

Title	CRR 325/2001: Root causes analysis: Literature review	
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Executive Summary	<p>In 1991 HSE published Successful Health and Safety Management, HSG65, ISBN 0 7176 1276 7, which described a model for health and safety management. This was followed in 1993 by The Costs of Accidents at Work, HSG96, ISBN 0 7176 1343 7, which both analysed the costs of individual accidents at 5 sites over a 3 month period and discussed the background to the economic argument for good health and safety using loss control principles. The analysis confirmed earlier work by Heinrich and others on building accident pyramids, whereby a small number of fatal/serious accidents is underpinned by a much larger number of minor injuries and non injury damage occurrences.</p> <p>HSE subsequently commissioned WS Atkins to investigate if the work in these two publications could be linked – could the costs of accidents be clearly identified and linked back to specific management failures? If it could this would enable organisations to target improvement effort in a cost effective way by concentrating on well defined areas of failure. This should reduce both overall costs and accident numbers.</p> <p>The work involved developing and trialling two major methodologies – one for capturing data on costs of accidents, which was simpler and more user friendly than the one in the original HSG96 publication, while the other was to develop a root causes analysis tool from first principles. It was for this purpose that the present literature review was undertaken – something which had never been done comprehensively before. It is considered of sufficient interest in its own right to publish separately as a Contract Research Report. The original work was completed in 1995 but has been updated to cover new products up to the end of 1998.</p>	
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