



30 May 2005

**To:**

Secretaries of the Health and Safety Groups

**From:**

Neal Davis  
Chairman Dermatitis Working Group  
NHSG Council

**CC:**

Kerry Ross  
Chairman NHSG Council

Dear Colleagues

## Preventing Chemically Induced Dermatitis in the Workplace

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has set up a Diseases Reduction Programme (DRP) with the aim of reducing work-related ill health resulting from exposure to substances hazardous to health and wet working. The DRP has identified areas for action, which include work-related dermatitis. By 2008, industry is expected to reduce the incidence/prevalence rates of work-related dermatitis by 10% (20% by 2010) based on the figures for the year 2000.

In response to this challenge, the National Health and Safety Groups Council (NHSGC) considered that the Council and the Health and Safety Groups (HSG's) should play an active part in promoting the virtues of DRP. This will help us to show to the world and HSE that we are active players in health and safety and work closely with stakeholders to promote better health and safety.

The council considered that we should not spread our efforts too thinly, instead, we must focus our efforts in selected areas. With this in mind, the Council set up a Working Group (WG) on dermatitis. The group was asked to identify suitable approaches for helping the members of the (HSG's). In turn, the WG has developed the attached draft project.

You will note that this is the first national project for the Council and the HSG's. Therefore, we must ensure that the project succeeds. The success of this project will depend on HSG members providing support and taking part. HSG Secretaries are requested to bring this project to the attention of the members and seek active participation.

The project consists of an initial pilot and the members of the WG are recruiting volunteers for the pilot. The purpose of the pilot is to learn lessons before going national with every HSG.

You are invited to promote the project amongst your members and seek their participation. In addition, HSG's and their members are invited to promote the project amongst Small and Mediums sized Enterprises (including sub contractors of HSG members) who are not members of HSG's.

If the secretaries consider that a PowerPoint presentation summarising the salient issues of the project would help them (when discussing/ promoting the project), this can be arranged. Please let me have your views.

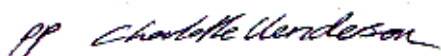
When you have made the presentations, please let me have a summary of the feedback.

If you need to discuss the project or require further information, you may contact me or any member of the WG.

I am looking forward to your support in this new partnership.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neal Davis', written in a cursive style.

Neal Davis

Chairman

Dermatitis Working Group