

# CILF Newsletter

Cleaning Industry Liaison Forum

Issue 5  
Summer 2009

## Work-related stress – together we can tackle it

Stress at work is a big problem, but together we can successfully manage and prevent it. HSE can help you prevent work-related stress and comply with the law.

- What is work related stress?
- How can I start dealing with my stress?
- How can my organisation tackle work-related stress – Management Standards?

Full details are available at: [www.hse.gov.uk/stress](http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress)



## Additional slip resistance testing of footwear by HSE/HSL – April 2009

HSE has updated the table presented in the report HSL/2007/33 *Further slip-resistance testing of footwear for use at work*, which was published in May 2007. The ongoing programme of testing has generated results for a further 20 footwear samples. Six of these are new in this most recent update.

Full details of the testing procedures followed, along with explanations and discussions of the results, can be found in the original report.

The new table includes both the information previously reported, and the additional test results. **It is important that the new table is interpreted within the context of the original report and not used as a 'stand alone' document.**

To view the updated information visit:  
[www.hse.gov.uk/slips/additionalfootwear.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/additionalfootwear.htm)

## The health and safety law poster

As from 6 April 2009, HSE is publishing new versions of its approved health and safety poster and leaflet.

The new versions are modern, eye-catching and easy to read. They set out in simple terms, using numbered lists of basic points, what employers and workers must do, and tell you what to do if there is a problem.

Employers can, if they wish, continue to use their existing versions of the poster and leaflet until 5 April 2014, as long as they are readable and the addresses of the enforcing authority and the Employment Medical Advisory Service are up to date. This information can be obtained from HSE's Infoline on 0845 345 0055.

The leaflet that employers can give to workers, instead of displaying the poster, will be in the form of a pocket card that is better suited to the workplace. These will also be available from 6 April 2009.

As from 6 April 2009 it will only be possible to buy the new law poster and obtain the new pocket cards.

Full details can be found at:  
[www.hse.gov.uk/business/law.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/business/law.htm)



# Hospital clean up

An army of 600 new hospital cleaners is to be recruited after the Scottish Government allocated extra funds.

The aim, representing over £5 million extra investment in cleaning, is to ensure all Scottish health boards meet the highest possible cleaning standards as part of the government's drive to tackle hospital infections.



Health Secretary, Nicola Sturgeon, said the recruitment of 600 extra cleaners would also provide badly-needed jobs for the Scottish economy.

Ms Sturgeon said: 'Ensuring high standards of cleanliness is a simple yet effective way to minimise the spread of infections.'

'This is part of the government's continuing drive to stamp out hospital superbugs and reassure people about the quality of care they will receive should they need hospital treatment.'

'But more cleaners won't just improve cleanliness in our hospitals – by providing 600 jobs it will also give the economy a shot in the arm at this difficult time.'

Today's news follows last year's announcement that there would be no further privatisation of hospital cleaning and catering services anywhere in Scotland.

Existing contracts will be allowed to run their course, but health boards have been told not to extend or renew agreements with private firms.

The additional funding will be sufficient to fund 600 extra staff in a mixture of full-time and part-time posts, based on the current distribution of full and part-time positions in the domestic workforce.

The Scottish Government is investing £54 million (over three years) in a range of initiatives designed to tackle HAIs. These include an MRSA screening programme, prudent prescribing of antibiotics, zero tolerance on hand hygiene and a Healthcare Environment Inspectorate to carry out unannounced inspections of hospitals.

The full article can be viewed at:  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/04/17115826](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/04/17115826)

## Catch it, Bin it, Kill it

### Respiratory and hand hygiene campaign

Employers and employees should always practice good personal hygiene measures – use a disposable tissue to control coughs/sneezes, dispose of it appropriately and wash your hands before eating, drinking etc. In addition at the current time, you should:

- advise your staff to stay at home if they are sick with flu-like symptoms and have good reason to believe, based on HPA guidance, that they may have been exposed to the swine flu virus; and
- send home any employees who are displaying flu-like signs/symptoms in the situation described above.

For further information about swine flu please visit the Health Protection Agency (HPA) website.

### Use of face masks

The number of people in public places who are displaying symptoms is likely to be limited.

Therefore, it should not be necessary for workers to wear facemasks routinely when in contact with the general public.

For certain occupations and activities where there is an increased likelihood of exposure (eg healthcare workers), HSE's guidance is that fluid-repellent surgical face masks offer a barrier to minimise contact with the mouth and nose but do not offer protection against aerosols.

For further information about how to decide when facemasks might be required in the workplace, and how to use and safely dispose of them, go to the Department of Health website: Pandemic flu guidance for businesses.

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_080839](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_080839)



# Worker involvement

Health and safety at work is about protecting your employees and visitors from harm or illness. The best way to do this is to involve your employees. This website shows you how.

- Get the basics
- Are you a health and safety representative?



## Involving your workforce

### *Prepare*

- Why you should talk to your employees about health and safety.
- What the law says and how it applies to your workplace.
- How to gain commitment from the business and your workforce.

### *Plan*

- How to involve your workforce in the best way.
- What you should consult your workforce about.
- When you should consult so that you do it in good time.

### *Consult*

- What your duties are when consulting representatives.
- Methods of involving your employees.
- How to set up a Health and Safety Committee and make it work well.

### *Improve*

- Monitoring performance.
- Reviewing progress.
- Knowing what to do when things become challenging.

Information and resources are available at:  
[www.hse.gov.uk/involvement](http://www.hse.gov.uk/involvement)

## Slips, trips and falls from height e-bulletin

Receive the latest news and information on slips, trips and falls from height, including campaign updates, in a free regular email newsletter.

To subscribe go to: [www.hse.gov.uk/slips/ebulletin](http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/ebulletin)