

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS UPDATE

SUMMARY

This paper introduces a health and safety update, which provides members with information on some of the developments that have happened in the health and safety field since the previous meeting.

BACKGROUND

1. New developments frequently occur in the health and safety field. To try and help keep members abreast of these changes, a health and safety news update is issued at SSHSCC meetings.
2. To provide members with a better opportunity to discuss any of these changes at the meetings a copy of the update will from now on be issued with the meetings' agendas.

ACTION

3. Members are asked to note the content of the attached update and at the 45th meeting to raise any queries that they may have in relation to any of the issues documented.

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS UPDATE – 08/02

The following is a description of some of the developments that have occurred in the health and safety field since 04/02 and has been compiled by HSE's Engineering and Utilities Sector (see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/fod/engship.htm> for contact details). 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> Advice on occupational health and safety is also available from the HSE Infoline on 08701 545500

The Department for Work and Pensions – responsibility for the HSE has been transferred to the Dept. for Work and Pensions. For further details see: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2002/c02035.htm>

HSE and HSC Business Plan for 2002/3 – has been published setting out the activities that will be taken forward. In particular, HSC will continue to develop the priority programmes of slips and trips, musculoskeletal disorders, stress, falls from a height and workplace transport, identified as the key areas that need to be tackled to achieve the Revitalising Health and Safety Targets. A copy of the business plan is available on the HSE Website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/action/content/plan.htm>

Ready reckoner – the HSC has launched a ready reckoner to help businesses work out how much work-related accidents and ill health are costing them. Health and safety failures currently cost Britain's employers up to £6.5 billion every year. The ready reckoner is particularly designed to help small and medium-sized business and is available both as a free leaflet (see below) and as an interactive website which can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/costs>

Enforcement Management Model (EMM) – the EMM is a framework, which helps HSE inspectors make enforcement decisions in line with the HSC Enforcement Policy Statement (EPS). The EPS sets out the principles inspectors should apply when determining what enforcement action to take in response to breaches of health and safety legislation. A copy of the EMM is available on the HSE Website at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/enforce/emm.pdf>

Asbestos – this month the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations (CAW) 2002 will introduce a duty to manage asbestos in premises. The duty to manage will require those in control of premises to: i) take reasonable steps to determine the location and condition of materials likely to contain asbestos; ii) presume materials contain asbestos unless there is strong evidence that they do not; iii) make and keep an up to date record of the location and condition of the asbestos containing materials (ACMs) or presumed ACMs in the premises; iv) assess the risk of the likelihood of anyone being exposed to fibres from these materials; v) prepare a plan setting out how the risks from the materials are to be managed; vi) take the necessary steps to put the plan into action; vii) review and monitor the plan periodically; and viii) provide information on the location and condition of the materials to anyone who is liable to work on or disturb them. The 'duty to manage asbestos' element of

the CAW Regulations 2002, which is planned to be promoted through a media event at the British Library on 3rd October 2002, will come into force in Spring 2004. HSE's free leaflet '[Managing asbestos in premises](#)' provides additional details of the proposed new duty. In further support of the making of the new duty HSE is providing an Approved Code of Practice together with extended management guidance. Both of these publications are planned to be available in September 2002. Further details can be found on the web page of HSE's Asbestos Risk Management Campaign at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos>

Fire Safety Legislation – The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has issued “A consultation document on the reform of fire safety legislation – Amending various Acts and statutory instruments to simplify, rationalise and consolidate the law with respect to fire safety in buildings in use.” The paper proposes that as far as possible, general fire safety legislation should be reformed to create one simple fire safety regime applying to all workplaces and non-domestic premises. The regime should be risk-assessment based with responsibility for fire safety resting with the person responsible for the premise. The regime adopting a similar approach to that of the Fire Precautions Workplace Regulations, which it will replace along with a number of other Regulations regarding fire. It is proposed that protection should be provided to persons inside a building and to those who may be affected by fire. This will require protection to be provided to non-employees and those in the vicinity of the premises. There is also a proposed requirement to maintain fire protection equipment and facilities for use by the fire brigade. It is proposed that the changes will be implemented from Spring 2004 and will be enforced by local Fire Authorities with the exception of nuclear installations and ships under repair and construction for which the enforcing authority will be HSE. A copy of the consultation paper is available on the Internet at: <http://www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/regulation/act/condocs.htm>

Or from Mark Coram, Fire Safety Reform Consultation, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU, to whom any comments on the proposals should be sent by 22 November 2002.

The Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2002 – came into force in May and replaced the Personal Protective Equipment (EC Directive) Regulations 1992 which have been revoked. The new Regulations consolidate amendments made to the earlier Regulations, including the recent extension to provide powers of prosecution to the Trading Standards Departments. The Regulations can be viewed for free on the HMSO website at: <http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/stat.htm>

Work Smart – is a HSE campaign, which through the development of a series of 45-second mini-documentaries seeks to minimise risks to health and safety at work. The documentaries, which can now be downloaded from HSE's web site feature employees' and employers' stories about accidents, near misses, hazards and risks to health and safety in the workplace. For further information see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/campaigns/worksmart/main.htm>

Euro Week for Safety and Health 2002 – action packs are now available to help participants plan their events for the week, which commences on 14/10

and focuses on stress. Nearly one in three of Europe's workers, more than 40 million people, reporting that they are affected by stress at work. For further information see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/euroweek/index.htm> or contact the Action pack helpline on 0800 085 0050.

Statistics of fatal injuries to workers – a fact sheet is now available providing the figures for fatal injuries to workers during 2001/02. The sheet provides the numbers and rates of fatal injury in industries, and the number by the main kinds of accident in which workers were fatally injured. The rate of fatal injury to workers has decreased by 15% to 0.88 in 2001/02 from 1.03 in 2000/01. Falls from a height, struck by moving/flying objects and struck by moving vehicles continue to be the three most common kinds of accidents accounting for 27%, 17% and 16% of fatal injuries to workers. Copies of the fact sheet and other fact sheets containing statistical information are available from <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/books.htm>

Occupational ill health age statistics: Information Sheet - provides details of an examination of data from four sources to assess whether there are differences in the occurrence of work-related illness between younger and older workers (or ex workers). Details of the sheet are available at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/2002/agefact.htm>

Noise and vibration – noise and vibration calculators are available on the web pages of HSE's Health Directorate. The calculators which can be used to help work out the overall daily exposure to noise and vibration can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/hthdir/noframes/noise.htm>
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/hthdir/noframes/vibrat.htm>

Internet advice – a new interactive website has been set up to help small businesses in the UK to understand and meet their health, safety and environment obligations. The website is presented by the Institution of Occupational Health and Safety and sponsored by Norwich Union and supported by HSE and Small Business Service. For more information see: <http://www.safestartup.org/>

<http://www.safetynews.co.uk> is an independently produced subscription-free internet source of daily news and information for anyone with an interest in workplace safety and health in Great Britain. It aims to provide “..a time-efficient and convenient means of staying abreast of new developments in occupational safety and health.” It is intended that the content of the website “..will provide information of use and interest to health and safety professionals and non-professionals alike, for whom an early flow of advice and information may help them better respond to changes affecting their workplace or organisation.” The website is produced by Ritchie Brown BSc, MIOSH

Small Firms Assistance Scheme (SFAS) – the HSE has launched a pilot grant scheme designed to help small firms improve their health and safety performance. The scheme will run until May 2003 and will be operated on behalf of HSE by the Small Business Service and Business Links. It will

operate in three regions – West Yorkshire, Essex, and Devon and Cornwall, which together represent the full range of industrial and rural small firms in Britain. The scheme will operate on a matched-funding basis. Eligible small firms will have access of up to 50 per cent funding (to a maximum of £1000), with the remainder of the cost being met by the firms themselves. The funding can be used to undertake health and safety training and/or access mentoring as follows: i) health and safety awareness raising seminars as part of the Business Link induction package to pre starts; ii) mentoring (advice and practical assistance with getting started on health and safety from a small business adviser) delivered on site to start ups; iii) a choice of mentoring and/or training to micro firms that have been established for longer than a year. The scheme is open to those thinking of starting up a business, new business start-ups and micro firms in the participating BL regions providing they have: i) fewer than 10 employees and ii) either an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 7m (£4, 499,004) or iii) an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 5m (£3,213,574) and iv) not more than 25% of the capital or voting rights owned by an enterprise which is not itself a Small Medium Enterprise (SME). For further information about the scheme and to apply for funding applicants should contact their local Business Link taking part in the pilot; West Yorkshire 0113 383 7733 Essex 01245 241400 Devon and Cornwall 0845 600 9966

Metalworking fluids – HSE In collaboration with the Engineering Employers' Federation is to hold a series of seminars to launch new guidance on the use of metalworking fluids. The main health concern associated with metalworking fluids is dermatitis, with around 200 cases reported each year - related to exposure to cutting oils and coolants. There is also an association between exposure to these fluids and respiratory effects, including bronchitis and asthma. The new guidance follows studies, which identified concerns with the practices used to control exposure to MWF in 31 engineering companies. Each of the seminars will have presentations covering the importance of fluid management and current good working practices. There will also be updates on new fluid and machining developments. At each seminar, a local business will present their story of how they are effectively managing these fluids and the associated benefits. The dates of the events are: Birmingham - 15 October, Barleythorpe (Nr Leicester) - 16 October, Sheffield - 17 October, Glasgow - 23 October, Cardiff - 24 October, Leeds - 30 October, Washington (Nr Newcastle) - 31 October, Newmarket - 5 November, London - 6 November, Belfast - 12 November, Manchester - 14 November. For booking details please contact Abigail Clow, Event Co-ordinator, EEF, Broadway House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9BR / fax 020 7976 8056 / email: aclow@eef-fed.org.uk Further information is also available from: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2002/e02149.htm>

The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 (CHIP 3) – came into force on 24 July implementing several European Community (EC) Directives, whose purpose is to make sure that people are properly informed about the dangers of chemicals at work and in the home. The main changes introduced by CHIP 3 are: i) environmental classification and labelling for preparations - the major change in this whole

package; ii) warning labelling on preparations not classified as sensitisers but containing small amounts of sensitising substances - a significant requirement for consumer products; iii) provision of safety data sheets on request to professional users of some non-classified preparations; iv) better guidance on preparation of safety data sheets; v) a more transparent labelling phrase for category 3 carcinogens; and vi) revised classifications for some 500 substances reflecting new information on their hazards. A significant number of chemicals are classified as dangerous for the first time under CHIP 3, and some existing classifications are revised; where classifications remain unchanged, many chemicals suppliers will in any case be affected by new requirements for safety data sheets. Further information is available from <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2002/c02030.htm>

HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDANCE DEVELOPMENTS

Published guidance

HSE – priced

The provision, use and maintenance of hygiene facilities for work with asbestos insulation, asbestos coating and asbestos insulating board – Guidance Note EH 47 ISBN 07176 22991 £5.00

Asbestos: typical locations for asbestos-containing materials (poster) ISBN 07176 23203 £7.50

The compilation of safety data sheets (Third edition) Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 CHIP3 – Approved Code of Practice – L130 ISBN 07176 23718 £7.95

Strategies to promote safe behaviour as part of a health and safety management system – is a contract research report published by HSE that aims to promote more widespread application of behavioural safety principles to improve health and safety. The report aims to provide the reader with an understanding of: i) the theory underpinning strategies to promote safe behaviour; ii) the key elements of programmes in use to promote safe behaviour; iii) how to use behavioural strategies to promote critical health and safety behaviours; and iv) how to integrate behavioural strategies into a health and safety management system. Copies of the report CRR430/2002 ISBN 0 7176 2352 1 price £15, are available online: <http://hsebooks.co.uk> or from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2WA, tel: 01787-881165 or fax: 01787-313995). HSE's Contract Research Reports are also available on the HSE website at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/content/crr/index.htm>

Initiative Evaluation Report Back in Work – HSE has published a report evaluating the results of 19 projects set up jointly between the Department of Health and HSE to develop ideas to tackle back pain in the workplace. The results show that a proactive partnership approach to managing back pain is effective. The key lessons that came out of the initiative included: i) early

treatment should be sought for back pain; ii) getting back to work quickly helps prevent chronic back pain; iii) it is important to adopt the correct posture when working; iv) all workplace equipment should be adjustable; v) clear information should be provided to employees about back care; and vi) health and safety policies should be implemented to cover all aspects of day-to-day work and should be reviewed regularly. Copies of the report CRR441/2002 ISBN 07176 23777, are available from HSE Books price £30 or from the HSE website at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/content/crr/index.htm>

HSE – free

Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969: a guide for employees and their representatives HSE39

Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969: a guide for employers HSE40

Use of LPG in small bulk tanks – Chemical Information Sheet No. 4 (available on the HSE Website at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/chis4.pdf>)

Safety in electrical testing: switchgear and control gear – Engineering Information Sheet No. 37 (available on the HSE Website at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/eis37.pdf>)

Safety in electrical testing at work: general guidance INDG354

Working alone in safety- controlling the risks of solitary work INDG73(Rev)

Using work equipment safely INDG229(rev1)

The safe use of gas cylinders INDG308(rev1)

The idiot's guide to CHIP - Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply Regulations 2002) INDG350

Why do I need a safety data sheet? INDG353

Read the label – how to find out if chemicals are dangerous INDG352

Reduce risks – cut costs – The real costs of accidents and ill health at work INDG355

Tower scaffolds – Construction Information Sheet No. 10 (Revision 3)

Respiratory sensitisers and COSHH - Breathe Deeply - an employers' leaflet on preventing occupational asthma INDG95(Rev2)

HSE Books Catalogue Summer 2002 (Cat 34/02/2) is now available on the HSE Website at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/sources/content/summer02.pdf>

HSE Books Video Catalogue is also available at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/videos/videocat.pdf>

Toxic Substance Bulletin Issue 48 (May) – is available on the HSE Website and amongst its contents is information on a direct reading instrument to obtain exposure data for isocyanates. The bulletin can be located at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/toxicsubstances/issue48.htm>