



New Work at Height Reg's

In this issue:

New Work at Height Regulations 2005 1

New COSHH Requirements 1

CDM Consultation has Started 2

AsbestaPLAN Online 2

Safety Advisory Services 2

New Offices in South West England 2



NEW PRODUCTS

- Construction COSHH Assessments
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures for Offices
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures for Retail Organisations
- Health and Safety Policy and Procedures for Manufacturing Organisations



After many months of delay the new '**Work at Height Regulations 2005**' finally become law, in the UK, on the 6th April 2005. The Regulations:

- will apply to all occupational work at height where there is a risk of a fall liable to cause personal injury
- place duties on employers, the self-employed, and any person that controls the work of others (for example facilities managers or building owners)

The Regulations require duty holders to:

- ensure all work at height is properly planned and organised
- ensure those involved in work at height are **competent**
- carry out **risk assessments** for work at height
- ensure **appropriate work equipment** is selected and used
- ensure equipment for work at height, and the workplace itself, is properly **inspected and maintained** in a safe condition
- take account of the risks posed by **weather conditions**

Other key points include the **withdrawal of the '2m rule'** for construction activities. This means that **ALL** work at height must now be the subject of a suitable and sufficient **RISK ASSESSMENT**. The new Work at Height Regulations have also led to changes in the height of guardrails on scaffolds and other working platforms. The top rail must now be at a height of **at least 950mm**, as opposed to 910mm. As a result of this, the gap between the mid-rail and the top rail, or toe boards, must now **not exceed 470mm**.

New COSHH Requirements



The **COSHH Amendment Regulations 2004** have introduced a number of changes concerning the packaging and use of hazardous substances in the workplace.

The first changes were introduced in January this year with the intention of limiting the amount of Chromium VI present in cement based products. A requirement was also introduced for the provision of improved information and packaging to highlight the hazards associated with such products. It is intended these changes will help to reduce the incidence, and severity, of occupational allergic contact dermatitis, arising mainly from contact with wet cement. Trades such as bricklayers, tile layers, & concrete operatives are likely to be at most risk.

More wide ranging changes to the COSHH OEL (Occupational Exposure Limits) structure were also introduced on the 6th April 2005. This has seen the withdrawal of both OES's (Occupational Exposure Standards) and MEL's (Maximum Exposure Limits), which have been replaced by a single new standard known as a WEL (Workplace Exposure Limit). A revised and updated copy of the HSE publication EH40 is due to be published shortly and this will contain details of all new WEL's.

Following the enactment of the COSHH Amendment Regulations 2004, Safety Services Direct Ltd launched its Construction COSHH Assessments software package. This package is similar in nature to our popular Construction Risk Assessments package and provides a series of completed preliminary generic COSHH Assessments for some of the more commonly used products that are typically used by builders and contractors in the UK. Full details of our COSHH Assessments package can be found on our website.

Safety Services Direct Ltd

E-mail: info@SafetyServicesDirect.com

Web: www.SafetyServicesDirect.com

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE?

www.SafetyServicesDirect.com



Safety Services Direct to Open New Offices in South West England

As part of our continued success and planned programme of expansion we will shortly be opening our new offices in the South West of England.

From these offices we plan to roll out our comprehensive range of professional Health and Safety Consultancy and Advisory Services, whilst continuing to ensure our usual high standards of customer care and client service. **Keep an eye on our website for our updated contact details!**



CDM

Following the 10th anniversary of the CDM Regulations, the HSC has initiated a consultation process to revise and consolidate the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994 (CDM) and the Construction (Health Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996 (CHSW).

In the draft Regulations the HSC has proposed to:

- simplify the Regulations, to improve clarity;
- focus on planning and management, rather than paperwork;
- Allow greater flexibility to fit with a range of different contractual forms;
- strengthen the requirements regarding co-ordination and co-operation; and
- simplify the assessment of competence.

The consultation documents are available to download from the HSE website.

WEB ENABLED ASBESTOS DATABASE

New

Following the increasing success and popularity of our **AsbestaPLAN** and **AsbestaPLAN Plus** software packages for the surveying, management and risk assessment of asbestos containing materials, we are pleased to announce that we will shortly be launching an online internet based version of **AsbestaPLAN**.



The online version will enable asbestos surveyors to directly upload their survey data from their Pocket PC's to an online version of **AsbestaPLAN**. The database will be hosted on a secure server and only individuals with a valid passwords and usernames will be able to access the asbestos data sheets and register. The use of an internet based solution means that companies will be able to host their databases and asbestos registers centrally, whilst individuals in different offices, or different parts of the country will each be able to simultaneously view the same information. The online database will also afford companies greater control and security of their data by enabling users to have different editing rights, such as read-only or full editing rights. This feature could therefore enable companies to provide maintenance contractors and other staff with read-only access to the database.



The other major advantage of an online solution is that the management and updating of your asbestos information is greatly simplified and this can help duty holders to demonstrate to the HSE how they are continuing to comply with their:

'Duty to Manage Asbestos Containing Materials'.

Further details will be available on our website in the near future.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Regulation 7 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 requires every organisation in the UK to have access to **COMPETENT** Health and Safety advice?



Safety Services Direct Ltd can act as your company's competent person, providing Health and Safety advice and support; identifying your risks, and devising a Safety Management Action Plans that highlights areas where improvements may be needed. We can tailor a competent person package to suit your business adding extra services such as risk assessments; staff training; safety audits;

accident investigation; policy formation; development of health and safety plans; the provision of Planning Supervisor services and the assessment of specialist risks.

At Safety Services Direct we specialise in providing such services to small and medium sized companies for whom the employment of an in-house Health and Safety Advisor can not be economically justified.

If you are a contractor or designer intending to register on the 'Chas' or 'Safe Contractor' schemes, we may be able to assist you with your application, and/or provide you with access to competent Health & Safety advice, as required by such schemes.

We can provide a solution for every business and with prices starting from as little as £350 per year for our Safety Advisory Service, can you afford not to be with us?