

First Aid Legislation



A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) review of the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 recently reinforced the opinion that the **"HSE will continue to strongly recommend that employers should consider the public when conducting their first aid needs assessment and provide first aid for them"**. This may therefore have a serious impact on the provision of First Aid within your workplace.

The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 require employers to provide **adequate and appropriate** equipment, facilities and personnel to enable first aid to be given to employees if they are injured or become ill at work. These Regulations apply to all workplaces including those with less than five employees and to the self-employed.

What is adequate will depend on the circumstances in the workplace. This includes whether trained first aiders are needed, what should be included in a first aid box and if a first aid room is needed. Employers should carry out an assessment of first aid needs to determine this. This assessment should identify the level of risk to their employees in carrying out their work duties, as well as others affected by their activities, and consider what first aid equipment, personnel (first aiders and appointed persons - see below) and facilities they need to provide. Careful consideration also needs to be given to mobile workers (ie: delivery drivers, tradesmen etc) and home workers.

An appointed person is someone you choose to take charge when a person is injured or falls ill, including calling an ambulance if required, and looking after the first-aid equipment, (restocking the first-aid box etc.). Appointed persons should not attempt to give first aid for which they have not been trained. **Remember that an appointed person should be available at all times whilst people are at work** - this may mean appointing more than one appointed person to cover shifts and multiple sites.

A first aider is someone who has undergone a training course in administering first aid at work and holds a current first aid at work certificate. The training has to have been approved by HSE. You may decide, following your first-aid assessment, that you need one or more first aiders. A first aider can undertake the duties of an appointed person.

For a full range of cut price HSE Compliant First Aid kits and First Aid notices, log onto our website and go to the **Safety Products** section for more information.

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£1,270.00 - This is The Average Cost of an Accident

Yes that's right, according to HSE, workplace accidents, no matter how small, costs **YOUR COMPANY** on average £1,270.00! This figure excludes the costs of lost business or damage to the company's reputation through, for example, being excluded from tender lists, higher insurance premiums and lawsuits. However, more serious accidents and injuries could easily result in costs to your company of many tens of thousands of pounds!



More and more companies are therefore starting to recognise the importance of good health and safety, and the financial difference it can make to their business. **Good health and safety is good business.** Companies have found that by improving workplace safety standards, it provides a financial benefit by increasing productivity and efficiency; reducing staff absence; reducing staff loss/turnover; improving the quality of work carried out and reducing the level of wastage.

Tackling the causes of accidental losses should not be seen as an unnecessary overhead but as an investment in your business. Cost-effective investment in health and safety is as valuable as any other investment in your company. For example, the HSE has quoted that South West Water has saved £2,546,000.00 through its accident prevention programme

Given that it is the start of the New Year, what better time is there for you to consider revitalising the management of health and safety within your workplace. Safety Services Direct can provide assistance in this respect by providing a comprehensive **Safety Advisory Service** that companies can use to help manage workplace safety and demonstrate their commitment to health & safety within the workplace.

PPE, First Aid Kits, Posters & More

Did you know that our online shop now stocks a range of high quality, essential health and safety products and equipment at low, low prices?

Our current range includes first aid kits, PPE, accident books & posters, other supplies are available on request. Visit our website for more information.

Delay to CDM2

Safety Services Direct Ltd

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(local rate charges apply at all times)

Happy New Year

All of the team at Safety Services Direct Ltd would like to wish all of our clients and customers a Happy, Safe and Healthy New Year!



MORE RECORD FINES

Following the recent record fine imposed on Transco, the second largest fines ever imposed for offences committed under health & safety law have recently been levied. The prosecutions over the Hatfield Rail crash has resulted in Balfour Beatty receiving a fine of £10 million, whilst Network rail were fined £3.5 million, with costs of £600,000 being shared equally between the two companies.



The HSE have recently stated that work on the analysis of the responses for the recently issued CDM Consultative Document has been delayed, this is due to an enquiry from the European Commission about the way aspects of the European Directive, that underpins much of the UK's existing and proposed construction regulations, are implemented. The preparation of a response to the EC is expected to take some time for the HSE to prepare and it is therefore impossible for them to predict the outcome or extent of any delay. However industry sources suggest that the delay is likely to add at least another 6 months to the process, which means that the earliest possible date for the implementation of the revised CDM Regulations will be Spring 2007. However, this is assuming that everything goes to plan and that neither the EC or the HSE themselves cause any further delays.

Furthermore on the 6th December 2005, the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) decided that the HSE should only produce a 'shortish' Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) to accompany the revised regulations, but that the specific guidance should be produced by industry bodies as opposed to the HSE. This means that the HSE would not provide interpretation, best practice guidance or the HSE 'sales pitch' that is provided with the current ACoP and the recent Consultative Document. This may of course lead to more confusion and misunderstanding over the requirements of the revised regulations - Only time will tell!!

New Asbestos Reg's

A consultative document and draft Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) have been issued by the Health and Safety Commission (HSC). The documents have been issued prior to the implementation of the **Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2006**, which are due to be implemented in April 2006.

The draft regulations propose a single tighter control limit for work with all types of asbestos, as well as specifying specific training requirements for those working with asbestos and a hierarchy of controls that should be used to reduce and control exposure to asbestos. However, many in the industry have expressed concerns over proposals to deregulate some low risk activities where exposure to asbestos will only be "sporadic and low intensity" and below the control limit. One example is work on textured coatings containing asbestos, such as Artex, as new research has shown that the risk from removing these materials is one thousand times less than previously thought.

Another key aim of the **Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2006** is to bring together the existing Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002, the Asbestos (Licensing) Regulations 1983 (as amended) and the Asbestos (Prohibition) Regulations 1992 (as amended) into a single set of Regulations.

Latest Prosecutions & Fines

Inappropriate Use of a Forklift Truck

A pottery company was fined £10K under Section (2) of HASWA with £978 costs. An employee had been arranging goods inside a container, he was later lifted from the container on the forks of a forklift truck when he slipped and fell to the ground fracturing his ankle.

Traffic Management

A large construction company was fined £50K (plus costs of £14,710) after a worker was killed by a reversing forklift truck. The worker was killed when he walked away from the welfare cabin whilst using his mobile phone, he stepped into the path of the forklift and suffered multiple injuries resulting in his death. The court heard that the firm did not regularly review its traffic management system to take into account any changes, and that at the time of the accident a Banksman was not available.

Falls from Height

Two Edinburgh hotel groups have each been fined £400K in separate incidents involving fatal falls of guests. The first involved a guest who fell from a lift that had become stuck between floors. The guest had attempted to escape from the lift while staff waited for lift engineers to arrive, but fell down the shaft. It emerged in court that the lift had a history of unreliability and that the company had been advised to replace the control equipment, but this was never actioned. The second incident involved a guest falling 35 feet to her death from a third floor window.

Working at Height

A construction company was fined £16K after a worker fell nearly three metres. He was pointing brickwork in a bedroom and had to lean out over an empty unguarded stairwell. He fell through the stairwell and landed on the concrete floor below causing severe neck and head injuries. The accident could have easily been avoided by simple low cost fall protection measures.