



PRESS RELEASE

QBE PARTNERS WITH HEALTH & SAFETY EXECUTIVE ON ESTATES EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

London, 7 June 2010

QBE, the specialist business insurer, today announces that it has partnered with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) and the South East Stakeholder Forum on its Estates Excellence Initiative to promote the importance of risk management in commercial health and safety practice.

The Estates Excellence Initiative was designed in response to the strategy produced by the HSE in June 2009, 'The Health and Safety of Great Britain \ Be part of the solution', and is a key element of the HSE's ongoing drive to refresh and improve health and safety practice across Great Britain.

The initiative is currently being piloted with selected industrial estates in six areas of the South East, and has been created to help business owners and landlords improve health and safety on their sites.

The focus is on identifying knowledge gaps, providing on-site training and guidance and bringing businesses together through support networks and communities. QBE will support these activities by providing advice on risk management and making a business case for best practice at events held by the HSE for large firms from each industrial estate.

Heather Bryant, Project Director of Estates Excellence, HSE, said, "We very much welcome the involvement of QBE in this ground breaking initiative. Employers and businesses want to get health and safety right but have a lot on their plate, particularly in the current climate.



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“Estates Excellence helps address all the commonly asked about areas of health and safety and risk management, and brings free practical advice and support to businesses.”

Philip Bladon, Team Manager, Casualty Risk Management, QBE European Operations, said, “This is an exciting opportunity for us to develop awareness of the ways in which businesses can dramatically improve operations and prevent long-term problems by taking the time to identify and mitigate business risks. At QBE we are committed to sharing our knowledge and experience of best practice risk management and health & safety, and how this translates to improving claims frequency, severity and defensibility. We are proud to support the HSE with this initiative.”

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors**About QBE**

QBE Insurance Group is Standard & Poor's 'A+' rated and is one of the world's leading international insurers and reinsurers, headquartered in Sydney, Australia. We operate out of 47 countries across the globe, with a presence in all key insurance markets, and are lead underwriters within our chosen markets, setting rates and conditions. For the year ended 31 December 2009, the company underwrote gross written premium totalling £7,241.86 million and held shareholders' funds of £5,670.07 million.

QBE's European Operations, which accounts for 35% of QBE Group turnover, is a leading specialist in London market and European commercial lines business. Active in both the Lloyd's and company market, QBE offers considerable diversity to the broking community, via four product-focused underwriting divisions – casualty & motor, property, marine & energy, reinsurance & specialist - all operations have the ability to write on both Lloyd's and company market paper.

QBE is proud to be the Official Insurance Partner of the Guinness Premiership and England Rugby. Our partnerships with two elite properties in the sport will allow QBE's brand to continue to develop and business to grow.

**About The Health and Safety Executive**

The Health and Safety Executive is Britain's national regulator for workplace health prevent death, injury and ill health. It does so through research, information a training, new or revised regulations and codes of practice, and working with local inspection, investigation and enforcement. www.hse.gov.uk