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Creating the environment for business

Research into Work Related Road Safety

Health and Safety Executive and Scottish Executive

A cross government department Work-related Road Safety Task Group was established in May 2000 between the DETR and HSC. This group was established to consider the issue of work-related road safety and make practical proposals that, when implemented, would reduce the number of work-related road traffic incidents.

This project was jointly funded by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Scottish Executive (Transport and Road Safety Unit). In acknowledging the extent of road accidents that involve work-related vehicles as well as impact that such incidents have on organisations, this project aimed to:

- Establish the extent to which Scottish organisations are taking steps to reduce incidents.
- Identify and document best practice examples of policies and procedures to manage work related road safety.
- Review the contribution of individual factors to driving behaviour, reflecting on how this can be considered in the development of occupational road safety management system.

Entec brought together a team of specialists in human factors, occupational psychology and health and safety to carry out this study, which was conducted in three phases as follows:

- A telephone survey of Scottish organisations identified the nature of driving activity, size of fleets, and established the extent to which action is taken to reduce work related road accidents.
- Case studies of best practice policies and procedures were developed. This involved interviewing a range of stakeholders in organisations, who could demonstrate effective approaches taken to reduce work-related road traffic accidents. A range of different types and sizes of organisations were targeted.
- A literature review of individual factors that contribute to likelihood of accidents including demographics (age, gender), personality, accident history, risk perception, physiology and illness, etc. How these factors may be considered in developing road safety policy was discussed.

The outcomes of this project aided the client in their understanding of risks associated with work-related road safety and in their efforts to inform employers of action that can be taken to reduce such risks. The findings will be published by the client as two reports; a literature review and a research report (containing the case studies). Real examples of existing policies and procedures continue to be an effective means of encouraging employers to be proactive in their efforts to manage health and safety. Entec has developed a reputation for developing informative and concise case studies of this nature.

Managing work related road safety