

# Safety Matters

April 2006

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## Noise at Work Regulations

The 6th of April 2006 sees the introduction of the new Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005. Excess Noise at work can introduce deafness of persistent ringing in the ears (Tinnitus). Damage can be permanent, but can be prevented.

Changes to legislation include a reduction by 5 decibels (dB) of the exposure levels at which action has to be taken.

The new exposure levels are:

### Lower Exposure Action Levels

- A daily or weekly personal noise exposure of 80dB
- A peak sound pressure of 135 dB

### Upper Exposure Action Levels

- A daily or weekly personal noise exposure of 85dB
- A peak sound pressure of 137 dB

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## Delays, Delays and More Delays!

The HSE has announced that the implementation of the following 3 sets of legislation is to be delayed:

- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2005
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2005

The new Asbestos and Fire Safety legislation have been firmly pushed back from April 2006 to October 2006, whereas the CDM Regulations have been pushed back further to April 2007. We will keep our readers informed and up to date as to any further changes.

## Stepladder Fall puts Employer in Dock

A company in Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, has been prosecuted and fined a total of £13,000.00 after pleading guilty to breaching the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 at Bourne Magistrates' Court.

The HSE prosecution followed the investigation of an accident in 2004 where an employee fell from a stepladder, breaking his collarbone and suffering concussion. Falls from height are a major cause of accidents and in 2004/05 53 people died and nearly 3,800 suffered serious injury as a result of falls from height in the workplace.

The recently introduced Work at Height Regulations 2005 now place an even greater emphasis on employers to ensure that all work at height is carefully planned, controlled and risk assessed.

Contact us for more information as to how we can work with you to help manage the health and safety risks associated with your work.



E-mail: [info@SafetyServicesDirect.com](mailto:info@SafetyServicesDirect.com)

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(local rate charges apply at all times)

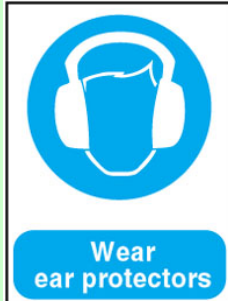
**COMING SOON!**

**Our new Fire Safety and Fire Risk Assessment Package is due to be launched this summer - ahead of the implementation of the new fire safety requirements.**

Noise at Work Regulations continued.....

**Exposure Limit Values**

- A daily or weekly personal noise exposure of 87dB
- A peak sound pressure of 140 dB



The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 gives priority to the control of noise by the technical or organisational means, as opposed to the provision of personal hearing protection. Regulation 9 specifically requires employers to provide Health surveillance to all employees likely to be exposed above the upper exposure action values, or who are at risk for any reason. (e.g. Persons who have already suffered hearing damage or are particularly sensitive to such damage).

Under Regulation 10 there is an obligation for employers to provide adequate information, instruction and training to all employees who are likely to be exposed to noise at or above the lower exposure action level.

Many businesses will find that they have a need to produce an up to date Noise Assessment for their premises and work activities under these new regulations and to adjust their current **Health and Safety** practices in order to comply with the changes.



**NEW PRODUCT!**

**Environmental Policy and Procedures Manual**

With an ever-increasing emphasis on environmental management and protection of the environment, all of which is being driven by a growing body of statutory legislation, Safety services Direct Ltd is pleased to announce the launch of its latest package, our Environmental Policy and Procedures Manual.

This package has been developed along similar lines to our popular Health and Safety Policy and Procedures Manual. The intention of the package is to provide users with a ready-made, easy to use and implement Environmental Management System.



Here's what one of clients had to say about the Environmental Policy and Procedures Manual:

*'Many thanks for your swift response in providing the Environmental Policy and Procedures CD. The content and layout is superb and comes in at a factual level most companies will be able to live with. Your product took all the slog out of providing a documented environmental management system and represents really good value for money.'*

Please contact us directly for more information.

Email [info@SafetyServicesDirect.com](mailto:info@SafetyServicesDirect.com) or  
Tel: 08453 66 99 33

## Do you have Competent Health and Safety Advice?

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? But what is 'Competent Health and Safety Advice' and how can I assess the competence of those who advise me?

Following the introduction of Chartered Status for Health and Safety Professionals, it is now far easier to assess the level of competence of health and safety advisors/consultants. As with other professions, such as accountancy, architecture and engineering, a Chartered Health and Safety professional is amongst the most qualified and experienced of safety practitioners.

Safety Services Direct Ltd's principal consultants are Chartered Safety and Health Practitioners and are Chartered Members of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH). Chartered status is designated by the post-nominal CMIOSH and the membership status can easily be checked by contacting IOSH on Telephone number 0116 257 3198.

The use of a Chartered Safety professional (CMIOSH) can help to provide you with the assurances that your health and safety advisor has attained a recognised level of competence through the demonstration of their experience, qualifications and capabilities to IOSH, Europe's leading body for health and safety professionals.

If you require 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 through your own **named, Chartered Safety Consultant**. 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 cannot be economically justified.

If you are a contractor or designer intending to register on the 'Chas' or 'Safe Contractor' schemes, we can also assist you with your application, and 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?**

## Contractor Jailed Over Fall From Height

### Contractor gets 18-month sentence following HSE and police investigation

The proprietor of a Welsh contractor has been jailed for 18 months after a worker fell from height while installing a roof in 2004.

The contractor, based in Powys, was sentenced at Hereford Crown Court, following a joint investigation by the police and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE). The contractor was managing a project to construct a steel-framed barn on a farm near Stourbridge, south Staffordshire. While installing the barn roof, operatives worked at roof height from a 'home-made' basket balanced on the forks of a telehandler. The telehandler tipped over, throwing both men approximately 8m to the ground causing one operative serious injury and the second fatal injuries.

At an earlier hearing, the contractor was found guilty of failing to ensure the safety of employees in the time before the incident, and also pleaded guilty to providing a telehandler and equipment that was not properly maintained.

The HSE's principal inspector, said: "This case is a reminder to all those involved in the construction industry of their legal obligations to manage health and safety. The verdict shows that \*\*\*\*\* failed in both his duty to ensure the safety of his employees and in his responsibility to provide safe and suitable means of working at height. All contractors should ensure that all work at height is planned, supervised and carried out in a safe way."

**HAPPY EASTER FROM US ALL AT SAFETY SERVICES DIRECT**