



SOLUTIONS

WORKPLACE FATALITIES INCREASE

According to the latest figures from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the number of staff killed in work-related accidents rose by 11% in the past year to 241.

The figures come as a great disappointment as the number of deaths in 2005-06 (217) was the lowest figure on record.

Key to the 2006-07 increase was a 25% rise in construction deaths from 60 to 77 - the highest number of fatal injuries for a single industry, and accounted for 31% of all fatal injuries to workers.

There were 85 deaths in the service industries, 35 in manufacturing, 34 in agriculture, forestry and fishing and just 10 in the extractive and utility supply industries.

In the past year, the HSE has approved 25% more prosecutions than the year before, with inspectors serving 1000 more notices. The chief executive of the HSE, Geoffrey Podger stated "No-one should believe that they can get away with serious breaches of health and safety".

In response to this increase in deaths, the government has brought forward its long-awaited Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Bill.

HSE chief executive Geoffrey Podger said waste and recycling industries also posed a particular challenge at the moment, as did the protection of vulnerable staff, particularly migrant workers.

And work and pensions secretary Peter Hain, who described the figure as "unacceptable", has invited employers, unions and other organisations to a forum this month (September) to focus on ways to improve the construction industry's record.

Does your work place meet legal safety standards? Do you have a written policy in place and carry out risk assessments? To find out what you need to do to be legally compliant call us today on 0845 053 3666 or email advice@hsdept.co.uk

