



# Horizon Scanning: health and safety in the changing workplace

Horizon Scanning  
for occupational  
Health and Safety

## Horizon Scanning for occupational Health and Safety The role of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

The Health and Safety Commission's and HSE's mission, set out in 'A strategy for workplace health and safety in Great Britain to 2010 and beyond', is, working with Local Authorities:

"...to protect people's health and safety by ensuring that risks in the **changing** workplace are properly controlled".

Horizon scanning is one of the ways in which HSE, working with others, seeks to systematically anticipate, identify and prepare for those changes in the workplace that affect the control of risks.

The principles of the horizon scanning system are that:

- Horizon scanning should be used to identify issues with the potential to present significant new or changed work-based risks over the medium to long term (up to 10 years).
- Horizon scanning should systematically anticipate, identify and prepare for issues that could affect the work of the HSC and HSE.
- Horizon scanning should be wide-ranging in scope, including developments in issues such as science and technology, socio-economic trends that affect the labour market and international developments.
- Horizon scanning should develop an understanding of the health and safety implications of cross-Government activities, such as Foresight programmes, that could impact on work-related health and safety.
- The outputs from horizon scanning be reviewed and used in the development of HSC's strategic priorities and policy objectives and HSE's work in pursuit of these.
- Where national security requirements permit, the horizon scanning process be open and involve all stakeholders. The outputs should be openly available.

For further information on how HSE is horizon scanning for the occupational health and safety system, see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/horizons/index.htm>.

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