

cement industry update



Issue 29, February 2006

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Industry News

HSE publishes Portland Cement Dust Report

A new report by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that a causal association between Portland cement exposure and cancer could not be established. The report, *Portland Cement Dust*, updates findings from the earlier review of Portland cement (1994) by reviewing 15 recently published studies. It

found that cancer mortality for cement workers was similar to the general population and to other industrial workers.

Although the pattern of evidence indicates that occupational exposure to cement dust has produced deficits in respiratory function, the present evidence available is insufficient to establish with any confidence the dose-response relationship for these effects.

Commenting on its publication, Mike Gilbert, Chief Executive of the BCA said: "Naturally we are pleased that another independent and respected body confirmed our industry's own research findings. But there never has been a problem with our product and irritation in the mouth, throat and lungs can only occur if the correct safety precautions we advocate are not taken. Read the report on the [BCA website](#).

Environmental Engineering students to visit Ketton

35 Students from UCL's Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering will visit Castle Cement's Ketton works on 28 February to gain an insight into the company's contribution to sustainability and how it helps to meet government recycling targets by recovering energy from wastes.

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Health and Safety

Cementing Good Practice

The UK cement industry set itself the tough target to achieve a 30 per cent reduction in injury rates every year until 2010 compared to a baseline of 2003. Although the industry didn't reach its target in 2005, the amount of accidents has reduced from 85 lost time accidents in 2004 to 77 in 2005.

Slips, trips and falls cause the most accidents (31 recorded in 2005), and the British Cement Association is reviewing its guidance document to see how closely it covers the causes of accidents. A number of other initiatives aimed at driving down accidents were launched in 2005. Please visit the [BCA website](#) for further information.

Consultations

The beginning of the year is always a busy period for consultations and BCA will be responding to a number of these, including

Our Energy Challenge, Energy Review Consultation

The DTI consultation seeks views on the medium and long-term energy policy issues to be considered in the Energy Review. Deadline is 14 April 2006. Further information on the [DTI website](#).

Air quality and climate change: a UK perspective

This third report of the Air Quality Expert Group (AQEG) provides an examination of the linkages between mitigation policies for climate change and air quality. It outlines the scientific background to these interactions and identifies synergies, where measures to improve air quality or climate change can help ameliorate the other, and trade-offs where policy measures in the two areas act in opposition. Deadline for technical comments is 13 March 2006. Further information from the [DEFRA website](#).

Planning Gain Supplement

Consultation on the Government's proposal for a Planning-gain Supplement (PGS). The focus of this paper is how increases in land value created by planning decisions can be released more effectively to help finance the infrastructure needed to stimulate and service growth and ensure that local communities better share in the benefits that growth brings. Further information from the [HM Treasury website](#).

Review of England's Waste Strategy

The objective of this review is to reflect on existing policies and delivery mechanisms, and to consult on proposals for a revised waste strategy for England. The deadline for comments is 9 May 2006. Further information from [DEFRA's website](#)

Another consultation to note:

Sustainable Construction Report 2006

The DTI is revising the 2000 Strategy for Sustainable Construction to consider what has been achieved over the past five years and to provide an effective framework to guide future Government policies where they are relevant to construction. It indicates where government wishes to see the industry going in terms of its future development as well as indicating where businesses believe their efforts should be concentrated.

Closing date is 26 April 2006. Further information from the DTI website, <http://www.dti.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-1586.html>

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Events

Conference of cement and concrete marketeers and promotion officers

The European Concrete Platform's conference on tools for today's concrete marketeers in Brussels on 2-3 March 2006. Further information on the [Cembureau website](#).

European Cement 2006

The 6th European conference and exhibition for markets, corporate information, state-of-the-art production and processing technology of cement will take place at the Sheraton Skyline Hotel nr Heathrow, 13-14 March with field trips on 12 and 15 March. Further information from <http://www.propubs.com/ec2006/>

Precast Design and Construction - Setting the New Agenda

The conference is designed to highlight opportunities to exploit the possibilities of precast concrete in the context of current global issues. 28 March 2006, Institute of Chemical Engineers, London. [Further information](#).

Concrete Communications Conference

UCL, 5-6 September. Details to follow.

Cement and Concrete Science

Sheffield Hallam University, 11-12 September 2006. To register an interest or submit an abstract, please contact RJ Mangabhai, Tel: 0208 9083762. Email r.j.mangabhai@btinternet.com

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• BCA in the news

BCA media coverage for January

| Article | Media | Issue |
|--|--|-----------|
| Cementing the Future | Green Futures & greenfutures.co.uk | Jan 06 |
| BCA: Compliance with new waste directive | Politics.co.uk | 4 Jan 06 |
| EU waste burning controls enter full force | ENDS | 4 Jan 06 |
| Gas crisis bypasses steel and cement | Construction News | 12 Jan 06 |
| Firms swift to act on cement regs | Construction News | 12 Jan 06 |
| Firms swift to act on cement regs | Resource Management & Recovery | 13 Jan 06 |
| Firms swift to act on cement regs | MRW | 13 Jan 06 |
| Lobbyists' influence on MPs' groups faces sleaze inquiry | The Times | 14 Jan 06 |
| New Chairman of BCA | Contract Journal | 18 Jan 06 |

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