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## HEALTH & SAFETY NEWSLETTER

### 12 NOVEMBER 2004

NASS has a strong Health & Safety Committee, with representatives from small, medium and large companies within membership. The Committee meets regularly – around 6 times each year – and also holds separate meetings within the Steel Stockholding Lead Authority Partnership, a unique agreement, between NASS, the HSE and Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council. In 1999 the three bodies entered into an agreement to promote consistency in compliance with, and enforcement of, Health and Safety legislation, standards and good practice, throughout the steel stockholding industry. The Partnership acts as a forum to develop and produce suitable guidance and advice on good practice to improve Health and Safety performance throughout the industry, and to reduce the financial losses caused by preventable accidents. Regular contact, liaison and discussion between the three parties takes place, therefore ensuring greater consistency in the adherence of health & safety within the steel stockholding industry.

Several topics to which the Committee has given considerable time and effort have resulted in the publication just this week of three important documents, as follows:

#### **HSG246: Safety in the storage and handling of steel and other metal stock**

This substantial document, available from the HSE and priced at £14, is the culmination of over 2 years work by the parties involved. Driven by the HSE, NASS' Health & Safety Committee has contributed extensively to the content and made the following comments upon its publication. "NASS' Health & Safety Committee feel that working in partnership with the HSE and Local Authority has enabled us to produce clear and achievable safety standards for our industry, which should help all the businesses within our sector, both large and small. We have worked together to make this guidance easy to understand, thereby assisting all of us to improve our health & safety standards."

Nick Edwards, Chief Environmental Services Officer at Wolverhampton City Council also said: "The publishing of this guidance is a real achievement and shows what can be accomplished from partnership working. It has been eagerly awaited and I am in no doubt that it will help to improve health and safety standards across industries involved in the storage, handling and transport of metal product. It will also act as an invaluable tool for enforcing authorities and assist in the consistency of enforcement, one of the original aims of the Steel Stockholding Lead Authority Partnership. Wolverhampton City Council is proud to have been involved in the project."

Copies of the document can be obtained from HSE Books on 01787 881165, or via their website [www.hsebooks.co.uk](http://www.hsebooks.co.uk)

## **Delivering safely: co-operating to prevent workplace vehicle accidents**

The HSE has just published the above document, available free from their website using the link <http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/information/cooperation.htm> This document gives guidance for suppliers, carriers and recipients on working together to prevent accidents in the delivery process. Reference is made at the foot of the document to INDG313 "Safe Unloading of Steel Stock", the HSE guidance document produced in association with NASS. The Committee is working at present on an update to this document, and also to NASS' Load Safety document upon which INDG313 is based.

In addition to these two documents, the Committee has also been working to produce its own guidance entitled:

### **Guidance for Banding Strip Products**

Members may remember receiving a letter from the Committee requesting details of any accidents that had occurred when banding had failed in transit. From the responses received, and the experience of Committee members, NASS has produced a comprehensive document that gives guidance on how to band Strip Products. Though it is the Committee's intention to continue with this topic and eventually produce Guidance to cover General Products and Long Products, it was felt that the information contained in the document would be a valuable tool in itself for anyone involved in the despatch of Strip Products. A copy of the guidance is attached.

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### **Protective Head Gear**

A topic that the Committee has also considered recently is the use of protective head gear by employees. The Committee has agreed the following statement as best practice guidance:

**NASS advocates that hard hats should be worn in any areas where cranes are working overhead, where any overhead maintenance work is ever carried out, or when working at height - when the use of a chinstrap or ratchet clamp is also necessary.**

**Bump caps are only suitable as protection for maintenance staff working on machines, vehicles, etc. who just need some protection to avoid banging their heads on the underside of any kit.**

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If any members have specific questions they would like to ask the Committee, or need advice on a particular matter, then please contact me and I will be pleased to pass on your enquiry. All members of NASS are eligible to join the Committee – if you are interested and would like to come along to one of its next meetings, then please feel free to get in touch with me for details.

**Karen Black**

Secretary to Health & Safety Committee

Health & Safety Committee

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