LKL Safety Note

# HSE announces series of targeted Farm inspections



**IOSH reported in January that the HSE would be carrying out some targeted Farm health and safety inspections over the next couple of months between January and March.**

This follows from accident statistics and particularly fatalities in the last 12 months which highlighted that agriculture still has the worst safety records our of all the industries in Britain. There were 33 deaths in 2017/18, which is 6 times higher than construction and 18 times more than the fatality rate across all other industries.

The HSE is planning over 100 inspections in the South West, Eastern England, Wales and Scotland. They will be particularly following up on response to their agricultural compliance events that they held at the end of last year and visiting a random selection of farms that either did or didn't respond to the event invite.
Inspectors plan to focus on the higher risk areas of work on farms including: - work at height, transport and machinery risks, child safety on farms and risks posed by livestock.

With the agricultural sectors poor track record in safety the recent HSE's campaign has been to find out about the attitudes of Farmers to safety and facilitate a behaviour change in safety and improvement in risk management.

Rick Brunt, HSE's head of agriculture, said: "We are seeing signs of a change in attitude across the farming industry and while this is encouraging, these inspections act as a reminder to farmers of the importance of managing risks so that everyone can go home from their work healthy."

**It therefore seems an ideal time to sit down and review how you are managing safety on your farm, what training and information you are providing to your staff and what else you need to do to make it a safe place to work?**

**Below is a list of some of the safety areas to review to check that you are doing all you can do to manage risk**. As you go through it write yourself **an Action plan where improvements can be made and then give them a priority in terms of greatest risk.**

**Workplace Transport: -**

- **Look at Traffic routes - is there Pedestrian and Vehicle segregation where possible? Can you use barriers and signage? Hi Vis vests for staff?**
- **Do you have good visibility around the site what is the lighting like?**
- **Do you need speed limit signs? Do visitors know where to go?**
- **Do you have Overhead power lines? What about deliveries?**

**Safe vehicles: -**

- **Do you have maintenance procedures in place for vehicles both planned preventative and procedures for emergency repairs?**
- **Do staff know how to inspect their vehicles before use and will check mirrors, brakes, lights, flashing beacons, hydraulics, horns etc.?**
- **Do they operate 'Safe stop' procedures?**
- **Are all the guards for attachments in place e.g. PTO guards?**

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- **Are staff wearing helmets when driving ATV's?**
- **Are there procedures on the farm for reporting faults and taking equipment out of use?**
- **Are all staff correctly trained for the vehicles they are using e.g. telehandlers and ATV's – including refresher training and records kept?**
- **If the equipment has a lifting arm such as telehandlers are they subject to LOLER inspections by an insurance engineer?**

**Work at Height and Preventing Falls: -**

- **What work at height do you do on farm and what equipment do you use?**
- **Do you know what roofs on your farm are classed as fragile (e.g. corrugated asbestos) and are signs displayed?**
- **Is the equipment you use for work at height suitable for the type of work and its duration? E.g. ladders are suitable for short-term work but only if they can be correctly tied and are secure and stable. There are safer more suitable alternatives for longer work such as scaffold, scaffold towers, MEWPs and man up cages (these should be integrated to the Telehandlers or FLT)**
- **All work at height should be assessed to make sure it is properly planned to prevent the risk of falls and you have the correct equipment and training. For roof work it may be better to engage a professional contractor.**
- **Look also at work from trailers and work off silage clamps – these are also classed as work at height.**
- **Are your ladders well maintained, of industrial standard and inspected before use?**

**Machinery Safety: -**

- **Do you have inspections of machinery and are all guards in place?**
- **Do you have safe procedures for working on machinery including isolation of power source?**
- **Are all operating control leavers etc. correctly labelled?**
- **Are all emergency stop buttons and controls, labelled and working and tested routinely?**



- **Are all staff adequately trained in the safe use of machinery?**
- **No staff are operating dangerous equipment such as chain saws without holding the correct training certification, which is renewed at the correct intervals?**
- **Work areas where machines are used are clean and tidy with no trip hazards?**

The aim of the HSE's targeted inspections is to significantly change attitudes and behaviours in relation to health and safety and drive up health and safety compliance and standards in the Farming sector.

Lets start using the Farm Safety Partnerships mission statement **'Lets make Farm Safety a Lifestyle not a Slogan'**

By Michelle Jeal, LKL Health & Safety Advisor

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