



Introduction

SIMPL is an initiative to help to improve the health and safety performance of the plastics and composites manufacturing industries through a partnership of trade associations, employers, trade unions, equipment manufacturers, training organisations and HSE.

The partners involved are:

- British Plastics Federation
- Composites UK
- Polymer Machinery Manufacturers and Distributors Association
- City of Wolverhampton College - Polymer Training and Innovation Centre
- Glass and Glazing Federation
- Unite
- GMB
- Health and Safety Executive

The SIMPL partners work together to:

- Identify, develop, provide and share ideas, decisions, initiatives, advice, information, guidance and support that will help prevent death, ill health and injury to those that work - and those that are affected by work activities - in the plastics and composites industries.
- Identify and raise concerns; and consult on and tackle issues as they arise, including new health and safety challenges.

More information about SIMPL and health and safety in plastics and composites manufacture can be found at [Health and safety in the plastics industry \(www.hse.gov.uk/plastics\)](http://www.hse.gov.uk/plastics).

SIMPL Strategy 2018 - 2021

This strategy:

- Recognises and builds upon work started under previous SIMPL strategies and supports the commitment of the plastics and composites manufacturing industries to the principles set out in HSE's strategy for the health and safety system for Great Britain 2016 - 2020, [Helping Great Britain work well](#), also HSE's [Health and Work strategy and plans](#) and its [sector plan for health and safety in manufacturing](#).
- Aims to help the plastics and composites manufacturing industries translate current and previous SIMPL strategic objectives, ie:
 - reduction in ill health and accidents
 - health and safety basics
 - health and safety management and leadership
 - competence

into relevant, realistic and achievable health and safety action plans.

Acting together Promoting broader ownership of health and safety in Great Britain	Tackling ill health Highlighting and tackling the costs of work-related ill health
Sharing our success Promoting the benefits of Great Britain's world-class health and safety system	Managing risk well Simplifying risk management and helping business to grow
Keeping pace with change Anticipating and tackling new health and safety challenges	Supporting small employers Giving SMEs simple advice so that they know what they have to do



Ill health

- By the end of June 2018 each trade association will:
 - Identify the reasons for ill health, the risk of long latency ill health and time off work/lost time as a result of ill health:
 - state ill health, time off work/lost time at the start of the strategy on the basis of their own statistics;
 - benchmark improvement using leading and lagging indicators.
 - Put together an action plan that they will work with their members to deliver. The action plan will identify the steps to achieve the targets.
- Participating companies, with the help of their trade association, will:
 - Target and put in place control measures where relevant to minimise workers' exposure to the following:
 - stress
 - musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)
 - exposure to agents potentially causing occupational lung disease, eg plastic/resin fume and process dust, but equally all respiratory irritants and sensitisers
 - dermatitis
 - noise
 - hand-arm vibration

Injuries

- Each trade association will:
 - Assist its members to establish controls to reduce time off work/lost time, near misses and injury rates within its sectors:
 - assist its members to state time off work/lost time, near misses and injury rates at the start of the strategy on the basis of their own statistics.
 - assist its members to benchmark improvement using leading and lagging indicators.
 - Put together an action plan that they will work with their members to deliver. The action plan will identify the steps to improve performance in these areas.
- Participating companies, with the help of their trade association, will
 - Target and put in place control measures to minimise workers' exposure to, at least, the following:
 - hand knife injuries
 - slips and trips
 - risk of injury related to machinery interventions

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Managing risk well

Simplifying risk management and helping business to grow

Keeping pace with change

Anticipating and tackling new health and safety challenges

Supporting small employers

Giving SMEs simple advice so that they know what they have to do