



HSE Focus Newsletter

What Construction Businesses Need to Know

As we head into 2026, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is placing increased emphasis on the key risk areas that continue to drive injuries, ill health and enforcement action across the construction sector.

Inspections this year will look beyond the paperwork — focusing heavily on how well health and safety is embedded into day-to-day site operations.

HSE Priority Areas for Construction in 2026

The HSE will focus on the following key areas during inspections:



Occupational Health:
Dust, Noise, Vibration



Mental Health &
Wellbeing On Site



Competence, Training
& Leadership



RAMS & Practical
Application



Environmental Factors
Affecting Health



Preparing for
Regulatory Change

The Key Message for 2026

Health and safety must be **active, demonstrable and embedded** into everyday site practice. Certificates and paperwork alone will not demonstrate compliance.

Priority Areas: What You Need to Do Now

Below is a practical summary of what the HSE is prioritising, and how you can prepare your construction business.



Occupational Health: Dust, Noise, Vibration & Manual Handling

HSE inspectors will pay close attention to health risks such as silica dust, noise and vibration exposure, and manual handling — all of which remain major contributors to long-term ill health in construction.

What you should consider now:

- Ensure task-specific health risk assessments are current
- Demonstrate effective controls such as LEV, dust suppression, job rotation and vibration management
- Maintain clear health surveillance records



Mental Health & Wellbeing On Site

Mental health continues to be a priority and will feature prominently in 2026 inspections. HSE expects employers to actively manage stress, fatigue and workload and show evidence of workforce engagement.

Actions to take:

- Review your mental health policy and support arrangements
- Include wellbeing in toolbox talks and site inductions
- Equip supervisors to recognise and respond to early warning signs



Competence, Training & Leadership

Certificates alone will not demonstrate competence. Inspectors expect to see practical understanding, refreshed training and visible leadership involvement in safety.

Strengthening your position:

- Update training matrices and competence assessments
- Ensure refresher training reflects real site variability
- Directors and managers should be able to articulate their safety responsibilities with confidence

RAMS & Practical Application on Site

HSE will focus on whether your risk assessments and RAMS are task-specific, up to date and actually being used — not filed away. Generic documents are a key enforcement trigger.



Best practice:

- Adapt RAMS as site conditions change
- Confirm workforce understanding through briefings or sign-offs
- Keep documents accessible and simple

Environmental Factors Affecting Health

While not the environmental regulator, HSE increasingly considers environmental risks where they impact worker health — such as dust drift, excessive noise or poor waste housekeeping.



What to review:

- Dust suppression strategies
- Noise and vibration control
- Waste segregation and material handling arrangements

Preparing for Regulatory Change in 2026

With the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) becoming fully independent in January 2026, expectations around higher risk buildings and duty holder accountability continue to evolve.



Your next steps:

- Keep informed of updates to building safety legislation
- Review your systems for evidence trails, responsibilities and compliance frameworks

Helping You Stay Inspection Ready

As part of our retained consultancy support, we can assist with:

- System reviews and HSE-aligned site inspections
- Policy and RAMS development
- Competency mapping and training support
- Ongoing advice to ensure continuous compliance

Prepare for 2026 inspections.

