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SAFER PORTS INITIATIVE 2 – Regional Event

PRESS RELEASE

Safer Ports Initiative 2 (SPI 2)

Having exceeded the targets set in phase one of the Safer Ports Initiative (SPI)¹, there has been overwhelming support within the ports industry to maintain the improvement in health and safety standards through the creation of a second phase of the Initiative.

The first event of Safer Ports Initiative 2 took place on Tuesday, 7 October, in Milford Haven, hosted by Milford Haven Port Authority and facilitated jointly by Port Skills and Safety (PSS) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

Various local representatives from throughout the ports industry were invited to the event to support the aims of the Initiative and emphasise the wide commitment to achieve continuous improvement. There was a very positive response with around 50 attendees at the event.

SPI 2 will focus on promoting the business case for an integrated approach to health, safety and skills through the central themes of:

- Leadership
- Sensible risk management
- Industry standards, qualifications and training opportunities
- Worker involvement
- Sharing good practice and partnership working

Following on from this event, others will be held around the UK to promote the themes of SPI 2.

Safer Ports Initiative 2 will be benchmarked and monitored through a combination of continuous improvement in accident rates and qualitative targets.

Stephen Bracewell, Chairman of Port Skills and Safety Management committee said “The launch of SPI 2 gives cause for the industry to reflect on the success of the first initiative and for me to commend my industry colleagues on their achievement. More importantly, it offers the industry an aid to future improvements in safety standards.”

Additional Notes

¹ **Safer Ports Initiative**

The Safer Ports Initiative (SPI) was launched, in September 2002, in response to the Government's Health and Safety Strategy Statement. As with wider industry, the ports industry accident rates had levelled out. The SPI was launched to break that trend and to establish a downward momentum.

The Initiative was driven by the industry's stakeholder partnership represented on the then National Committee. The SPI set challenging accident reduction targets for the ports industry, which were higher than those set by Government for industry as a whole, to:

- reduce the incidence rate of reportable fatal and major injury accidents by 10% by the end of 2005;
- reduce the incidence rate of reportable over 3 day accidents (not including reportable fatal and major injury accidents) by 20% by the end of 2005.

The benchmark for the targets was the 2001 accident statistics collated by Port Skills and Safety (PSS) on behalf of its subscribers.

By 2004, the targets set had been achieved and exceeded:

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Change 2001 – 2007
Incidence rate for fatal and major accidents	0.32	0.36	0.31	0.25	0.21	0.24	0.25	-22.7
Incidence rate for 4 day accidents	3.80	3.40	2.93	2.51	2.40	2.63	2.37	-37.6
Overall incidence rate	4.10	3.80	3.20	2.80	2.60	2.86	2.61	-36.3

Regional events were hosted by ports and harbours throughout the UK as part of the first phase of the SPI. They involved PSS, the HSE and the host organisation, which gave the national and local perspective on how health and safety improvements could be achieved. Eleven events in all, communicated the health and safety message to around one thousand senior representatives of ports or port related organisations. A range of other national initiatives have taken place under the SPI umbrella, including publication of a new series of guidance papers.

The success of the first phase of the Safer Ports Initiative was recorded as one of eight HSE Case Studies to chart the progress of Revitalising Health and Safety:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/revitalising/casestudyports.pdf>

² **Port Skills and Safety (PSS)**

PSS was established by port employers in January 2002 and brings together the industry's combined work on health, safety and skills. Additional information is available on the PSS website:

<http://www.portskillsandsafety.co.uk>

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