

## Hub Occupational Health and Wellbeing – Occupational Cancer

### What is ‘Occupational Cancer’?

Cancer can be caused by substances, or mixtures of substances, called ‘carcinogens’. Occupational cancer is caused by significant exposure to carcinogens in the workplace, often over a prolonged period.

The causes of cancer (carcinogens) are many and varied. They can be solid substances, liquids, mixtures, vapours, gases, dusts or even radiation. Without adequate control, you can be affected by breathing them in, absorbing them through the skin and accidental swallowing.

There is usually a considerable period of time (often more than 10 years and up to 40 or 50 years) between these exposures and any ill-health symptoms developing.

### Occupational Cancer and the Construction Industry

Every year more working days are lost in construction to work-related illness than injuries caused by accidents.

The facts:

- Construction reports more cases of occupational cancer than any other industrial sector.
- It accounts for more than 40% of occupational cancer deaths and cancer registrations.
- It is estimated that past exposures in the construction sector annually cause over 5000 occupational cancer cases and approximately 3700 deaths.
- The most significant cause of these cancers is asbestos (70%) followed by silica (17%), then painting and diesel engine exhaust fumes (6–7% each).

### Risk Management Programmes

Control of carcinogens should sit with your risk management process. There are several ways of conducting risk assessments, but it’s essential that the process you use identifies the risks and those who might be harmed and that control measures are put in place to reduce the risk of harm.

## Highways England Safety Alerts.

HE i34 White lining machine incident

HE i33 Lorry loader cranes

HE i32 Falling concrete block – M5 Oldbury Viaduct

HE i31 Hand injury sustained fitting varioguard

HE i30 Vehicle door restraint failure

This and previous alerts can be found here:

[www.highwaysafetyhub.com/alerts.html](http://www.highwaysafetyhub.com/alerts.html)

The effect of some carcinogens can be increased by other factors such as smoking or drinking, so it could be beneficial to provide information on healthy lifestyles, such as giving up smoking, eating healthily and being more active.

Further information, tools and guidance can be found on the Hub website

[www.highwaysafetyhub.com](http://www.highwaysafetyhub.com)

Send your best practice, alerts and news to [philip.farrar@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:philip.farrar@highwaysengland.co.uk)

## Health, Safety and Wellbeing Awards 2017 - Reminder

Our new Health, Safety & Wellbeing Awards 2017, focusing on our first imperative, launched on 5 October.

Highways England's Health, Safety & Wellbeing Awards are designed to recognise celebrate and share achievements and excellence in health and safety performance across the industry. They will be awarded annually to those individuals, teams, projects and companies who make a significant contribution to our first imperative – that no one should be harmed when travelling or working on the strategic road network.

The awards are open to Highways England employees, our suppliers and their supply chain (extended supply chain, small and medium enterprises etc) and with one exception an award will be given to both communities in each category

Winners and highly commended will be invited to celebrate their successes at a special ceremony on 7 March 2018.

Closing date for entries will be 5pm on 15 December 2017 and entries will be judged by a panel of senior subject matter experts, including our Chief Executive Jim O'Sullivan, and judges from our supply chain.

The nominations categories for the Health, Safety & Wellbeing Awards are:-

- Health & Safety Innovation
- Excellence in road user safety achievement
- Project of the Year (open to supply chain only for construction projects)
- Graduate/Apprentice of the Year
- Health & Wellbeing Initiative of the Year
- Excellence in Health & Safety Performance

We're really keen to receive nominations from employees in any of categories, as we know lots of good work goes on around the company, and we really want to share this. Equally, if you know of or have been involved in projects or initiatives delivered by suppliers that fit into any of the categories, please encourage all your suppliers and their supply chain to enter.

Entry forms, flyers and brochures are available [here](#) and can be used to promote the Awards at meetings or during phone calls.

If you require any further information please email [HSWenquiries@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:HSWenquiries@highwaysengland.co.uk)



## Industry news - Plant and Equipment - New Guidance - Forward Tipping Dumpers.



The CPA have recently issued new guidance for the safe operation of forward tipping dumpers and issued the following statement:-

The CPA is pleased to announce the release of their Operational Safety Guidance for Forward Tipping Dumpers and one of the actions that stemmed from the Industry Forum for Forward Tipping Dumpers. This guidance, titled 'Staying Safe When Operating Forward Tipping Dumpers', is aimed principally at operators for refresher training purpose and as stated at the last forum meeting, has been divided into three sections:

- Section one consisting of a 'stay safe by' list of actions for operators;
- Section two consisting of the supporting underpinning knowledge providing the 'how's and why's' of each action, and designed to provide assistance for tool box talks and one-to-one familiarisation activities (kindly supplied by the CITB from their CPCS refresher material);
- Section three being aimed at managers and supervisors in terms of planning and supervision requirements.

The CPA-produced publication has been designed to support a number of existing safe operational guidance publications from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) including their HSG 144 safe use of vehicles on construction sites.

As with all CPA publications, the staying safe guidance can be downloaded free-of-charge from the CPA website at [www.cpa.uk.net/safetytechnicalpublications](http://www.cpa.uk.net/safetytechnicalpublications) and as agreed at the last meeting, is the first of a number of publications that the CPA will produce on this topic. These will include a Good Practice Guide on Forward Tipping Dumpers which will be devised by the Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group, and an update to the Plant Safety Group's work on Ground Condition in order to provide recommendations for the operation of dumpers on spoil heaps. Forum members will be invited to participate on each group accordingly.

We look forward to industry's support for this and the future publications.



## Intelligent Plant

A research team at Warwick University has developed new software which makes site machinery more fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly.

The new generation of intelligent construction machines could be on the market by 2019.

The software has been developed by specialist WMG in collaboration with JCB and electronics firm Pektron.

The WMG team led by Dr James Marco team analysed vast amounts of JCB data to establish which parts of the machine fleet could be most effectively optimised through intelligent power solutions.

The team created the control software to operate intelligent engines with automotive powertrain technology, enabling them to sense when the machines are idle and make the decision to switch themselves off (or power down) when power is not required.

Currently many off-highway machines are left running while idle for much of their life – wasting fuel and increasing operating costs.

The WMG technology was tested with prototype hardware and installed in a JCB Hydradig, allowing 'real-life' simulations to be conducted on actual machines.



Dr Marco said: “Being able to extend our control and systems modelling expertise into the off-highway sector and to work with both JCB and Pektron engineers has made this a really exciting and rewarding project to be a part of and one where the research has the potential to deliver real impact for all partners.”

Lee Harper, Principal Engineer at JCB, said:

“This collaborative project between JCB, WMG; and Pektron has helped to identify and develop future technologies that can improve the efficiency of many off-highway machines.”

“The novel technology has shown great promise when tested over a variety of real-world duty cycles.”

Source: Construction Enquirer

## Make it or Break it

It's not that long ago since Mark Farmer published his detailed review of the UK Construction Labour Model entitled 'Modernise or Die'. A few months later, a new and extremely informative Global Construction Survey came in public. Its title is 'Make it or Break it: Reimagining governance, people and technology in the construction industry'. It provides some truly valuable insights on how the building sector can tackle the serious productivity, fragmentation and external competition problems that it is currently facing.

Authors of this enlightening report are Geno Armstrong (Global Sector Leader, Engineering and Construction for KPMG International) and Clay Gilge (Major Projects Advisory Practice Lead for KPMG in the United States). The construction industry is traditionally a slow industry in terms of change and digitization. In that sense, it's very promising to see that people with great experience in construction, such as Armstrong and Gilge, are addressing the vital issue of improving industry's performance.

Coming up with a functional long-term strategy for regaining control over construction projects isn't easy. This can be seen on the main findings of the 'Make it or Break it' survey, as well. First things first, the central question of the whole research is the following:



“How can the construction and engineering industry overcome inconsistent performance, external competition and fragmentation by reinventing its approach to governance, people and technology?”

Addressing those three components (governance, people, technology) together and finding the required harmony between them could be the secret for a more efficient and well-functioning construction industry. In order to achieve this, there are certain crucial parameters that have to be taken into consideration.

Source: GenieBelt

## Health and Safety Executive Topics

### Stress

New statistics published 1 November

Last Wednesday, HSE published its annual ill-health and injury statistics for Great Britain. The latest estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) show:

- The total number of cases of work related stress, depression or anxiety in 2016/17 was 526,000, a prevalence rate of 1,610 per 100,000 workers.
- The number of new cases was 236,000, an incidence rate of 720 per 100,000 workers.
- The total number of working days lost due to this condition in 2016/17 was 12.5 million days. This equated to an average of 23.8 days lost per case.
- In 2016/17 stress, depression or anxiety accounted for 40% of all work-related ill health cases and 49% of all working days lost due to ill health.
- Stress is more prevalent in public service industries, such as education; human health and social care work activities; and public administration and defence.
- By occupation, jobs that are common across public service industries (such as healthcare workers; teaching professionals; business

and public service professionals) show higher levels of stress.

- The main work factors cited as causing work-related stress, depression or anxiety were workload pressures, including tight deadlines and too much responsibility and a lack of managerial support.
- Work-related ill health, injuries and what is now an estimated £14.9bn cost to the economy have generally followed downward trends over time. The new data confirms the picture seen in recent years that, even if Great Britain continues to have one of the best health and safety records in Europe, most of the indicators are now broadly flat.

The importance of our increasing emphasis on health is reflected by an estimated 1.3 million workers suffering from a work-related illness (new or long standing) in 2016/17. Around 80% of these were musculoskeletal disorders or stress, depression or anxiety, with an estimated 0.5 million cases each. With 12,000 deaths, occupational lung diseases accounted for 90% of the estimated 13,000 deaths linked to past exposures at work (often decades ago). This is why our plans prioritise tackling these areas. Join the Go Home Healthy campaign, help us spread the word and share your ideas.

More details of these statistics can be found in our [stress specific statistics leaflet](#)

### Workplace Exposure Limits - HSE Consultation

Consultation on the implementation of new and revised Workplace Exposure Limits

HSE is consulting on the implementation of new and revised Indicative Occupational Exposure Limit Values (IOELVs) for thirty-one chemical substances to help protect workers from the ill-health effects of exposure to hazardous substances in the workplace.

The Consultative Document sets out the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) proposals for establishing workplace exposure limits for the substances listed in the 4th Indicative Occupational Exposure Limit Values (IOELVs) Directive 2017/164/EU, in order to implement it in Great Britain.

Consultation commenced on 10 November 2017 and will end on 2 February 2018. If you wish to be involved please click on the following link:-

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd283.htm>

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