

CILF Newsletter

Cleaning Industry Liaison Forum

Issue 4
Spring 2009

Shattered Lives 2009 - The award-winning campaign continues

Slips and trips are the most common cause of serious workplace injury and shatter people's lives. The cost to British Society is around £611 million a year and the high number of slips and trips remain a stubborn and significant problem.

Shattered Lives - launched a year ago - is one of the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) most ambitious campaigns and is possibly the most successful of its type. HSE targeted five sectors, where incidents of slips and trips were most prevalent. The campaign moved into its second phase in February 2009, continuing with new adverts and a clear focus on promoting action in all workplaces.

Cleaning is undertaken in all premises. Effective floor cleaning is a key control measure as it affects the surface properties of the floor, the safety of those walking across them (including cleaners themselves), minimises contamination and ensures adequate levels of hygiene. Cleaning removes the contamination and obstacles, but it can also introduce them!

To help business to take action to reduce slip accidents, including improving their cleaning techniques, and better manage the risks to prevent these devastating accidents, HSE has developed a new and exciting E-tool called STEP (Slips and Trips E-learning Package).

STEP is an interactive programme providing practical guidance and learning on the risks of slips and trips. It includes advice on flooring and cleaning at three levels (introductory, intermediate and advanced) in an attractive, easily accessible and innovative way. The tool is free to use on the HSE website www.hse.gov.uk/slips/step and is also available as a DVD from HSE Books for the cost of £5.00 + VAT.

Access HSE's 'Shattered Lives' homepage to find out more about the campaign and sign up to the e-bulletin for future updates at www.hse.gov.uk/shatteredlives

For more information on the importance of floor cleaning take a look at our guidance sheet www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/web/slips02.pdf



HSE strategy for UK health and safety system

HSE began consulting on a new long-term strategy in December 2008 which identifies goals in the following key areas:

- the need for strong leadership;
- building competence;
- involving the workforce;
- creating healthier, safer workplaces;
- customising support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs);
- avoiding catastrophe; and
- taking a wider perspective.

Full details on how you can contribute can be found at: www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/index.htm



Safety and health awareness day

The Cleaning Industry Liaison Forum, in partnership with Tayside Contracts, will be hosting another safety and health awareness day, this time in Perth, Scotland, on Wednesday 1 April. The event is aimed at cleaning supervisors who have to make day-to-day operational decisions.

It will focus on practical advice on five main topics:

- risk assessment;
- slips and trips;
- musculoskeletal injuries (like back pain);
- machinery safety; and
- training and competence.

To secure a place please contact:

melanie.brown@tayside-contracts.co.uk or phone 01382 834111

First aid at work - Issue 5

This issue of the newsletter for first aid at work training providers updates you on fees for 2009/10, implementation of the changes to first-aid training, the HSE logo, access to contact details and post-approval monitoring (PAM) visits.

Details can be found at:
www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/fawnewsletter1208.pdf

Asthma at work

Asthma at work - your charter sets out ten recommendations to reduce the impact of asthma in the workplace.

Key recommendations in the new charter include:

- creating smoke-free workplaces;
- protecting employees from triggers and from substances that might cause people to develop asthma;
- increasing health monitoring where employees are exposed to substances that are known to increase the risk of developing asthma.

More information on the charter can be found at:
www.asthma.org.uk/workplacecharter



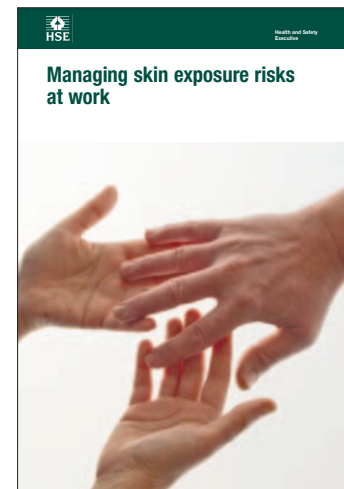
Leadership action for directors and board members

This useful document produced jointly by the HSE and the Institute of Directors sets out an agenda for the effective leadership of health and safety. It provides a four-point agenda for embedding the essential health and safety principles, a summary of legal liabilities, and a checklist of key questions for leaders. Details can be found at:
www.hse.gov.uk/leadership

Managing skin exposure risks at work

This new publication is available from HSE Books (HSG 262, ISBN 978 0 7176 6309 5, £8.95).

Many employers do not realise they have legal duties to assess the health risks from skin exposure to hazardous substances at work. This book can help you comply with those duties by preventing or controlling exposure to the hazards by using and maintaining suitable controls.



There is advice on assessing and managing risks, reducing contact with harmful materials, choosing the right protective equipment and skin care products, and checking for early signs of skin disease. See www.hsebooks.com/Books/

Selecting protective gloves

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) essentials guidance sheet on selecting protective gloves has been updated.

Details can be found at:
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/s101.pdf