

## R&D Technical Summary W5-078

# Construction health and safety in coastal and maritime engineering

## Background to R&D project

Over £500 million is spent on coastal and maritime construction work in the UK every year. Approximately half of this expenditure relates to commercial projects including ports, harbours, docks and jetties while the other half is spent on coastal and flood defence work. Coastal and maritime construction work is particularly hazardous due to the hostile and sometimes unpredictable nature of the environment in which it is carried out. At present, there is little specific health and safety-related guidance available to assist designers, planning supervisors, contractors and other stakeholders to ensure that work in this sector is undertaken in a safe manner. This guidance document has been produced following detailed consultation with a wide range of design engineers, clients and contractors. It addresses the safety management of coastal and maritime design and construction work, and identifies principles of good practice to be applied during each phase of coastal and maritime construction projects.

## Results of R&D project & Outputs and their Use

Best practice information on safe working practices in the coastal and maritime engineering sector has been assembled through examination of HSE statistical data and through detailed discussions with clients, consultants, contractors and suppliers, examining current operational procedures, accident records and perceptions of risk. This document incorporates lessons learnt from previous experience in the coastal and maritime construction sectors, and contains guidance and recommendations for all stakeholders involved in the safety of construction work in the coastal and maritime environment.

Key areas covered by this guidance are:

- the regulatory environment
- causes of accidents in coastal and maritime construction
- key hazards in coastal and maritime engineering
- guidelines for good practice
  - i) good practice for generic areas of coastal and maritime construction
  - ii) good practice at each project stage.

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This R&D Technical Summary relates to R&D Project W5-078 *Construction health and safety in coastal and maritime engineering* and the following R&D outputs:

- **R&D Technical Report - *Construction health and safety in coastal and maritime engineering*** - Published by Thomas Telford, 2005. Environment Agency Report Product Code: SCHO0405BJAS-E-P

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