

July 2005



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Please note our
NEW phone No.
08453 66 99 33

CDM Proposals July Deadline

For anyone interested in making comments on the HSC's proposed revisions to the CDM Regulations, you will need to act quickly as the formal consultation period closes at the end of July! Visit the HSE Website for more details.

New Vibration Reg's

On Wednesday 6 July 2005, the new Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 will come into force. These regulations require employers to protect workers (and other persons who may be affected by the work) from the potential long term risks of damage by exposure to whole-body or hand arm vibration at work.

Specifically, the Regulations require employers, where there is likely to be a risk from exposure to vibration, to:

- Eliminate or, where elimination is not reasonably practicable, reduce exposure to vibration to as low a level as is reasonably practicable.
- Assess vibration exposure levels
- Implement a programme of measures to reduce exposure
- Provide information and training for employees
- Provide appropriate health surveillance when exposure reaches the specified exposure action value
- Maintain exposure to below the exposure limit value.



What are vibration at work hazards?

Vibration results when objects oscillate around a fixed position. Ill-health effects can come from exposure to both hand-arm vibration, which is usually caused by operating hand-held power tools or machines, and whole-body vibration which is typically transmitted through the feet and can affect drivers of some types of mobile plant and machinery. Examples of workers most at risk in the latter case are long distance lorry drivers and vehicle operators in construction, agriculture, forestry and mining.

Exposure to vibration may result in a range of ill-health conditions such as hand-arm vibration syndrome and vibration white finger.

Fire Safety Reforms

It is anticipated that from 1st April 2006 significant changes to fire safety legislation will occur. These changes will be made when the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order is introduced, which is designed to achieve three main objectives:

- To consolidate the existing fire safety legislation into one set of Regulations, thereby reducing burdens on business and overlap of enforcing authorities;
- To align fire safety legislation with health and safety law, reducing prescriptive requirements;
- To put the onus for fire safety on the 'responsible person' (owner/occupier/employer/landlord) as a result of the fire risk assessment which the 'responsible person' has a duty to carry out.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 is the "biggest reform" of fire safety legislation in over 30 years and will amend and consolidate over 70 pieces of existing fire safety legislation.

In essence the new Order will require that all premises or sites to which employees or members of the public have access too will require a fire risk assessment to be carried out by a nominated 'responsible person' resulting in control measures to:

- reduce the risk of fire occurring;
- protect employees and other persons resorting to the premises;
- protect property and adjacent premises;
- protect the environment.



AsbestaPLAN *Online*

Safety Services Direct Ltd

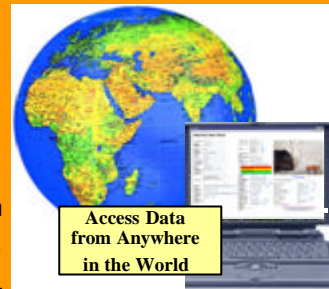
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HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT
 OUR NEW WEBSITE?

www.SafetyServicesDirect.co

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 the launch of **AsbestaPLAN Online**.

The database which is hosted on a secure web server will only permit individuals with a valid password and username 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 are available at: www.AsbestaPLAN.com



CONTRACTOR PROSECUTED

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has warned contractors to ensure that adequate precautions are being taken to prevent falls from height. The warning comes after a contractor was fined £5,000 plus over £11,000 costs following an accident where an employee suffered a broken collarbone after falling approximately 2.5m through an uncovered hole in the second floor of a barn conversion project. The contractor, pleaded guilty to a breach of Regulation 5(2) of the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1996 and was fined £5000 and ordered to pay £11,336.44 costs. Commenting after the case, prosecuting HSE Inspector, Robert Hodgkinson said: Companies need to ensure that appropriate safety measures are implemented on site to prevent falls and to provide a safe working environment. Those managing sites need to be competent - that is to have the appropriate level of training and experience - to ensure that such measures are implemented, and once implemented, that they are maintained appropriately.

Falls from height remain the biggest causes of fatal accidents and major injuries in the construction industry.

Safety Services Direct Opens **New Office** in South West England

As part of our continued success and planned programme of expansion we have now opened our new offices in the South West of England.

From these offices we can offer a more 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. **Please visit our website for our updated contact details!**

SLIPS, TRIPS & FALLS.....

Over a third of all major injuries reported each year are caused as a result of a slip or trip (the single most common cause of injuries at work). This costs industry over £300 million a year.

Follow these five simple rules to help reduce the risks:

1. ENSURE staff are properly trained in the correct use of safety devices and cleaning equipment and that warning signs are displayed when floor surfaces are wet.
2. ENSURE adequate lighting is provided

throughout your premises.

3. REGULARLY check floor surfaces for loose finishes, holes, cracks and trailing cables. Choose slip resistant flooring where appropriate & securely cover any openings in floors.
4. MINIMISE obstructions and keep work areas tidy & clean. Warn people of temporary immobile obstructions by using signs or barriers.
5. ENSURE that employees wear appropriate footwear whilst at work.

