

Topic: HSE Net Zero Hub Programme

Discussion points

- The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Net Zero Hub Programme was set up to anticipate and solve the health and safety challenges of the new technologies that will be needed to fulfil the government's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.
- Historically, legislation has trailed health and safety incidents, however the HSE's Net Zero Hub Programme is intended to take a pro-active approach, enabling innovation. HSE's programme coordinates research, policy, and regulatory activities in relation to net zero technologies to ensure a consistent approach, engaging government, industry and other key stakeholders in the process.
- The range of technologies considered by the HSE's Net Zero Hub Programme includes low carbon materials, hydrogen, bioenergy, renewables, batteries, fusion energy and carbon capture, considering risks across the asset or product lifecycle.
- HSE has developed a decision-making framework for net zero technologies which considers such factors as industry scale, technology novelty and potential harm to determine the appropriate regulatory approach by HSE, which could be passive at one end of the scale, through developing standards and guidance, to specific regulation.
- An example of the application of the above framework concerns the adoption of carbon dioxide into the Pipelines Safety Regulations for which a consultation is ongoing

Key takeaways

- The HSE Net Zero Hub Programme is pro-actively addressing the health and safety challenges of a range of emerging technologies that will be needed to meet the government's commitment to net zero by 2050
- HSE has developed a framework for its decision-making on net zero technologies which supports a proportionate regulatory approach depending on such factors as the potential for harm and technology novelty

Useful links

[HSE Safe Net Zero](#)

[HSE Business Plan 2025-26](#)

[Regulatory proposals for Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage and offshore hydrogen production](#)