

Achieving the Revitalising Health and Safety Targets

The Government and the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) have set targets for improving health and safety performance over the next ten years. This note explains the targets and gives our best estimates of what achieving them will mean for the number of workers killed, injured or made ill by their work.

A statistical note to be issued early next year will give more detail about the targets and baselines and the range of sources we will use to monitor progress.

The targets are to:



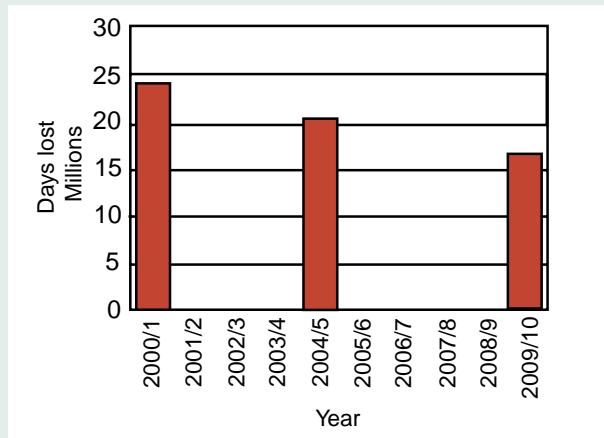
- reduce the number of **working days lost** per 100,000 workers from work-related injury and ill health **by 30% by 2010;**
- reduce the incidence rate of cases of **work-related ill health by 20% by 2010;**
- reduce the incidence rate of **fatalities and major injuries by 10% by 2010;**
- achieve **half** the improvement under each target **by 2004.**

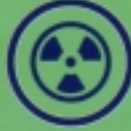
What does this mean in practice?



(1) Working days lost

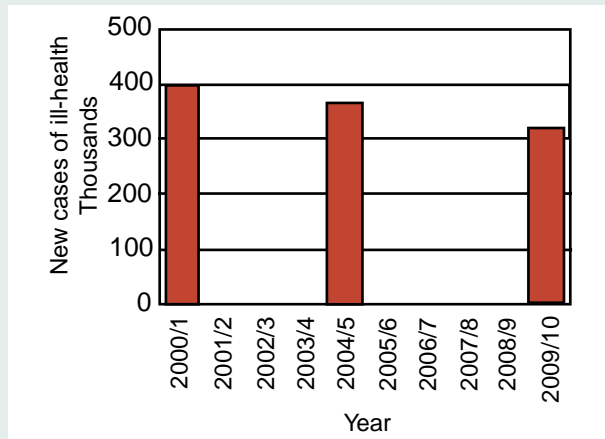
Every year 18 million working days are lost as a result of work-related ill-health and over 6 million as a result of work-related injury, a total of over 24 million days lost. This means that 97,000 days are lost per 100,000 workers. Over ten years we aim to reduce this by 30% to 68,000 days lost per 100,000 workers or **over 7 million fewer days lost in 2010 than now.**





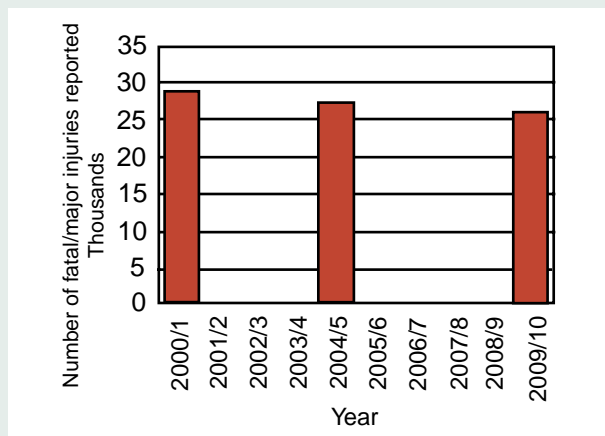
(2) Work-related ill health

Several data sources will be important in assessing achievement of this target. For example, Self reporting surveys indicate that 2 million workers and former workers suffer from work-related ill health each year, of which 400,000 are new cases. This equates to an annual incidence rate for new cases of 1,400 per 100,000 workers. Over ten years we aim to reduce this by 20% to 1,120 per 100,000 workers, or **80,000 fewer new cases in 2010 than now.**



3) Fatalities and major injuries

In 1999/2000 29,000 fatal/major injuries to workers were reported. Using the Labour Force Survey to correct for under-reporting of injuries, the rate of fatalities and major injuries was 260 per 100,000 workers. Over 10 years we aim to reduce this to 230 per 100,000 workers, or **3,000 fewer deaths and major injuries reported in 2010 than now.**



The baselines and targets will help determine HSC's priorities and programmes. We recognise that measuring progress against the targets requires improved data quality and better reporting of information by employers and others. We are working to develop a fuller set of injury and, especially, ill-health measures.

New information sources may mean that our view of the baselines changes. If this happens then the effects of the targets will be adjusted to reflect our better knowledge. We may also need to consider the impact of any changes in the size or structure of the working population. We will involve all our stakeholders in a range of activities, including workshops and internet technology, when developing our information sources.

We will discuss these issues, and explain our approach to setting the baselines in more detail, in the forthcoming statistical note.