



## HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN DEFENCE

### Policy Statement by the Secretary of State for Defence

1. I make the following Policy Statement for all health, safety and environmental protection (HS&EP) matters in Defence because, as Secretary of State, I am answerable to Parliament for such matters and to comply with a requirement of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act. In doing so, I emphasise the importance which I attach to the health and safety of those who deliver defence activities (including the Armed Forces and MOD civilians) and those who may be affected by defence activities and to the protection of the environment. This Policy is to be applied throughout Defence.

#### GENERAL DUTIES

2. I require that:

- a. We minimise work-related fatalities<sup>1</sup>, injuries, ill-health and adverse effects on the environment, and we reduce health and safety risks so that they are as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP).
- b. Within the United Kingdom (UK) we comply with all applicable HS&EP legislation.
- c. Overseas we apply our UK arrangements where reasonably practicable and, in addition, respond to host nations' relevant HS&EP expectations.
- d. Where Defence has exemptions, derogations or dis-applications from HS&EP legislation, we maintain Departmental arrangements that produce outcomes that are, so far as reasonably practicable, at least as good as those required by UK legislation.
- e. Those of us in positions of management or command, from the Defence Board downwards, lead by example on HS&EP as part of normal business and maintain a just culture where everyone is empowered to contribute to HS&EP objectives.
- f. We take reasonable care of the health and safety of ourselves and others who may be affected by our acts or omissions at work, we protect the environment and we co-operate with arrangements that are in place to enable us to discharge the duties placed on us.

#### GOVERNANCE

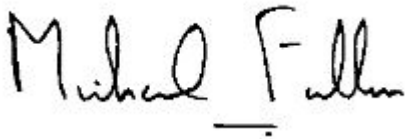
3. The Defence Board is to receive information on HS&EP matters at each meeting, is to discuss issues arising and is to review an Annual HS&EP Assurance Report submitted by the Permanent Under Secretary (PUS).

4. As the Department's most senior official for HS&EP matters, PUS is to ensure that effective management arrangements are in place to achieve compliance with this Policy Statement, which may be amplified as appropriate, drawing on advice as necessary across the Department. PUS is to include HS&EP performance in the Department's holding-to-account process.

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<sup>1</sup> I wish to be notified, in writing by the responsible Senior Duty Holder, of any fatality which is potentially safety-related as soon as possible.

5. Each Top Level Budget (TLB) Holder or Chief Executive of Trading Fund Agencies and Defence Infrastructure Organisation is to be the Senior Duty Holder (SDH) for the safety of defence activities conducted in his/her area of responsibility (AoR) in addition to his/her wider HS&EP responsibilities. If an SDH considers that a risk from a defence activity cannot be mitigated so that it is ALARP, he/she is to refer it to me. Each SDH is to set down and implement HS&EP management arrangements for activities in his/her AoR and ensure that commanding officers and managers to whom he/she may delegate HS&EP authority are competent and have adequate resources at their disposal.
6. Any commanding officer or manager who wishes to change organisational arrangements or resources is to ensure that, before being implemented, the proposed change is properly assessed and demonstrated not to be detrimental to HS&EP and that implementation is subsequently suitably managed.
7. There is to be organisational separation between those who conduct defence activities and those who provide regulation, so that the latter are independent whilst being part of the Department. The Director General Military Aviation Authority and the Director, Defence Safety & Environment Authority are to provide for the regulation of HS&EP in Defence where this is an MOD responsibility (for example as part of the arrangements identified at para 2d above). Defence regulators are to have appropriate powers to enforce their regulations.
8. The detailed organisation and arrangements that amplify this Policy Statement are to be set out in JSP815 (Defence Health, Safety & Environmental Protection).



Rt Hon Michael Fallon  
Secretary of State for Defence  
August 2014