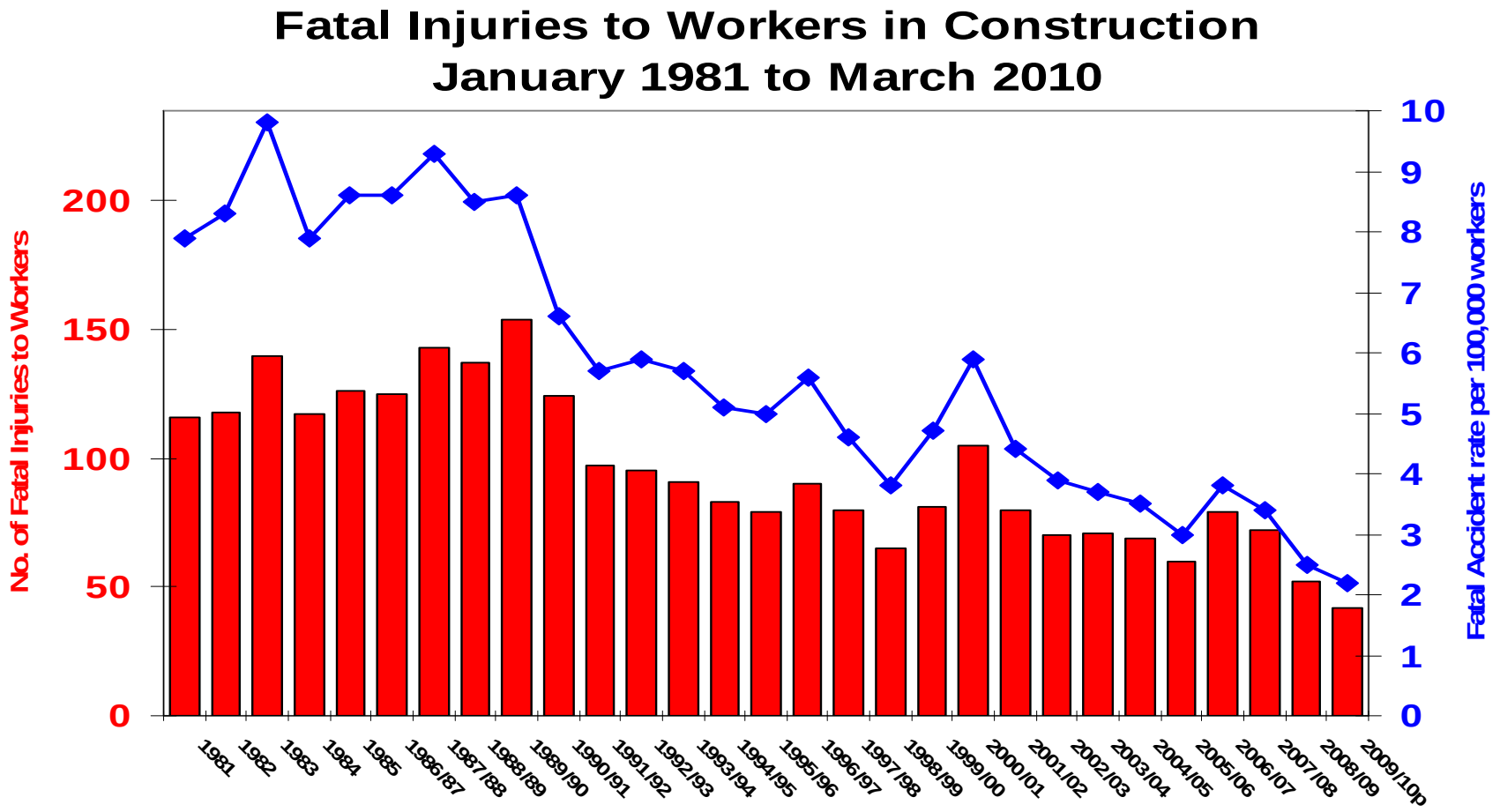
Health and Safety
Executive

Changing the health and safety culture of the UK construction industry

Philip White, Health and Safety Executive, London

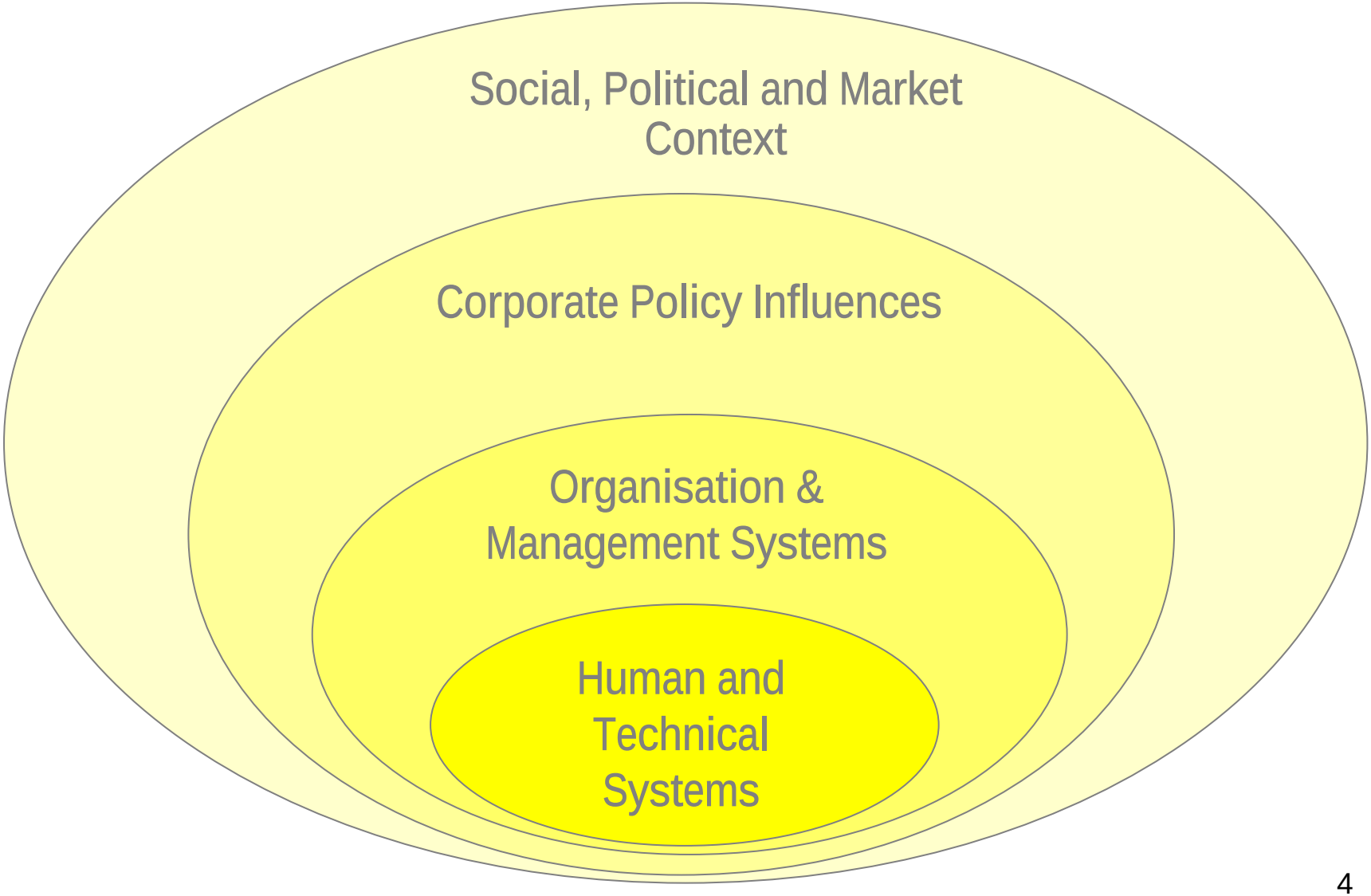
Fatal Accidents – numbers and rates



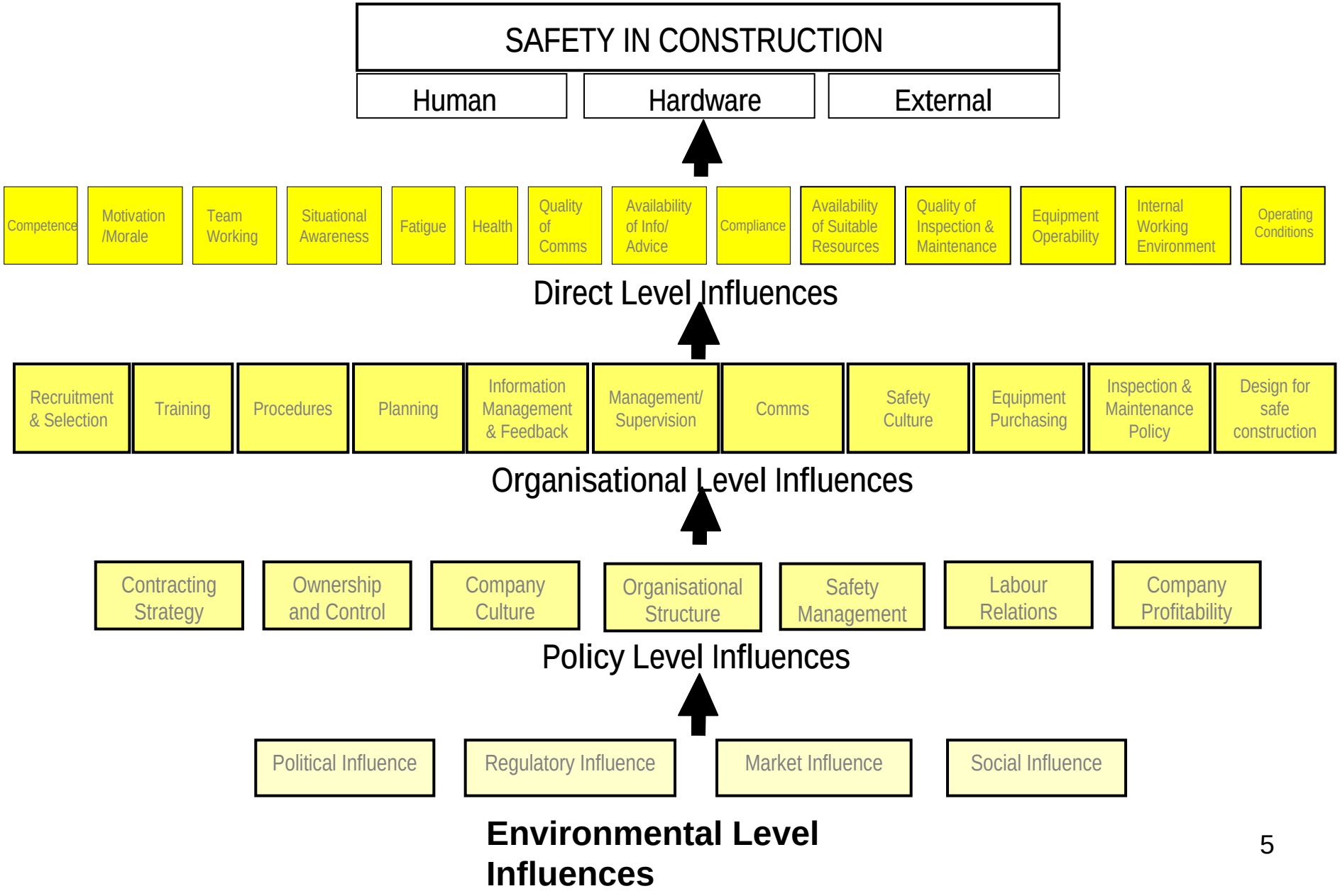
Construction Programme

- 10 year programme
- Aim to reduce fatal accidents, major injuries and ill health
- Cultural change – leadership, ownership and partnership
- Engrain a culture of ‘self-regulation’
- Embed improvements made
- Evidence based
- Development of Influence Network

The Influence Network



The Influence Network



Construction Programme

Revamped Intervention Strategy:

- Not just site inspection
- Intervene earlier in the process – with clients and designers
- Engage senior management – at Board level
- Addressing underlying causation – in investigations and inspections
- Engage and help small firms
- Include the Government leading by example – client interventions
- Supply chain work
- Managing health risks – priority topics
- Engaging the workforce – through site interventions, toolkits and encourage industry developments

Leadership

- Leadership from senior industry figures
- Industry ownership of risk
- ‘Turning concern into action’
- Putting health and safety on the Board agenda
- Seeing health and safety as an enabler

Supply chain work

- Re–engineering processes
- Work with industry stakeholders
- Making use of technological advances
- Tackled:
  - industrial roofing – use of nets
  - demolition – remote techniques
  - steel erection – remote techniques
  - cement bags – lower weight
  - cutting paving slabs and kerbs – water suppression

Example of supply chain change – Demolition

Before

After

Example of supply chain change – Kerb cutting

Before

After

Small/medium sized projects

- Small Sites Strategy – roofwork, asbestos, dust, site tidiness and welfare provision
- Targeted campaigns – eg. National refurbishment initiative, improving dutyholder compliance and many local initiatives
- Communication and education through:
  - Working Well Together
  - website
  - guidance

SMEs

HSE

Health and Safety Executive

Roof repair work

What you need to know as a busy builder

Want to stay on top as a roof worker on a busy building site?
These are the essential health and safety top tips you should follow, even if you don't directly employ the people working on your site.

- Almost all domestic roof work needs scaffolding – fit edge protection to stop people and materials from falling from eaves and gable ends.
- On terraced properties make sure you provide scaffolding at the front and back of the property.
- Use scaffolding around chimneys and roof windows.
- Do not throw materials from the roof or the scaffold ('bombing') – use a chute or similar.
- Stop materials falling onto the street, and people – for example, use debris netting sheeting and/or close fitting scaffold boards.
- Keep people away from the area below the roof work.
- Do not go onto fragile roof surfaces such as cement sheets or those with skylights.

Work from underneath, reach from an access platform or cover fragile areas on the roof.

- Ladders can be used to access the workplace but working from ladders is allowed only as a last resort.
- Make sure your roof workers are properly trained and competent to do the work safely.

This is just a summary – you can find out what else you need to know about health and safety by visiting www.hse.gov.uk/construction/index.htm

What can happen if health and safety is ignored?

A 20-year-old worker repairing a factory roof fell through a skylight and died. His employer had provided only two crawling boards and had not trained him properly. The company owner was convicted of manslaughter and health and safety offences, sentenced to 12 months in prison and banned from being a company director for three years.

See over for examples of good practice...

Further information

For information about health and safety ring HSE's Infoline Tel: 0845 345 0055 Fax: 0845 408 9566 Textphone: 0845 408 9577 e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com or write to HSE Information Services, Caerphilly Business Park, Caerphilly CF83 3GG.

This document is available web-only at: www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/site3.pdf.

HSE is grateful to the National Construction College for facilitating some of the images used in this sheet.

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Progress

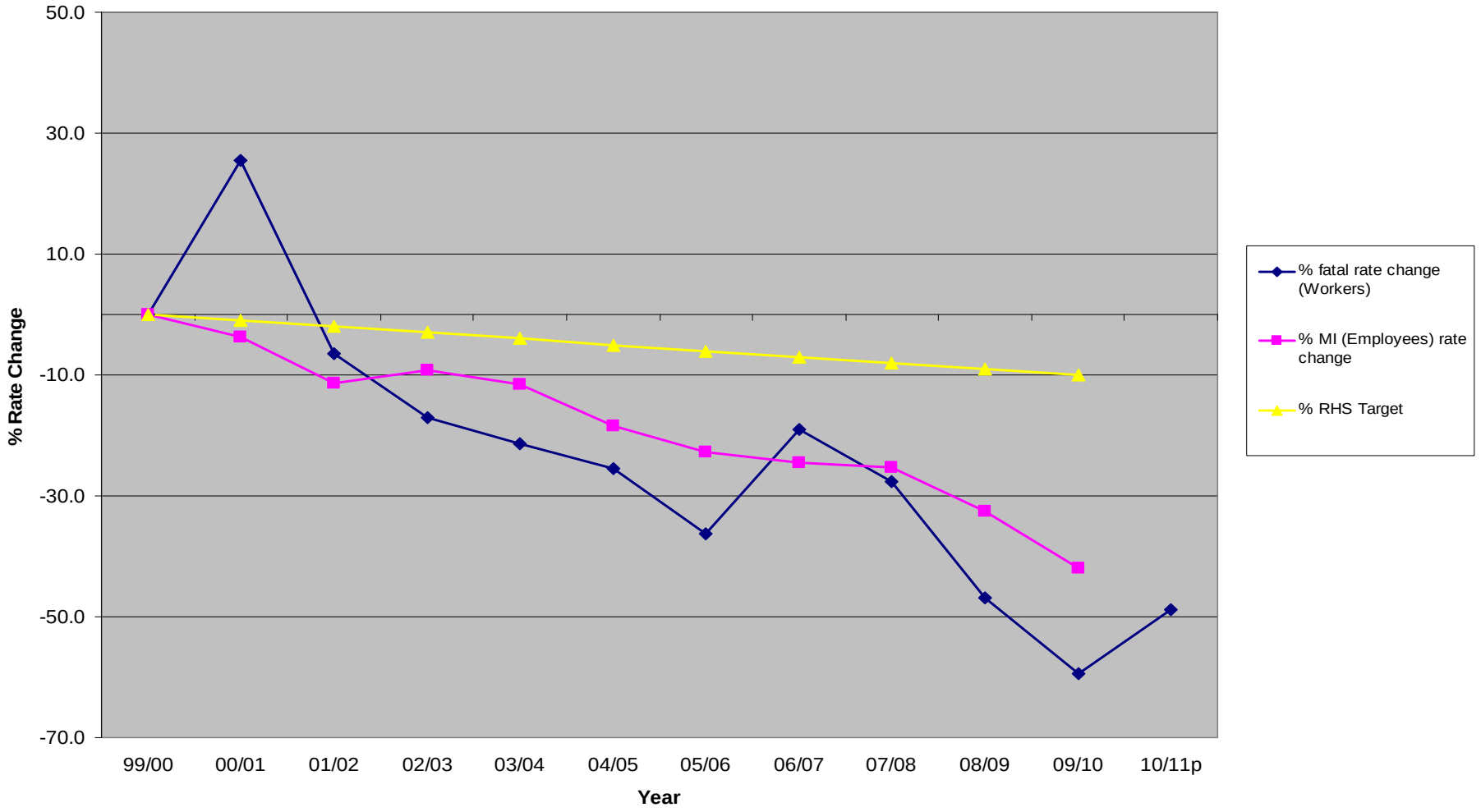
Fatal Accidents

- 2000/01 – 105, a rate 5.9 per 100,00 workers
- 2010/11 – 50, a rate of 2.4 per 100,000 workers

Major injuries

- 2000/01 - 4,303 and the equivalent rate 380.9 per 100,000 employees
- 2009/10p - 2,585 major injuries and a rate of 230.0

Progress


50.0
30.0
10.0
-10.0
-30.0
-50.0
-70.0
% Rate Change
99/00
00/01
01/02
02/03
03/04
04/05
05/06
06/07
07/08
08/09
09/10
10/11p
Year
% fatal rate change (Workers)
% MI (Employees) rate change
% RHS Target

Progress

But:

- Are the changes in culture sustainable?
- Impact of the economic downturn
- Perennial challenge of those outside the ‘organised’ industry
- Health issues

Keys to success

- Understanding the industry and its mechanisms
- Securing leadership by risk creators
- Leadership from within the industry
- Clarity of purpose
- Outcome led approach
- Leverage by influencing at the right time and at the right level
- Traction through the supply chain
- Working together in partnership
- Inspection core to delivery but targeted
- Broad range of interventions