



**EASTWOOD
& PARTNERS**
INSURANCE BROKERS

Health & Safety quarterly bulletin

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Eastwood and Partners Limited Insurance Brokers

Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act

- The HSE has published a revised edition of the guide to the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 for employees and their representatives it is available at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hse39.pdf

Training

We are able to offer CIEH courses in **Manual Handling awareness, Risk Assessment Level 2 and 3 and Workplace Health Safety and Welfare level 1, 2 and 3**

We can also prepare bespoke courses to meet your needs.

Business Continuity Planning

We can assist you by guiding you in preparing your Business Continuity Plan



ARE YOU COMPLYING WITH THE FIRE SAFETY ORDER?

The fire safety order has been in place for 5 years now, before that there were a number of other regulations dealing with the fire issues.

The need to undertake FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS were contained within the previous regulations along with many other requirements for fire safety.

Why is it then that many companies still have problems in dealing with fire safety. Basic actions such as good housekeep-

Fire Safety Order

ing and regular checks of their systems would address many issues in a suitable manner.

A fire risk assessment is not always a difficult task and the guide documents issued to support the Fire Safety Order contain a simple single page document enabling persons to undertake a basic fire risk assessment.

Many companies should be capable of undertaking basic fire risk assessments by utilising this simple to follow document, but for some reason do not.

Failing to do this leaves them in breach of current legal requirements and open to possible prosecution.

The fire services are still willing to help with guidance to those who ask for it so there is really

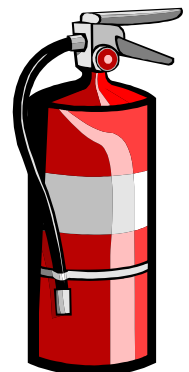
no reason for not complying.

Saving lives should be a high priority, and with minimal cost and a little thought as to how to manage the risks present within the workplace lives need not be put at risk.

So ask yourselves if there was a fire can we get people out quickly and safely? If not why not and what can be done to improve the situation.

If after you have done this you still have problems

SEEK HELP



Do You have a Safe System of work?

Many accidents that occur in the work place can often be attributed to a failure of a safe system of work.

Systems of work should not be considered as a separate health and safety issue but part of the overall working practice to undertake the job effectively.

Taking this approach will not only enable you to do the job the best way but also the safest.

Why should you bother?

Well, lets face it, if you don't have a safe system of work and an employee is injured as a result, you can face serious fines and high costs which could cause serious cash flow issues.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act

you, the employer, have a duty to ensure that persons in your employ are capable of undertaking their work without risk to themselves and others.

To ensure this you will have to establish a safe system of work and also ensure that employees are suitably trained to enable them to follow the procedure as laid down in the safe system of work.

An example of such is a person being asked to guide a vehicle while reversing, this would seem a simple enough task, but without having been provided with suitable instructions on the potential risks and how these are to be avoided the employer could be found in breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Safe systems of work are developed as a result of risk assessments being carried out of the work that is required to be done.

(The undertaking of risk assessments is a

legal requirement under the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999).

Yet again simple practices like switching off a piece of equipment before undertaking basic maintenance or repair should be part of office Safe Working Systems, and could reduce the risk of DEATH!!!

IF YOU NEED HELP CONTACT

Mario or Kevin



POINTS OF INTEREST



They came, They saw, They conkered!!

In a bid to show that health and safety has never 'banned' conkers MP's from all parties gathered in Westminster for a charity conker shoot out at the end of October.

The conker challenge was organized by The Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) as

part of its 'stop the myth' campaign in an effort to re-buff the image that 'elf and safety is trying to stop people enjoying themselves, instead the aim is to remind the public that health and safety isn't a killjoy campaign designed to ban people's fun but a necessary safeguard against injuries and possible death. Too many pastimes have reportedly been 'banned' in the UK with health and safety taking the rap.....like children being told to wear goggles to play conkers by an over cautious head teacher for example.

IOSH president Nattasha Freeman says "it's time to stop health and safety being used as a convenient, catch all excuse and appreciate that it's there to be used to save lives, not ruin them"

And Westminster's king of conkers....

A hugely chuffed Bob Russell, Liberal Democrat MP for Colchester.

Recent cases

Fatal fall from Scaffold

AN electrical installations company has been fined £160,000 after a workman fell to his death while DISMANTLING a mobile tower scaffold, the Magistrates court in Chichester heard that the county council had contracted the company to carry out high-level maintenance to lighting and heating appliances at a High School.

To enable the work to be undertaken an employee of the company had erected a mobile tower scaffold, and had only put edge protection on the top platform and not on the intermediary levels, on completion of the work the same employee undertook to dismantle the scaffold, with one employee on the ground transporting the dismantled sections back to the van.

As he was attempting to remove one of the intermediate sections, he fell from the scaffolding landing on the floor some 5 meters below, the emergency services were called but he was pronounced dead at the scene as a result of serious head injuries.

The company he worked for appeared in court and pleaded guilty to breaching regs.4(1)(b) and 4(1)(c) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and as well as the fine were ordered to pay FULL costs of £24,595. The HSE pointed out that it was important that all tower scaffolds are erected and dismantled correctly and must be provided with suitable edge protection at all platforms.

Firm fined for allowing an employee to work off a pallet on a lift truck

A Cheshire based firm has been fined after HSE inspectors saw an employee of the company being lifted up by a forklift truck more than two meters to fix a bracket on the wall.

Bosses pleaded guilty to breach of Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act and were fined £6,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,285.

This is prime example of where safe system of work should have been in place for working at height as well as for correct use of a Forktruck.

Employee receives £22,000 for back injury

The individual was employed to deliver newspapers and leaflets in the Northumberland area and injured his back as a result of improperly loaded newspapers which had moved during transport.

He had to move the papers around manually more than would have been necessary and due to the restricted space in the van and the awkward position of the pallets and newspapers injured his back.

He sustained damage to the cervical spine affecting the top of his back, right arm and shoulder and triggered a previously undetected back problem

News

The HSE Campaign ASBESTOS - the hidden killer is to be re-launched

The first campaign was Launched in October 2008 following a regional pilot in the North West .

The HSE aim to keep the message hitting home. The new campaign will start on November 2nd and run for four weeks and will include:

National radio and press adverts
PR activity using real life case studies

HSE Recent Publications

Asbestos Essentials: A task manual for building, maintenance and allied trades on non-licensed asbestos work HSG210 £12.95 ISBN 978 07176 6263 0

Warehousing and Storage: A guide to health and safety (Second edition) HSG 218 £14.50 ISBN 978 07176 6225 8

Fire Safety risk assessment: Animal premises and stables £12.00 ISBN 978 185112884 6

Managing the cause of work-related stress: a step-by-step approach using the Management Standards. Second edition £10.95 ISBN 978 07176 6273 9

HSE Books can be ordered by Phone on 01787 881165 or by post, fax or e-mail

From the HSE myth of the month: Students are banned from throwing mortar boards.

The Reality
Health and Safety law doesn't stop graduates having fun and celebrating their success in the time-honoured fashion.

The chance of being injured by a flying mortar board is incredibly small, and when the concern is actually about the hats being returned in good condition, it's time to stop blaming health and safety