

Health & Safety Work Programme

The pursuit of ever-higher health and safety (H&S) standards is a strategic priority for the ESA. In 2020, we adopted a new Health & Safety Strategy and created a new H&S Strategy Group to drive delivery. This group will work alongside our existing H&S Committee and seven new working groups, each focusing on a key risk area identified in the strategy. The 2021 work programme for the seven working groups is set out below.

1 Strategic performance monitoring

- Develop a climate survey tool to establish an industry safety-culture baseline.
- Develop a set of leading indicators to help ESA members monitor H&S performance – with an initial focus in Q1 2021 on roll out of “days-lost” as a new injury reporting measure.

Project lead:

 GRUNDON

2 Creating a risk assessment approach

- Create tools and resources to help embed a risk assessment approach into company operations, better enabling site managers to proactively identify risk and control measures, and communicate such with those engaged in relevant activities.
- Develop guidance and standards for undertaking both activity and process risk assessments – working with digital system providers to support this approach.

Project lead:

 VEOLIA

3 Improved H&S competence

- Review existing data and current practice to help produce a strategic plan for improved competence.
- Develop common H&S competence standards for supervisors; H&S induction; and contractor control, with associated training materials and assurance or certification requirements.

Project lead:

 Viridor

4 Waste collections

- Deliver a campaign to raise awareness of the circumstances which lead to incidents of manual handling and slips, trips and falls.
- Develop learning and induction tools to reduce manual handling risks and slips, trips and falls during waste collection activities – with an emphasis on situational awareness.

Project lead:

 SUEZ

5 Vehicle & pedestrian interface

- Identify human factors involved in past incidents and develop new control measures to prevent accidents – helping to improve understanding of risks associated with pedestrians around vehicles.
- Develop a risk assessment template; checklist and suggestions for technical aids to help reduce risks of the vehicle/pedestrian interface.

Project lead:

 Biffa

6 Occupational health monitoring

- Identify the hazards posed to operations from bio-aerosols.
- Assess the risks posed by bio-aerosols to the workforce.
- Manage and control the risk of exposure to bio-aerosol in the workplace.

Project lead:

 FCC
Environment

7 Mental health

- Understand the extent and impact of mental health issues within the waste management industry and identify best practice in other sectors to promote good mental health.
- Develop tools to support efforts to address and raise awareness of mental health, with an initial focus on coping with the impacts of COVID-19.

Project lead:

 environmental
services
association