

27 June 2005

Cement industry issues new guidance on prevention of slips, trips and falls

Slips, trips and falls are one of the largest causes of accidents in the UK cement manufacturing industry, and yet the use of simple control measures can greatly reduce the risk of injury. Chief Executives of the four British cement manufacturers signed up to the ‘Cementing Good Practice’¹ initiative in 2004, and they identified accidents caused by slips, trips and falls as an area for immediate action.

The cement industry health and safety steering group, made up of representatives from member companies, trade unions and the Health and Safety Commission, has just launched *Guidance to Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls*, which recommends minimum standards to be implemented. The publication advises on general maintenance, housekeeping, behavioural safety, inspections, hazard reporting and installation of new plant or equipment.

Mike Gilbert, Chief Executive of the British Cement Association said: “Our vision is to create an environment where accidents and ill health do not occur. We trust that this guide will reinforce health and safety principles to ensure we all get it right every time.”

The guide is backed up by a poster campaign. Further initiatives to be launched by the steering group include a guide to prevent burns to operatives working on unblocking, cleaning and maintenance activities in hot areas such as pre-heater towers and associated cooling systems and customer site safety brochures to protect employees by rating a customer’s site as safe to proceed with delivery or indicating where remedial measures are necessary.

The guides will be available as free downloads from the British Cement Association’s website, www.cementindustry.co.uk.

¹ The Cementing Good Practice initiative aims to reduce accidents in the cement industry by 30% year on year against a baseline of 2003.

Images of the slips, trips and falls prevention posters are available from the Press Office.

For further information:

Liesel Tipper, Press Officer at the British Cement Association. Telephone 01276 608707, mobile 07870 179769, email ltipper@bca.org.uk

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.