

This bulletin is provided in response to a number of requests from former Operate safe members for information about current health and safety developments in the construction sector following the closing down of Operate Safe.

Construction industry sectors combine forces for H&S

In September 2010 representatives from each of the four main sectors of industry - civil, commercial, residential, and trades - held the inaugural meeting of the New Zealand Construction Safety Council (CSC). The purpose in setting up this Council was to remove fragmentation in the industry thereby making it easier to work together in trying to improve the health and safety performance of the Industry.

The Council is made up of two representatives from each sector and the Terms of Reference for the Council can be found by [clicking here](#).

The two civil representatives are Cos Bruyn, Roading New Zealand's Chairman and Dave Jewel, President, NZ Contractors Federation. Jeremy Sole and Chris Olsen (CEOs of NZCF and Roading NZ respectively) attend the Council meetings as observers.

The following initiatives were agreed as key milestones to be completed in the first year:

- The industry will collect the required data to establish industry benchmarks; and ACC and DoL will share their information with a view to combining with industry to provide greater insights.

- The CSC will develop a communication plan and in conjunction with Government agencies this will be used to develop a comprehensive education/communication programme to assist the sector in health and safety matters.

- The CSC and the Department of Labour (DoL) to agree on DoL's enforcement compliance framework such that DoL has implemented an internal training regime in alignment with this framework.

- CSC to communicate its agreement to this framework to the sector.

- CSC and DoL to develop a performance monitoring system for enforcement.

- The sector will agree a framework for endorsing individual training that meets agreed standards.

- DoL's "Guidelines for Principals" will be reviewed with a view to either having Government agencies take a leadership role in including these guidelines as part of their tendering process or ensuring Government agencies demonstrate that health and safety is a non-financial attribute that is clearly given serious consideration in the tendering and tendering acceptance process.

The CSC was officially launched in Christchurch on 26 May 2011 and at its meeting on 18 July approved (subject to some minor changes) an H & S Competency framework for endorsing individual training ([click here to view](#)). The CSC is now about to engage a project manager to develop this framework as per page 5 of the document. To fund this project manager the CSC will be seeking funding from Government, builders and contractors.

Health and Safety Performance of Contractors

Roading New Zealand has been collecting health and safety statistics from its members for over a year now. Verifying the accuracy of this data has proved to be a challenge at times but we are now confident in the figures below for the quarterly period January to March 2011. Former Operate Safe contractors may wish to compare their performance with the results below.

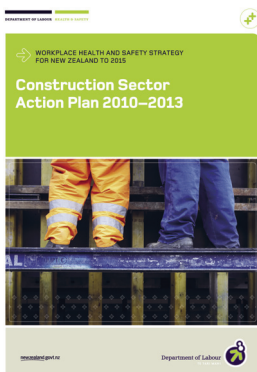
Note: LTI = Lost Time Injuries, and MTI = Medical Treatment Injuries. For details of red alerts please email Chris Olsen chris@roadingnz.org.nz

To participate in future industry safety report surveys and to keep up to date with the latest results email Chris Olsen who will send you the relevant form to complete later this month.

Month 2011	LTI per 1,000,000 hrs worked			MTI per 1,000,000 hrs worked			Red Alerts
	Lowest	Highest	Average	Lowest	Highest	Average	
January	0	77	2.7	0	115	21	0
February	0	40	1.9	0	142	15	0
March	0	22	5.2	0	194	19	5

Partners in Action Pledge

As part of the Government's National Action Agenda 2010-2013, the Department of Labour (DoL) has launched a Construction Sector Action Plan. This was drawn up by DoL in partnership with the new Construction Safety Council and the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC). The Action Plan was rolled out on the same date as the launch of the Construction Safety Council and its



members were among the organisations represented at the launch. DoL also announced a 'Partners in Action Pledge', which has so far been signed by over 120 firms.

The Pledge calls for individuals and organisations with a stake in achieving the Workplace Health and Safety

Strategy's vision of 'healthy people in safe and productive workplaces', to accept the challenge to become a Partner in Action with the Department of Labour to reduce New Zealand's work toll.

Partners in Action agree to:

- play an active role within their sphere of influence to improve health and safety outcomes at work.
- contribute to and support the Action Agenda, the Sector Action Plans and the Occupational Health Action Plan.
- work towards achieving zero harm in New Zealand workplaces.

For more details about the Action Plan and to sign the Partners in Action Pledge, go to the [DOL website](#).

Safety around underground utilities

The contracting industry is currently working with underground utilities such as telecommunication and power companies to develop a simple safety guide for those working around underground services. This should be available later this year.