

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS UPDATE

BACKGROUND

1. This paper introduces a health and safety news update, which is attached as an Appendix.

SUMMARY

2. This paper introduces a health and safety news update advising members of health and safety developments that have taken place since the 48th meeting. The news update now also includes progress with EC Directives of significance to shipyards, including some developments that have been awaited for some time.

ACTION

3. This paper will be 'below the line' at the meeting. Members are asked to note the contents of the news update and to raise any queries regarding the update in 'any other business' at the 49th meeting.

APPENDIX

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS UPDATE 11/03

1. HSE's Manufacturing Sector has compiled the following description of some of the developments that have occurred in the health and safety field. For a regular update on recent developments see the "What's new" section of HSE's web site at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/new/index.htm> A fortnightly list of new HSE publications is also available at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/flist/> Advice on occupational health and safety is also available from the HSE Infoline on 08701 545500.

New Features on the HSE Web Site

2. The Manual Handling Assessment Chart (MAC) to help managers identify high risk manual handling jobs has been launched <http://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/mac/index.htm> HSE, 2003. (INDG383) Single copies free from HSE Books; available in packs of 10 at ISBN 0717627411; £5.00 for 1 pack; £4.00 for 22-4v packs; £3.00 for 5-9 packs; £2.00 for 10-49 packs; £1.50 for 50 or more packs.

Issue 52, the latest edition of the Toxic Substances Bulletin is available at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/toxicsubstances/issue52.htm>

Free Leaflets – New

3. Noise control : determining the best option
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/noisesources.pdf>

4. Top 10 noise control techniques
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/top10noise.pdf>

5. INDG381 Passport schemes a good practice guide
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg381.pdf>

6. Driving at work. Managing work-related road safety INDG382
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg382.pdf>

7. Choosing a welding set? Make sure you can handle it INDG390. Includes a poster (not on web version). <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg390.pdf>

8. Preventing falls from boom-type mobile elevating work platforms. HSE Information Sheet MISC614
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/misc614.pdf>

9. A list of publications relevant to the new duty to manage asbestos
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/asbestoscatalogue.pdf>

Free Leaflets – Revised

10. Safe work in confined spaces INDG258

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg258.pdf>

11. Retrofitting of roll-over protection structures, restraining systems and their attachment points to mobile work equipment. HSE Information Sheet MISC

175. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/misc175.pdf>

Research reports

12. Case Examples: Business Benefits Arising From Health & Safety

Interventions http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/hsl_pdf/2003/hsl03-13.pdf

Consultation Documents

13. Consultation Document 189 - Proposals to introduce a new occupational exposure limits (OEL) framework Consultation ends 31 December 2003

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd189.htm>

14. Consultation Document 190 Proposals for new Control of Vibration at Work Regulations implementing the Physical Agents (Vibration) Directive (2002/44/EC) Hand-arm Vibration. Consultation ends 31 March 2004. Draft guidance will also be put out for consultation.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd190.htm>

15. Consultation Document 191 Proposals for new Control of Vibration at Work Regulations implementing the Physical Agents (Vibration) Directive (2002/44/EC) Whole-body vibration. Consultation ends 31 March 2004. Draft guidance will also be put out for consultation.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd191.htm>

16. Consultation Documents are also as hard copies from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2WA, tel: 01787-881165 or fax: 01787-313995.

EC Directives

17. News about European Directives is provided in Euronews. This is issued every 2 months as part of the HSC Newsletter and is also available on the

HSE web site at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/europe/euronews.htm>

Physical Agents (Electromagnetic Fields) Directive

18. Agreement on this Directive at the Council of Ministers was reached on 20 October. The Directive has now gone to the European Parliament for comment.

Chemical Agents Directive (CAD)
Explosive Atmospheres Directive (ATEX)

19. These Directives were implemented as amendments to COSHH and other health regulations and as the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR). Four ACOPs for DSEAR were published on 12 November 2003 covering the following topics:

- design of plant, equipment and workplaces L134 ISBN 0 7176 2199 5;
- storage of dangerous substances L135, ISBN 0 7176 2200 2;
- control and mitigation measures L136, ISBN 0 7176 2201 0; and
- safe maintenance, repair and cleaning procedures L137, ISBN 0 7176 2202 9.

A final general ACOP will be published in early December.

All are available price £9.50 each from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2WA, tel: 01787-881165 or fax: 01787-313995. Priced publications are also available from good booksellers.

Physical Agents (Noise) Directive

20. A Consultation Document is still expected in March 2004 for Regulations to come into force in February 2006

Physical Agents (Vibration) Directive

21. Consultation documents were issued on 17 November. See also 'Consultation' above. The Regulations will come into force July 2005.

Use Of Work Equipment: 2nd Amendment

22. This Directive will be implemented as the Temporary Work at Height Regulations. The Consultation Document is now expected in early December with a 4 month period allowed for comments. The regulations will come into force in Autumn 2004.

Miscellaneous

Woodworking Machines

23. The five-year transition period for the fitting of brakes and limited cutter projection tooling to certain woodworking machines, as required by the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1988 (PUWER 98), ends on 5 December 2003.

The requirement for braking devices applies to circular saw benches, dimension saws, powered and hand-fed cross cut saws (unless there is no risk of contact with the blade during run down), single-end and double-end

tenoning machines, and combined machines incorporating a circular saw and/or tenoning attachment.

Braking devices are not considered necessary where:

- machines have a run down time of 10 seconds or less;
- the effect of braking could be detrimental to the integrity of the machinery, for example where DC injection braking would cause the motor to burn out; or
- machines have been built in conformity with a harmonised European Standard where the standard does not require braking devices.

5 December 2003 also marks the deadline for users of woodworking machines to change over to limited cutter projection tooling. It is possible to use this type of tooling on hand-fed vertical spindle moulders; single-end tenoners, high speed routers and other machines onto which a moulding tool can be fitted.