



**PROJECT REPORT**  
**Common Approach to Sussex Enterprise (CASE)**  
**January – March 2010**

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**Summary**

The District Council participated in the Sussex CASE project to raise standards of health and safety on industrial estates in all premises, regardless of whether enforcement responsibilities lie with HSE (Health and Safety Executive) or the local authority. 17 industrial units were inspected on four estates. Some joint inspections were carried out with the HSE and another local authority so as to share expertise and develop partnership working. Some businesses were visited which in the past have not been visited by either of the enforcement authorities. Requirements were made concerning many issues. Flexible warrants were used to enable enforcement in all premises.

**Method**

Two months prior to visiting the businesses, a mail shot was sent giving advance notice of the visits. Businesses were requested to complete and return a short questionnaire which contained a check-list. Supporting information was provided. The inspections were carried out focusing on HSE priority topics working at height, managing asbestos, manual handling and workplace transport.

**Resources**

The equivalent of three weeks of an inspector's time was spent on this project.

**Matters observed as requiring attention**

During the inspections the following were some of the matters which were observed as requiring attention at businesses.

1. The conflict between reversing articulated lorries and pedestrian movements.
2. The failure to designate specific post holders as responsible for certain tasks such as risk assessments.
3. Lack of warehouse racking inspections by suitably competent persons.
4. Lack of computer display screen assessments to prevent ergonomic failures.
5. The lack of respiratory protection where mechanical sanding produces fine dust.
6. Lack of control of abrasive wheel use.
7. Failure to have checks made on pressurised systems.
8. Lifting equipment reports with defects identified which have not been remedied.
9. Inadequate risk assessments and controls for chemical safety COSHH(Control of Substances Hazardous to Health).
10. Electrical installations in disrepair.
11. Failure to log daily safety checks on powered guillotine.
12. Storage of excessive propane gas cylinders in a workshop.
13. Lack of suitable training of drivers of fork lift trucks.
14. Lack of risk assessments for dangerous machinery.
15. Lack of understanding of senior management of their health and safety duties.

**Conclusions and opportunities for further development of this project**

1. Less than a quarter of the industrial estates in the Chichester District were visited. The conditions found revealed the value of such inspections. It is hoped to continue this project in the next financial year and to develop it to include free training sessions. The HSE is currently developing short training packages which can be delivered on industrial estates by inspectors or local businesses as part of

the “Estates Excellence” initiative. The idea is to use one unit as the host training location and bring businesses together on an estate. Expertise and resources can be shared to assist all.

2. Flexible warrants proved useful in enabling inspection and enforcement regardless of whether the premises were HSE or local authority responsibility for enforcement.
3. This project demonstrated that there are substantial hazards which require control on many industrial estates. It was found that many firms need health and safety guidance.

Report by David Gibson, Senior Environmental Health Officer, 4 May 2010

Approved by Ian Brightmore, Environmental Health Manager, 21 May 2010

### **References**

- (a) Chichester DC Health and Safety Enforcement Service plan for 2009/10
- (b) HSE Section 18 directions on planned interventions:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/section18/commitment.htm>
- (c) The HSE local authority service delivery plan for 2009/2010.  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/fit3street/ata glance.htm>
- (d) Sussex Local Authorities Health and Safety Liaison Group CASE plan
- (e) HSE Estates Excellence guidance:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/estatesexcellence/index.htm>