
To review how ESA communicates with Members, particularly ESA's small and medium sized businesses	Summer 2006
To develop an ESA H&S "information pack" for new operational Members	Autumn 2006
To produce guidance on specific issues as appropriate	Ongoing
To hold at least one H&S event for Members each year	2006 and 2007
To review ESA publications regularly	Ongoing

Communicating with customers

A significant number of accidents in the waste management sector occur where our Members collect waste from commercial customers. Many of these accidents involve slips, trips and falls, manual handling incidents and/or refuse collection vehicles, often as a result of a poor working environment at customers' premises. It is important that our Members' customers have all the information they need to ensure that waste is presented for collection in a safe manner.

Actions	Target date
Development of an initiative to reduce the number of accidents and incidents associated with collecting waste from commercial customers' sites	June 2006
Implementation of campaign to encourage commercial customers to minimise risks associated with collection of their waste	Autumn 2006

Communicating with others

ESA recognises the importance of working with other partners in the sector to ensure a safe and healthy working environment. ESA and ESA Members are actively involved in the WISH Forum, the HSE's three year waste management initiative and the HSE's Revitalising Network and will continue to be involved.

Actions	Target date
To continue to provide secretariat support to the WISH Forum	Ongoing
To play an active role appropriate HSE 3-year municipal waste management initiative projects	2005-2007
To contribute to the HSE's Revitalising Network where possible	Ongoing
Regular meetings with the HSE to discuss progress	Quarterly

Published: 4 April 2006