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Workplace accidents due to human errors

Safety experts agree that between 80-90 per cent of all workplace accidents can be explained by ‘human factors’, according to a new report by the Health and Safety Executive.¹ Management commitment is believed to be significant in predicting employees’ perceptions and subsequent attitudes towards safety within the workplace.

The UK cement industry continues to work towards its vision of an operating environment where accidents to employees and contractors do not occur. Although it has reduced its accident rate by two-thirds over the past ten years, it has nonetheless set some tough targets for further improvement. Its aim is to achieve a 30 per cent reduction in injury rates year-on-year until 2010 compared to a baseline of 2003.

Chief executives of the four British cement manufacturers - Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, Cemex UK and Lafarge UK – signed up to the *Cementing Good Practice* initiative in 2003 and is fully supporting the industry’s second health and safety seminar, *Cement Vision and Targets*, on 22 November 2005.

Peter Weller, Chairman of the industry’s health and safety steering group and Managing Director of Castle Cement, will open the seminar by highlighting new initiatives and achievements to date. “Health and Safety of employees and contractors is a top priority in our industry. While we are very pleased with the reduction in accidents, each accident is one too many and the steering group is driving various initiatives to prevent these from happening.”

Industry representatives will discuss progress and best practice for prevention of slips, trips and falls; hot meal burns and transport and driver safety.

¹ *Research into the behavioural aspects of slip and trip accidents and incidents*, prepared by Rossmore MCA Ltd for the Health and Safety Executive, 2005.

Mike Gilbert, Chief Executive of the British Cement Association, said: “Slips, trips and falls continue to be the biggest cause of accidents and the industry launched an initiative earlier this year to further reduce such occurrences. At the seminar, delegates will be challenged to come up with new ideas on how best practice can be shared industry-wide.”

It is expected that more than 100 cement industry employees will attend the conference in Worcester. Further information: www.cementindustry.co.uk.

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Notes to editors:

The British Cement Association (BCA) is the trade and research organisation that represents the interests of the United Kingdom’s cement industry in its relations with Her Majesty’s Government, the European Union and relevant organisations in the United Kingdom. The members of the BCA (Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, Lafarge Cement UK and Rugby Cement) are the major domestic manufacturers of Portland cement producing over 90% of the cement sold in the UK.

The cement industry has an annual turnover of £750 million and is a major supplier to the construction industry. It employs around 3,500 people directly with a further 15,000 jobs depending upon its operations.