



HEALTH & SAFETY MATTERS

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SEE PAGE: 6



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NEWS & ANALYSIS
LATEST ILL-HEALTH
& INJURY STATISTICS
PUBLISHED
PAGE 8

SHOW PREVIEW
SHW LIVE NORTH
RETURNS TO
MANCHESTER
PAGE 38

AIRBORNE HAZARDS
THE DANGERS OF
POOR INDOOR AIR
QUALITY
PAGE 48

HELPING HANDS
WINTER HAND SKIN
PROTECTION ADVICE
PAGE 56

TESTING IS POSITIVE
THE IMPORTANCE
OF DRUG AND
ALCOHOL TESTING
PAGE 52

COVER STORY
ANYTIME YOUR
HANDS FEEL COLD...
PAGES 24-25

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EDITOR

Kelly Rose
krose@westernbusiness.media

EDITORIAL SUPPORT

Louise Carter | 01342 333735
lcarter@westernbusiness.media

SALES MANAGER

Christine Fitzgerald | 01342 333740
cfitzgerald@westernbusiness.media

SALES

Paul Miles | 0203 290 3532
pdmiles@westernbusiness.media

DESIGNER

Alex Romer
aromer@westernbusiness.media

PRODUCTION

Sharon Miller | 01342 333741
production@westernbusiness.media

CIRCULATION

circ@perception-sas.com

DIRECTORS

Danny Kosifou
Keith Gabriel
Mark Sennett

PUBLISHED BY:

Western Business Media Ltd
Dorset House, 64 High Street,
East Grinstead, West Sussex
RH19 3DE



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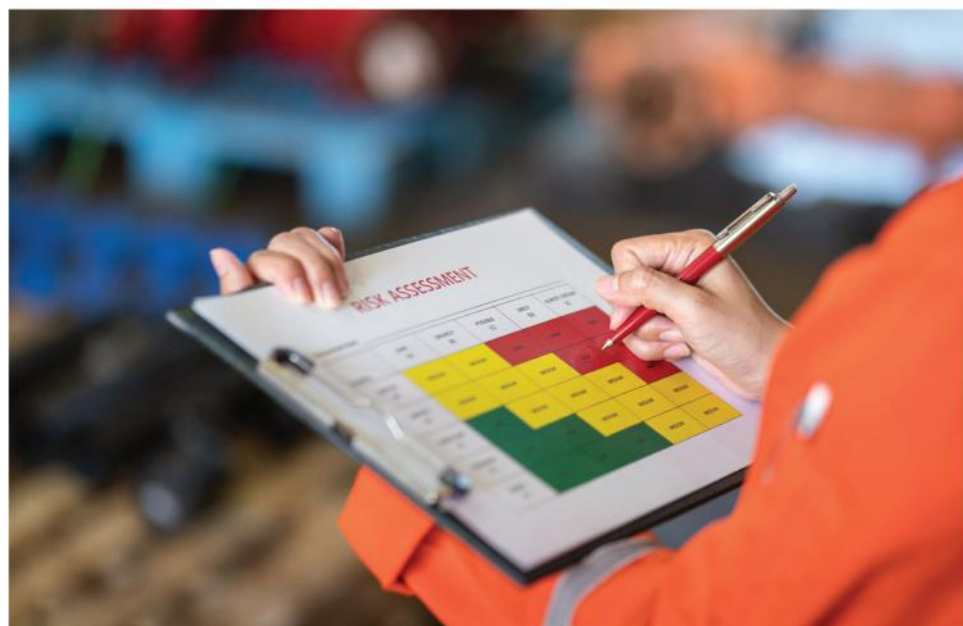


Health and Safety Matters

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ppa **INDEPENDENT
PUBLISHER
AWARDS**
Finalist

WORKPLACE SAFETY EFFORTS ARE PAYING OFF



THE HEALTH and Safety Executive (HSE) has published the annual workplace injury and ill-health statistics and it shows that the warnings of a growing crisis in mental health and work-related stress have become a reality. It is reported that half of the 1.8 million workers suffering from a work-related illness are suffering with stress, anxiety or depression and improving the mental health in the workplace has become a priority for the HSE.

While it is clear that the UK is continuing to make great steps in the number of work-related injuries occurring each year, there is still more to be done and there needs to be a continuing effort to ensure we keep workers safe and healthy. It is really positive to see that although incidents were slightly increased from last year, the common belief is that last year's figures were unusually low due to the pandemic and a change of work habits, such as hybrid working.

Workplace safety needs come from the top and filter down, with clear means of reporting near-misses, using correct PPE and ensuring that risk assessments are carried out, and I know that many of you are already doing this, so please carry on with your efforts as it does make a real difference.

In this issue, we have an Airborne Hazards feature, and I urge you to read this on page 48, as

while outdoor pollution has been in the spotlight for many years, it is now clear that indoor air also poses its health problems. The article outlines what the health and wellness threats are, the latest guidance and what you can do to help protect your workers and visitors.

ENTER THE SHE AWARDS

There is still time to enter the Safety and Health Excellence Awards, sponsored by EcoOnline, as the deadline is 15 February 2023. The winners will be announced at a gala awards ceremony at the Vox in Resorts World, NEC Birmingham on 26 April 2023. It has just been confirmed that television presenter Tess Daly will be the first female host of the Awards. Guests will also enjoy a comedy set from Alasdair Beckett-King, who is an award-winning comedian. For a full list of categories and to enter for free, visit www.she-awards.com

I hope you enjoy this issue of Health and Safety Matters. If you have any thoughts or comments on any of the articles then I'd love to hear from you. As this is the last issue of 2022, I'd like to wish all our readers and supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ■

Kelly Rose, Editor



56



48



52



60

REGULARS

Legal spotlight

22

Kevin Bridges takes a look at a recent case where health and safety failures resulted in tragic consequences.

Practitioner viewpoint

26

There is a high reliance on people-based risk controls and in this current economic climate workers can be distracted. Louise Ward looks at how to support workers and reduce errors.

Executive comment

28

Helen Balmforth looks at the importance of using the power of data to drive down incident rates and celebrating the success of proactive organisations.

Occupational hazards

30

IOSH calls on the Government to reverse the decision to exempt businesses with fewer than 500 staff from reporting requirements and other regulations. Lawrence Webb provides an insight.

Lessons in safety

32

When it comes to work-related stress, prevention is key. Natalie Sherborne shares some advice from the new NEBOSH HSE Certificate in Managing Stress at Work.

In the spotlight

36

This month we put Nik Rilatt from RS Safety Solutions in the spotlight to find out how he found himself working in the world of health and safety.

Ask the experts

70

Readers' questions are answered by the British Safety Council.

FEATURES

Invisible threat with visible consequences

48

There is growing awareness of poor indoor air quality and how this can effect the health and wellbeing of workers. David Flower takes a look at this important issue.

Testing is positive

52

Ian Gil-Rodriguez highlights the importance of workplace culture and the role of drug and alcohol testing when it comes to safety at work.

Helping hands

56

Nick Foort shares hand skin protection advice so that you can get your skin in order this winter.

Taking charge

60

When it comes to electrical safety, both employees and employers need to take charge to ensure they have the right level of protection. Peter Dumigan takes a look at the importance of protective wear.

Stand the test of time

64

The need to ensure that manufactured electrical and electronic goods comply with required conformance standards is inextricably linked to effective product and component testing, says Nathan Barwell.

PRODUCTS

SHW Live

45

Industry update

55

Premises

59

PPE

63

Safety firsts

66

Managing safety

68

SHOW PREVIEW

SHW Live

38

SHW Live North returns to Manchester Central on 14 and 15 February 2023. We preview the show.



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FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Alan Murray provides an update to the latest changes to the UKCA rules.



IT IS a privilege to have the opportunity to write this column in HSM, one that I greatly value. I'm sure you can imagine that when I sit down to put it together my first thoughts are, what information needs to be communicated, what is current and important! It is then a valuable discipline to check back to ensure that I haven't covered the topic in previous columns.

Well, information that needs to be communicated is most certainly the change to the rules on UKCA marking! Have I communicated on this before yes, indeed I have, many times! The frequency with which changes are announced render the situation chaotic and my sympathies go to all the responsible businesses who have invested to meet the timelines as they had previously been published.

Now, readers will remember that the original guidance required all the changes in PPE to be in force by the end of 2021, but following extensive lobbying this "impossible" deadline was moved out a year until the end of 2022. Our industry worked hard aiming to complete in the due time and more conformity assessment bodies established themselves in the UK to create the required capacity and meet the demand. Quite suddenly in June 2022 the government announced that there would be no further extension to the deadline of December 2022 for UKCA being required but, if a product already had a CE approval then that could be used as the basis for applying the UKCA mark, without any need for manufacturers to use a UK Approved Body. This was something of a seismic shift but, it has to be said, one that would have been common sense if enacted as part of the first announcements in 2020!

With the dust settling on the June '22 announcements and businesses adjusting to the new conditions, another

surprise! On November 14 2022 the government announced that CE approved product (without the need for any UKCA) would still be acceptable for a further 2 years until the end of December 2024. All of these changes, were of course, as ever, described as support for business. Really! Chaos for those involved in the process and confusion for users and indeed for market surveillance authorities. All of these changes genuinely risk the Regulation being significantly undermined, which is in the interests of nobody.

The full Guidance published in November can be accessed and downloaded at from the BSIF website <https://www.bsif.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/PPE-Guide-Nov-22.pdf>

Of course one mustn't forget that there is a different, updated, version of the Regulation as it applies in Northern Ireland, see <https://www.bsif.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/PPE-Guide-NI-Nov-22.pdf>

To quote the old cliché "it is what it is" and all that we can practically do is keep pressing BEIS for clarifications on the Regulation (which are still needed) and keep everyone as up to date as we possibly can, so that the PPE market is informed and wearers kept safe!

IN OTHER NEWS!

The government announced that all of the EU legislation that the UK retained on our statute books following Brexit, which I note seems a less used word in Whitehall circles these days, with many preferring to use the phrase "post-exit", will sunset by December 2023. This means that all retained EU law, up to 4,000 pieces of legislation including the PPE Regulation and many pieces of Health Safety and Environment laws, will be reviewed, reformed or removed during the next 12 months.



UK CA

All of these changes genuinely risk the Regulation being significantly undermined, which is in the interests of nobody.

This initiative, the "Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill" came from the then Business Secretary, Jacob Rees-Mogg and is now handled by Grant Shapps, Secretary of State at BEIS and the puzzlingly named "Brexit Opportunities Unit".

This undertaking is massive and fraught with problems, but I am told that the current Secretary of State thinks a more "sane" timetable should be put in place. We will see, but I can assure you that we, and other interested groups will work to protect good laws and standards where they exist across our sector.

Let's see what 2023 brings. ■

Alan Murray is chief executive of BSIF.

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TESS DALY TO HOST SHE AWARDS 2023



Photo credit: David Venni

TELEVISION PRESENTER Tess Daly has been confirmed as the first female host of the Safety and Health Excellence Awards, which will take place on 26 April 2023.

She becomes the first woman to ever host the Safety and Health Excellence Awards (SHE Awards).

In addition, guests at the Awards will enjoy a comedy set from Alasdair Beckett-King who is an award-winning comedian, writer and animator who has appeared on multiple television comedy shows including *Mock the Week*.

Tess Daly will be sponsored on the evening by Safety Rocks who's founder and managing director Carla Crocombe is excited to be supporting the SHE Awards. She said, "We're really excited to be sponsoring the Safety and Health Excellence Awards. Safety Rocks has been on a mission to shake-up the world of health and safety training since 2015. Health and Safety isn't dull and all about compliance – it is about a culture of caring and keeping everyone in an organisation safe and healthy. To be able to recognise the efforts of others who have gone above and beyond in the world of health and safety is great for us."

"For far too long, Health and Safety has been seen as 'pale, stale and (dare I say it) male' so having Tess Daly presenting the awards is a great step towards disrupting that image of the health and safety world. It's time to break the mould and this is a great step in that direction."

You can enter the SHE Awards for FREE at www.she-awards.com. The deadline for entries is 17 February 2023.

The shortlist will be announced in March 2023 and the winners revealed at the SHE Awards ceremony on 26 April 2023 at The Vox, NEC Birmingham.

HSE PUBLISHES LATEST ILL-HEALTH AND INJURY STATISTICS

NEW FIGURES show the estimated number of workers in Great Britain suffering a work-related illness is 1.8 million with stress, depression, and anxiety making up around half of cases.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published its annual statistics on work-related ill health and workplace injuries.

The figures from Great Britain's workplace regulator show there were an estimated 914,000 cases of work-related stress, depression, or anxiety in 2021/22.

An estimated 17 million working days were lost due to work-related stress, depression, or anxiety in 2021/22. This is over half of all working days lost due to work-related ill health.

HSE has been warning of a growing crisis in stress and poor mental health related to work. The workplace regulator launched a major campaign last year to remind employers of their responsibilities to their employees' mental health.

HSE's chief executive, Sarah Albon said, "Stress and poor mental health



is the number one cause of work-related ill health. The effects of stress, depression, and anxiety can have a significant impact on an employee's life and on their ability to perform their best at work.

"Britain is one of the safest places in the world to work but we need all employers to do more and take seriously their responsibilities to support good mental health at work. That's why improving mental health in the workplace is a key priority in our 10-year strategy 'Protecting People and Places', and why we're developing new partnerships across industry to help employers support their employees."

HSE's annual statistics release shows the impact work-related ill health is having on Great Britain's economic performance:

36.8 million working days were lost due to work-related ill health and non-fatal workplace injuries in 2021/22. The annual economic cost of work-related injury and new cases of ill health (excluding long latency illnesses such as cancer) was £18.8 billion in 2019/20.

The figures also show that 123 workers were killed in work-related accidents in 2021/22 and a further 565,000 workers sustained a non-fatal injury.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact on the workplace. Of the 1.8 million suffering a work-related illness, an estimated 585,000 reported it was caused or made worse by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Around a quarter of these workers were in human health and social work. In addition, 123,000 workers suffering with COVID-19 believed they were exposed to the virus at work.

IOSH CALLS ON UK PRIME MINISTER TO REVERSE REPORTING EXEMPTIONS

IOSH HAS called on UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to reverse a decision made by his predecessor Liz Truss to exempt about 40,000 businesses from reporting requirements and regulations.

In a letter to Mr Sunak, IOSH chief executive Vanessa Harwood-Whitcher says there is "an opportunity to make an early, bold step in the right direction" by scrapping the move.

Mr Sunak took over as Prime Minister on 25 October.

It was his predecessor who announced the plans to widen exemptions which apply to the smallest of businesses to those with fewer than 500 employees.

It was claimed that it would "free" 40,000 businesses from "future bureaucracy", however IOSH makes it clear in the letter that it would be a "backward step", adding "it risks increasing costs (direct and indirect) from occupational injuries, ill-health and damages that will inhibit growth in the long term".

Highlighting the significant

progress in UK OSH standards over the past half century, Mrs Harwood-Whitcher says this has recently stalled and goes on to say that a failure to reverse the decision could lead to "a race to the bottom that disadvantages everyone".

She adds, "We call on your Government to reverse this decision. Now is the time to invest in new ways of valuing and protecting all our workforce and our supply chains, and decent work, which is something that can lead to substantial growth."

In addition, Mrs Harwood-Whitcher reiterates the three key areas for action which were made to the previous Prime Minister back in September, namely:

- The recent resolution to include a safe and healthy working environment in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
- The imperative to protect, maintain and reinforce UK health and safety standards and bring the long-awaited



Employment Bill forward as a matter of urgency.

- The need to lead policy makers, regulators, employers and workers' representatives in ensuring asbestos is handled and disposed of in a safe, regulated way that prevents its exposure – workers' and people's lives depend on it.

Mrs Harwood-Whitcher closes the letter by saying: "Any failure to act on these key areas for action and associated challenges will not only lead to poorer work, working conditions and workers' welfare but also a workforce that's characterised by low productivity, with economic and structural inequalities.

"This is why we look forward to working with you and your new Government – to ensure this does not happen."

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IOSH PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HEALTH & SAFETY EVENT

IOSH AND The Health & Safety Event have announced a new partnership, leveraging both parties strengths and expertise in the sector.

President of IOSH Lawrence Webb said, "The Health & Safety Event is a great opportunity for the OSH community to come together to share ideas and best practice. We are looking forward to bringing a varied and ambitious programme of educational content to the Keynote Theatre as well as engaging with our members and hearing from OSH professionals from across the UK and hopefully, further afield."

Taking place at the NEC Birmingham from 25-27 April, The Health & Safety Event has fast become the UK's largest event dedicated to improving occupational health and safety standards. It hosts over 250 exhibitors and showcases the latest products, solutions and expertise the industry has to offer.

David Bishop, event director added, "We are delighted and proud to be partnering with IOSH. Through collaboration with important industry partners, we are in an increasingly advantageous position to deliver more opportunities, leverage positive developments and strong growth in the sector. It is an extremely exciting opportunity for the OSH community."

As part of the agreement, IOSH will be delivering a comprehensive two-day conference programme featuring keynotes, panel discussions and presentations at the Keynote Theatre covering a wide range of topics including social sustainability, OSH as a human right, standards and ethics, EDI and more. There'll also be a number of sessions led by IOSH's Future Leaders Community. IOSH will also be exhibiting across the three days of the event. For more information, visit www.healthandsafetyevent.com

ONS STATISTICS SHOW CONSTRUCTION SUICIDE INCREASE

THE ONS has released the latest suicide statistics for England and Wales and the Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity have shared what these figures mean for our construction community and what is being done to help address these shocking figures.

Since the Stevenson/Farmer report in 2017, the charity has been working with Professor Billy Hare at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) to analyse the number of suicides in construction occupations so they have a better understanding where to focus preventative measures to support the industry.

The number of suicides attributed to construction occupations in 2021 was 507, most of which are male (503). This figure constitutes a rise of 24 from the previous year and 25 more than the previous five year average and equates to 34 per 100,000 in employment. This is the highest rate since analysis of this data began at GCU.

The research identified that the number of suicides in construction rose from 26 to 34 per 100,000 in the seven years to 2021. It is often quoted that suicides within construction are three times that of the national industry average. Unfortunately, that figure is now

nearer four times, meaning that workers in construction are nearly four times more likely to take their own lives compared to other sectors in 2021.

Professor Billy Hare of GCU said, "Whilst it is unwise to react to a single year's figures, the long-term rate of suicides is regrettably on an upward trajectory for those working in the construction industry, despite all the good work being done in recent years. This means we need to dig deeper to find and address the true root causes, and take collective action sooner rather than later."

Bill Hill, CEO of the Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity said, "Over 87% of our construction workforce are male and over 50% of the sector is made up of self employed, agency staff or zero hour contract workers. Financial insecurity is a major factor for poor wellbeing in our workforce and the pandemic added greater anxiety and emotional burden. The industry and charities like ours have made huge strides in recognising and delivering programmes to improve wellbeing but the results from 2021 simply galvanise our resolve to do more. Our messages of support are not reaching the boots on the ground. We all have a moral responsibility



and an economic imperative to work together to improve the wellbeing and welfare of our workers."

The industry is doing more than ever to recognise and address this major issue and the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) has asked the Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity and Mates In Mind Charity to work together to co-chair a major project to improve wellbeing and welfare within construction. This is along with initiatives to accelerate universal culture change to reduce stigma, break down barriers and increase awareness of support services.

ONE IN TWO MOTOR TRADE WORKERS SUFFERING WITH MENTAL HEALTH

MOTOR TRADE organisations have joined forces with the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) Working Minds campaign to tackle work-related stress in the motor repair trade.

Ben, a charity that supports people who work or have worked in the automotive industry, has revealed one in two workers in the automotive sector have struggled with their mental health and wellbeing in the past 12 months, while 50% of those involved in the industry are likely to have been dealing with stress, worry or anxiety, low mood or depression. Ben has also seen a 190% rise in people using their benefits counselling service and accessing their financial guidance.

HSE, together with Working Minds campaign partners Ben, the National Body Repair Association (NBRA), the commercial Vehicle Body Repair Association (VBRA)

and the Independent Garage Association (IGA) are promoting how to prevent work-related stress and support good mental health across the sector.

During the winter months, Ben sees an increase in enquiries and cases as many people tend to spend more time indoors and have less interaction with others, negatively impacting their emotional wellbeing. The charity says enquiries also come from people



who are suffering with financial issues as they see an increase in their bills, which can also lead to poor mental health.

Ellen Plumer, head of Outreach, Health and Wellbeing at Ben, said: "Each year thousands of people come to Ben with mental health issues as their primary concern. From results of latest survey of those in the automotive industry, one in two workers have struggled in the past 12 months. Stress is the most common issue, followed by anxiety and poor sleep."

The latest figures from HSE show there were an estimated 914,000 cases due to work-related stress, depression, or anxiety for workers in Great Britain in 2021/22. That's an 11% rise from the 822,000 cases in 2020/21.

An estimated 17 million working days were also lost to work-related stress, depression or anxiety in 2021/22.

MORE SUPPORT FOR DISABLED WORKERS



DISABLED WORKERS and those with long-term health conditions will get more support from employers to help them succeed in the workplace thanks to new guidance.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Great Britain's workplace regulator, has issued guidelines that state what employers can do to support staff.

The UK has record rates of employment, but disabled people are less likely to be employed than

non-disabled people and are twice as likely to fall out of work.

The new guidance stresses the importance of making sure workplaces are accessible, that staff communication is clear and inclusive, and appropriate occupational health support is available.

Helping people succeed at work is critical to growing the country's economy, especially as firms find it difficult to fill vacancies.

Sarah Albon, chief executive of

HSE said, "The aim of this guidance is to provide clarity to employers about what they should be doing to support their staff. This can be a sensitive, complex area so we want to give employers confidence to act.

"We have to make the workplace better for disabled people and those with long-term health conditions. Not only is that the right thing to do but doing so will also bring big economic benefits at a time when we have high employment and firms are struggling to find staff."

An estimated 149.3 million working days were lost because of sickness or injury in the UK in 2021, equivalent to 4.6 days per worker. Cutting this number will help grow productivity in the UK.

The guidance is aimed at small-to-medium sized businesses who employ 61% of all UK employees. The Federation of Small Businesses found 51% of small businesses have employed a disabled person or someone with a health condition in the last three years.



ROADSHOW COMPLEMENTS WELLNESS PROGRAMMES

SAFETY ROCKS took its Health Rocks Roadshow to Whirlpool in early November. Health Rocks Roadshows are a fun, informal way for companies to help and encourage employees to improve their overall health.

Safety Rocks says it does not do boring lectures, instead creating bespoke, interactive days that perfectly meshes with an organisation's wellbeing objectives.

At the Health Rocks roadshows, Safety Rocks offers every one of the employees the chance to have their blood pressure checked, get weighed, have a chat with a personal trainer and create their own personalised folder containing the tools they need to improve their overall health. Team members benefit, and so does the organisation.

People want to work for companies that care about health and wellbeing and actively support and promote ways to boost overall health.

A Health Rocks Roadshow adds huge value to an existing wellbeing programme.

As winter is here, the company is also helping employees make better nutritional decisions. The specialist Nutrition Bites team from Safety Rocks helps employees to navigate often-confusing guidelines on healthy eating. They present easy-to-understand information and sensible advice about eating well. They've also made a short video about winter wellness, which contains super-simple tips to fuel the body as the days get shorter and colder.

From eating more protein to adding spice to your meals, have a look at some really small, easy changes you can make to make sure you eat well this winter. You can watch the video at <https://tinyurl.com/vvjnen9z>
Tel: 01223 491485

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS EXTENT OF ASBESTOS REMEDIATION WORK

EXTENSIVE ASBESTOS remediation work is still needed on more than 100,000 UK buildings, according to a new report from the Asbestos Testing and Consultancy (ATaC) Association and the National Organisation of Asbestos Consultants (NORAC).

The research suggests that the data represents a "best-case scenario" as it was provided by inspectors engaged by clients that were "compliance-conscious and aware of the regulatory requirements". In the UK, asbestos-related diseases take the lives of 20 tradespeople every week. Left alone, the material is not harmful, but once disturbed or disintegrating, it can release asbestos fibres that infiltrate and progressively damage the lungs. The damage results in multiple health defects, such as the lung disease mesothelioma — a cancer that can take up to 20 years to develop, proving fatal within five years or less.

As the latest report reveals how widespread asbestos still is, industry experts are growing increasingly concerned about the impact of energy renovations, since asbestos present in buildings could be released during renovation works planned to make homes

more energy-efficient.

The European Green Deal strategy aims to double the rate of energy renovations by 2030 to tackle energy-related greenhouse gas emissions, but many buildings with a poor energy performance were constructed using asbestos. Accelerating the building renovation rate could significantly increase the number of people exposed to asbestos-related health risks, since asbestos present in buildings could be released during renovation works. As a result, the European Commission estimates that the number of workers at risk will increase by 4% every year for the next decade.

Current data in the UK indicates that the risk of a fatal asbestos-related cancer is greatest among construction and engineering workers and the green renovation could make these trades even more vulnerable. However, asbestos does not only pose a threat to trade workers, but those they encounter, should invisible yet lethal asbestos particles stick to their personal protective equipment and tools. To help save lives while building a greener future, it's vital that more people understand how to maximise asbestos monitoring accuracy to minimise risks.



Industry expert, Tim Turney at occupational hygiene and workplace hazard monitoring expert Casella, shares best practice advice on asbestos monitoring. "Whenever asbestos is found and needs to be removed, it is a legal requirement to use licenced contractors and to ensure that strict regulations and guidance are followed to limit the potential release of dangerous, airborne fibres. The guidance typically includes personal air sampling and/or static air sampling, to ensure that there is no exposure during remediation work or during the cleaning and clearance processes at a removal site. However, discrepancies in sampling and analysis procedures, limitations in personal protective clothing and insufficient cleaning before a clearance pass can hinder accuracy and increase risks."



WINTER WARNING TO HAULIERS

THE COUNTRY'S biggest electricity distributor has launched a powerful new winter safety drive aimed at saving the lives of road hauliers.

UK Power Networks has joined forces with the Road Haulage Association to promote safe working procedures near overhead power lines and reduce the risk of serious accidents.

With the darker winter evenings another potential danger, the company is cautioning that contact with overhead power lines can result in life changing injuries or even death. Powerlines can be harder to spot in poor light conditions.

Workers operating tipper trailers, grab lorries or skip hire vehicles must know where the electricity network is before they start work. Distractions, visiting unfamiliar sites, long working days and rushing to get the job done can all impact on safety.

The number of incidents involving hauliers has reduced in the past year, but they remain involved in 15% of contact with powerlines in London, the South East and East of England and, unlike the previous 12 months, there was one reported injury.

Pete Short, Road Haulage Association's head of business development said, "Working around overhead power lines can be extremely hazardous so we encourage operators to make sure their drivers and other relevant colleagues are familiar with this guidance to help keep people safe."

Ros Forbes, a safety advisor at UK Power Networks said, "Everyday distractions mean it can be easy to lose focus of our environment and the potential hazards around us.

"Taking a moment to assess the job we are doing and carry out your own checks can give you that time to step back, re-evaluate and ensure you work safely."

RESEARCH PAINTS GLOOMY PICTURE OF UK WORKPLACE

THE INSTITUTION OF Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) has urged UK businesses to take better care of their workforce, or risk greater uncertainty.

New research commissioned by IOSH paints a gloomy picture of the UK workplace as a demotivated world of insecurity and weak identity, dogged by a prevailing sense of workers being undervalued.

The research shines a light on an environment where the main emotion is one of existing rather than thriving, where feelings of vulnerability, both in terms of job prosperity and risks to personal health and safety, hide behind a protective workers' shield of reserved loyalty, rationed commitment and resisted teamwork.

Nearly half of respondents don't believe their employer has their health and safety in mind, while four in ten don't agree their work is supportive of their physical and mental wellbeing. At a time when many are feeling the pinch of the cost-of-living crisis, a quarter of employees don't believe their job is secure, with only a third saying their employer would support them if their job were under threat.

IOSH says the figures are "a huge



wake-up call" for bosses. It believes there is likely to be a link between how workers sense they are being treated and their feelings towards their employer, with only two in five giving their best at work and only half feeling loyalty towards them.

Ruth Wilkinson, head of health and safety for IOSH said, "Businesses need to sit up and take notice. They cannot afford to ignore the results of this survey. It is a huge wake-up call for them; the findings lay out the way the UK's workforce is feeling right now.

"Businesses need to ensure they are putting their people first and they need to be seen to be doing so.

Clearly, many workers don't believe this is happening in their roles. And there is a clear correlation between employees feeling they aren't looked after at work and them not giving their best or feeling loyalty toward their employers."

As part of this drive, IOSH commissioned the survey of 2,152 workers. It also surveyed 992 managers (made up of line managers and senior leaders) to judge if some of the workers' feelings aligned with their beliefs. Health and safety can help businesses develop their social sustainability. The free IOSH Catch the Wave ebook can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/4wpwzpw5>

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY CONFERENCE

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS is to host a one-day conference covering the key issues that commercial fleet operators should focus on to help reduce collisions involving their drivers and save lives on the roads.

The 'Commercial Vehicle Safety on our roads from the Strategic Road Network' conference will be held at the National Space Centre in Leicester on 16 March 2023.

Topics to be covered during the day include:

- Lessons learnt from collision investigation
- What to do if first on the scene of a collision
- Driver fatigue, distraction and impairment
- Mental health issues, and how these can impact drivers
- Safety in practice – commercial vehicle operator experiences

While the event will naturally appeal to fleet managers, National Highways is encouraging anyone to attend who influences policy on



commercial driver safety, including H&S and procurement managers.

Nick Harris, chief executive of National Highways said, "There is a shared responsibility for safety on our roads between National Highways, operators of commercial vehicles and, importantly, those responsible for the procurement of services involving the use of commercial vehicles.

"This responsibility demands recognition of everyone's health

and safety obligations: that driving is a high-risk activity, and that those risks are managed and minimized in the same way as onsite risks.

"Like all Health and Safety duties, this responsibility extends beyond the industry's own commercial vehicle operation. Every operator should ensure its supply chain, contractors and suppliers are clear of its expectation that they operate safely and legally."



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SKYLIGHT FALL PUTS WORKER IN A SIX-WEEK COMA

A HERTFORDSHIRE construction company has been fined after a worker fell through a skylight while working on a six-storey house. The man fell over three metres and received serious head injuries that led to him being in a coma for six weeks.

MH Costa Construction Limited had been completely renovating the property at Moore Park Road, Fulham, London, which included building a basement and an extension.

On 30 November 2018, the worker, along with others, was working on the extension's flat roof when he fell through an opening created for the installation of a skylight. The opening was covered with loose planks and work was in progress immediately by the opening.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found it would have only taken a small movement to dislodge the planks. The worker either fell or stepped onto a plank, which then tipped, causing him to fall to the basement below.

The company's risk assessment records did not consider how to prevent falls through the opening.

HSE also found other areas where workers could fall, as well as issues relating to manual handling, trip hazards, hazardous wood dust and the storage of flammable materials. There was also no evidence the injured worker had been provided with any formal health and safety related training.

MH Costa Construction Limited of Beauchamp Court, Victors Way, Barnet, Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to a breach of Regulation 13 (1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. They were fined £96,000 and ordered to pay £18,966 in costs at Southwark Crown Court on 14 November 2022.

SIX-FIGURE FINES AFTER HGV DRIVER SERIOUSLY INJURED

THREE COMPANIES have been given six-figure fines after a driver was crushed between a reversing HGV and a forklift truck in a warehouse beside Heathrow Airport.

An employee of Davies Turner Air Cargo Limited was collecting a consignment from Airworld Airlines Ltd's site at the X2 Hatton Cross Centre, which is alongside the airport, in August 2017.

A vehicle, operated by Saints Transport Limited, was collecting a consignment from Unilode Aviation Solutions UK Limited, also based at the X2 Hatton Cross Centre, reversed causing the employee to become crushed between the rear of the vehicle and the forklift truck, resulting in serious injuries.

The X2 Hatton Cross Centre is owned by Brixton (Hatton Cross) 1 Limited and is managed by Segro Administration Limited.

HSE visited the X2 Hatton Cross Centre and an investigation found the site layout did not segregate those working or visiting the site, so far as reasonably practicable, from being struck by moving vehicles.

The defendants had not taken responsibility for managing traffic. Neither did they communicate or co-ordinate with one another.

Segro Administration Limited, of New Burlington Place, London pleaded guilty to breaching the



Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 Section 3(1). Airworld Airlines Ltd, of High Street, Sunninghill, Ascot, and Unilode Aviation Solutions UK Limited, of Hatton Cross Centre, Heathrow, Middlesex, both pleaded guilty to breaches of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 Sections 2(1) and 3(1).

Segro Administration Limited was fined £320,000 and ordered to pay costs of £17,584, Airworld Airlines Ltd was fined £120,000 and ordered to pay costs of £17,605, and Unilode Aviation Solutions UK Limited was fined £110,000 and ordered to pay costs of £10,878 at Southwark Crown Court on 1 November 2022.

Following the guilty pleas, the prosecution reconsidered the charges

laid against Brixton (Hatton Cross) 1 Limited, Saints Transport Limited and Davies Turner Air Cargo Limited, and determined that it was no longer in the public interest to continue with their cases. The prosecution offered no evidence, and defendants were found not guilty.

Speaking after the case, HM Acting Principal Inspector Sarah Pearce said: "This incident was entirely avoidable. Workplace transport incidents fatally injure 50 workers in Great Britain a year, with 5,000 other incidents resulting in serious personal injury.

"Where reasonably practicable, reversing manoeuvres should be avoided and pedestrians and moving vehicles segregated."

EDDIE STOBART PROSECUTED AFTER WORKERS EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS

EDDIE STOBART has been fined after work at one of its sites exposed staff to asbestos.

The firm was fined £133,000 for a series of failures that took place while excavation work was carried out at its rail and container freight port in Widnes.

Asbestos containing materials (ACMs) were disturbed by the building work, putting staff at risk.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found an asbestos survey had not been carried out, workers hadn't received any training in relation to asbestos, and Eddie Stobart failed to report the incident correctly.

Manchester Magistrates Court heard that in early 2018, an area of the company's Mersey Multimodal Gateway in Widnes was earmarked

for the storage of empty containers. As the ground became damaged by heavy lift loaders used to move containers, it was decided to scrape away the top layer to reach an older, more level surface below.

This work took place over several months and subsequently the remnants of old buildings containing asbestos were present in the surface material. Underground basement cavities were also found and excavated and then backfilled



with rubble. Several workers complained about the dust created by these processes and what it may contain.

An investigation by HSE found an asbestos survey had not been carried prior to the work beginning to determine if any of the excavated material contained asbestos.

A risk assessment had not been carried out nor suitable control measures put in place to prevent or reduce exposure to asbestos or prevent the spread of asbestos containing materials from the site. It was several months after the work had been completed that testing was carried out and the subsequent survey identified ACMs in the mounds of spoil, as well as scattered around the footprint where the work had taken place.



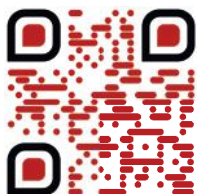
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FAMILY-RUN COMPANY FINED

A FAMILY-run plant hire company has been fined after a member of the public was crushed at its Cambridgeshire site.

On 30 January 2020, a FDS (Cambridge) Ltd employee was moving and processing a stockpile of concrete and brick rubble using an excavator at the company's site on Ely Road, Little Thetford, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

A member of the public came onto the site in a vehicle and was removing building waste from their trailer when they became trapped against the trailer by the reversing excavator, sustaining fractures to both of their legs.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that members of the public should not have been able to get onto the site unchallenged. Additionally, they should not have been permitted to park near an operating machine which the company should have either barriered off or put suitable arrangements in place to ensure that it had ceased operating whilst people were in the vicinity.

FDS (Cambridge) Ltd of Ely Road, Little Thetford, Ely, Cambridgeshire pleaded guilty to contravening Regulation 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The company were fined £18,000 and ordered to pay £9,355 in costs at Peterborough Magistrates' Court on 4 November 2022.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Roxanne Barker said, "This was a tragic and wholly avoidable incident, caused by the failure of the host company to implement safe systems of work, considering the breadth of their operations, including, and especially, those which involved visitors to its site.

"This risk was further amplified by the company's failure to undertake a number of simple safety measures including the segregation of vehicles and pedestrians."

ENGINEER JAILED FOR ILLEGAL GAS WORK

A PLUMBING and heating engineer has been jailed for 20 weeks after carrying out illegal gas work.

Peter Read, who traded as A.C.E Plumbing and Heating in Portsmouth, was contracted to install a new gas central heating boiler for a customer in January 2020.

A few days later the customer experienced problems with the boiler. On inspection by an engineer on the Gas Safe Register, the installation did not meet current standards. Further repair work was then required by a Gas Safe Registered engineer to ensure that the installation was in a safe condition.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found Peter Read was not competent to carry out gas work and not on the Gas Safe Register at the time he carried out this work. Mr Read had previously been prosecuted by the HSE in April 2016 and had been found guilty of carrying out unregistered gas work. He was fully aware of his legal responsibilities when carrying out gas work.

Peter Read of Seaford Road, Portsmouth, pleaded guilty to

breaching Regulation 3(1) and 3(3) of the Gas Safety Installation and Use Regulations 1998 and section 22 of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. He was handed a custodial sentence of 20 weeks at Portsmouth Magistrates' Court on 2 December 2022.

HSE Inspector Karen Morris said, "Peter Read continued to carry out gas work while he was not competent to do so and while not Gas Safe Registered.

"He has shown a blatant disregard for the law and continues to put

people at risk despite previous enforcement against him by the HSE. His actions have not only caused considerable stress for the customers concerned but have also resulted in additional financial outlay required to put right his poor-quality work.

"I would like to take this opportunity to remind anyone who needs gas work doing to make sure they check that the engineer has the right skills and is registered with Gas Safe Register. This is very easy to do and by law, anyone working with gas must be listed on the register."



HEALTH BOARD EMPLOYEES DIAGNOSED WITH HAVS



A WELSH health board has been fined £160k after three employees were diagnosed with Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS).

Powys Teaching Health Board required its employees to routinely operate handheld power tools such as lawn mowers, strimmers and hedge cutters without carrying out an assessment of the risks from exposure to vibration.

There was no monitoring, or any estimate of exposure to vibration, even though employees, particularly during the summer months, operated handheld power tools for several hours a day.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

found the health board had failed to properly assess the levels of exposure to its employees and that information, instruction and training given to staff was limited.

It found that the health board had ignored requests from its own occupational health department to conduct a risk assessment.

The lack of monitoring, assessment, training and health surveillance has allowed employees to operate handheld power tools for a significant period, in some cases several decades, without having the necessary measures in place to reduce the risk.

This led to three employees being diagnosed with Hand Arm

Vibration Syndrome.

Powys Teaching Health Board of Glasbury House, Bronllys Hospital, Bronllys, Powys, Wales, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. They were fined £160,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,599 at Wrexham Magistrates' Court on 22 November 2022.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Joe Boast said, "This was a case of the health board completely failing to grasp the importance of managing its staff's exposure to vibration while using handheld power tools.

"Employers should conduct a full assessment of the vibration magnitude and exposure duration, before reviewing whether employees are at risk. There is a simple online calculator to help employers complete this process.

"If the health board had followed the free guidance, they would not have exposed employees to risk and possibly have prevented the ill health that has been suffered."

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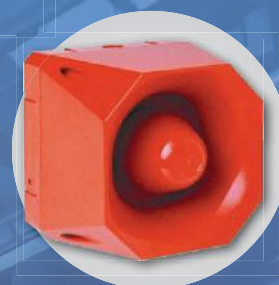
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SCRAP METAL WORKER LOSES FOUR FINGERS

A SCRAP metal company has been fined for safety breaches after a worker lost parts of four fingers while operating poorly maintained machinery.

On 27 March 2020, a man working for Infinity Metals Limited suffered amputations to multiple fingers while operating the machinery at Vickerdale Works, Arthur Street, Stanningley, Pudsey, Leeds.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that while the employee was operating the crocodile shear, he leant over the machine while it was in motion to clear metal and caught his right hand in the machine. This caused him to suffer an amputation to four of his fingers.

Infinity Metals Limited, of Spur Road, Quarry Lane Industrial Estate, Chichester pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company was fined £26,680 and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £7,005 at Leeds Magistrates' Court on 9 November 2022.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Darian Dundas said, "The lack of clear roles and responsibilities together with insufficient training and poorly maintained machinery played a significant part in this incident.

"This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply maintaining the machinery in good working order, ensuring that the correct control measures were present, and ensuring that safe working practices were adhered to."

DRIVER KILLED LOADING AND UNLOADING TRAILER

A TRANSPORT company has been fined £400k after one of its drivers was killed after being knocked off his trailer while loading and unloading it.

On 16 November 2020, Robert Gifkins, who worked for Arnold Laver & Company Ltd, was delivering timber to a company in Whaddon near Salisbury. He had climbed onto the bed of his trailer to sling the load and attach it to the vehicle-mounted crane. While moving the load using the crane's remote control he was struck by the crane and fell from the vehicle to the ground. Mr Gifkins was taken to hospital and subsequently died on 17 December 2020.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that this incident was the result of health and safety failings by the company. The risks associated this work at height had not been properly assessed and the risk of falls had not been adequately prevented or controlled. The company had

also not provided Mr Gifkins with sufficient training and instruction on the safe operation of the remote crane controls on the vehicle.

At a sentencing hearing at Salisbury Magistrates' Court on 13 October, Arnold Laver & Company Ltd, Bramall Lane, Sheffield, pleaded guilty to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act. Passing sentence on November 9, they were fined £400,000 and ordered to pay costs of £19,842.

Speaking after the hearing HSE

Inspector Leo Diez said, "Falls from vehicles can be overlooked by employers when considering risks from work at height. Simple control measures would have prevented this accident."

In a victim personal statement from Mr Gifkins' family, his mother Betty Gifkins said, "The pain of losing a son is only made worse by the fact this is the second son I have lost. I try not to think of him in the hospital as this only adds to my sadness. I miss him every day."



WORKER BROKE BACK IN FALL FROM FORKLIFT TRUCK

A LOGISTICS company has been fined £400k after a worker broke his back when he fell from a forklift truck.

The injured man was one of two employees who were loading a shipping container at freight forwarders Reliable Shipping Limited, on the Severalls Industrial Estate, Colchester, ready for it to be dispatched on the 26 September 2019.

To reach the highest pallets inside the container, the man had been lifted up on the forks of the forklift to stack boxes on top of an already wrapped pallet.

He fell approximately two foot and landed on the corner of a pallet on the floor resulting in multiple spinal fractures.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Reliable Shipping Limited had no safe system of work for loading and unloading the containers, and it did not have appropriate work-at-height equipment.

The company had a risk assessment for working at height, but it was not suitable nor sufficient and did not correctly assess the

working environment or correct control measures.

Reliable Shipping Limited, of Severalls Industrial Park, Colchester, Essex pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company appealed against a fine of £500,000, which was reduced to £400,000 at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court on 23 September 2022. The company was ordered to pay £6,336 costs.

In sentencing, District Judge King said that even those who weren't familiar with health and safety would know that this was an accident waiting to happen and

it was only good fortune that the injured person was not paralysed or killed.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Carla Barron said, "Those in control of work have a responsibility to undertake suitable and sufficient risk assessments, devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary equipment, information, instruction and training to their workers.

"This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply planning the work and providing the correct control measures and safe working practices."



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FIRM AND DIRECTOR PROSECUTED AFTER LABOURER CRUSHED

A DEMOLITION firm has been fined and one of its directors ordered to do 250 hours of unpaid work after a 20-year-old worker was crushed.

Ace Demolition Services Ltd had been contracted by Southend Borough Council to demolish Futures Community College, in Southchurch Boulevard, Southend-on-Sea.

Shannon Brasier, who was 20 years old at the time, was working with a colleague to load a fuel hose into the rear compartment of a 21-tonne excavator, when the excavator moved round and crushed her between the excavator and a mobile fuel tank.

Ms Brasier, from Dagenham, suffered life-changing injuries, including to her neck, skull and face, which she was fortunate to survive.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Ace Demolition Services Ltd failed to implement suitable controls to segregate pedestrians and construction plant, allowed two pairs of keys to be used during the refuelling process and allowed operatives to act as signallers/banksman for the excavator without having received adequate training.

A director, John Gilligan, was responsible for supervising the refuelling and drove the excavator before the refuelling was complete.

The incident happened on 28 July 2020.

Ace Demolition Services Ltd and John Gilligan, of Fox Burrows Lane, Writtle, Chelmsford pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and 37(1) of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974.

Ace Demolition Services Ltd was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £9,731 at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court on 24 November 2022.

£2 MILLION FINE AFTER DEATH OF WORKER

A CHIPBOARD manufacturer has been fined £2M for health and safety failings which led to the tragic death of an employee.

Norbord Europe was found guilty of two charges under health and safety legislation on 1 November 2022 at Perth Sheriff Court.

The court heard that on 13 July 2016 at the company's site in Cowie, Stirlingshire, George Laird, along with three colleagues, was involved in maintenance work on a wood drier. During this work, a high-pressure hose was used to remove hot ash from within a hot gas duct above a combustion chamber.

Mr Laird, 64, who was in the area below the combustion chamber, was enveloped by hot water, steam and ash and sustained burns over 90 percent of his body. He died from his injuries the next day.

The Health and Safety Executive investigation found evidence of a catalogue of failings by the company.

The Crown led evidence over the course of the trial which showed the company had failed to provide a safe system of work for employees removing hot ash from the system.

Employees were left to devise their own methods of working.

Employees were exposed to risk of personal injury from falling ash within the combustion chamber since its installation at the site on 1 October 2014. There were several near misses involving other employees working during that time.

The company was also shown to have failed to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to which their employees were exposed and comply with the requirements and prohibitions imposed by the statutory provisions.

Debbie Carroll, assistant procurator fiscal and head of the Health and Safety Investigation Unit said, "This was a lengthy and complex case. The detailed evidence led against Norbord Europe Limited over the four-week trial allowed the jury to come to a unanimous verdict.

"The tragic death of George Laird could have been prevented had suitable and sufficient measures been put in place.

"The prosecution and the sentence serve to highlight that a failure to fulfil health and safety obligations

can have tragic consequences and those responsible will be held to account for their failings.

"Our thoughts are with Mr Laird's family at this difficult time."

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Garry Miller said:

"Those in control of work have a responsibility to set up safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers to carry out the safe methods of working.

"If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, the death of Mr Laird could have been prevented."



MORE THAN 300 ROOFLIGHTS REPLACED FOLLOWING FATAL FALL

A ROOFING company has been fined and its sole director given a suspended prison sentence following an incident where a worker fell 12 metres to his death on a storm-damaged warehouse roof.

Jonathan May, 39, from Horbury, Wakefield, who was a subcontractor for Davis Industrial Roofing Limited, was working on a storm-damaged warehouse roof at F&G Commercials Limited, Carlton Industrial Estate in Barnsley with two others on 18 December 2016, when he fell.

The work involved the replacement of more than 300 skylights on a fragile asbestos cement roof. The skylights had been damaged in a hailstorm.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found Davis Industrial Roofing Limited had failed to provide an appropriate risk assessment, method statement, and suitable and sufficient fall protection measures for the roof work to be carried out safely.

The investigation found even though reasonably practicable precautions were available, poor planning had resulted in a risk assessment and method statement that was not suitable and sufficient. The work was poorly supervised and carried out unsafely.

Melvyn Davis, the sole director of the company, who had drawn up the risk assessment and method statement and had regularly visited the site to monitor progress, had failed to provide suitable and sufficient fall protection measures and consented to the use of an unsafe system of work. This constituted a personal neglect for safety during the roof work.

Melvyn Davis, of Field Place, Wakefield, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 37(1) of the HSWA 1974 and was sentenced to eight weeks imprisonment suspended for 12 months and ordered to do 15 days of rehabilitation activity at Sheffield Magistrates' Court on 16 November 2022.

Davis Industrial Roofing Limited also pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the same legislation and was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £12,557.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Chris Gallagher said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.

"Companies and directors should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."



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LEGAL SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Bridges takes a look at a recent case where health and safety failures resulted in tragic consequences.



THE RECENT sentencing of a nursery manager for health and safety failures which led to the tragic death of a toddler underline the need not only for employers to ensure they have in place robust compliance policies which meet all relevant risks but also for those in positions of responsibility with the employer to ensure they are fully able, and committed, to deliver on those policies and procedures.

Failure in either can be catastrophic, not only in terms reputational and financial damage but more importantly in terms of life limiting and changing consequences for all concerned.

Miranda Anderson was the manager of a child care facility in Edinburgh. In 2019, a toddler in its care choked

to death. An investigation found that between May 2019 and 9 July 2019 the employer, Bright Horizons Family Solutions Ltd, failed to provide employees at the nursery with suitable instruction and supervision to adequately control the risk of choking during mealtimes. The investigation also found a number of other occasions between in the same period when staff were involved with other tasks and therefore not watching the children eat.

The 1974 Health and Safety at Work etc Act provides that employers must ensure, insofar as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of its employees and others who may be affected by its work. Following the investigation, Bright Horizons Family Solutions Limited was

The investigation also found a number of other occasions between in the same period when staff were involved with other tasks and therefore not watching the children eat.

charged with having failed to take such steps, and in January 2022, pled guilty to the charges. Thereafter the company was fined £800,000.

However, the 1974 Act also provides that where a failure by a company is shown to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to have been attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of that company, or a person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, they as well as the company, shall be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Ms Anderson was also charged under the 1974 Act; reports state that the charge against her was that the death was attributable to neglect on Ms Anderson's part in her capacity as the nursery manager, and that she failed to monitor staff appropriately.

Following a trial, at which evidence was heard of staffing shortages and difficulties, Ms Anderson was convicted and fined £2,000. At the sentencing, her counsel spoke of the devastation felt by Ms Anderson at the death and that she would have to live with that for the rest of her life.

The case underlines the obligations not only on employers but also on those in positions of responsibility with them. Directors, managers and other officers must take note, the corporate shield cannot be deployed to protect against personal negligence or inaction. Such personnel have obligations too; they must ensure that suitable and robust policies and procedures are in place, regularly reviewed and meet the particular risks of the business. If they are not able, or willing, to do so they should step down or at the very least speak out. The consequences could be tragic for all concerned. ■

Kevin Bridges is a partner and head of health and safety at Pinsent Masons.

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TECHNOLOGIES INSIDE:



PRACTITIONER VIEWPOINT

There is a high reliance on people-based risk controls and in this current economic climate workers can be distracted. Louise Ward looks at how to support workers and reduce errors.



HOW MUCH of the risk control strategy in your business is based on human beings acting and behaving as you expect them to?

Probably quite a lot. Even in businesses with a mature approach to health and safety management, there is often quite a high reliance on people based risk controls, particularly in variable and operational tasks and environments. In these situations the people that we are relying on are often at the lower end of the salary spectrum, and engaged in physically demanding tasks, often in challenging circumstances and environments. There is a focus on ensuring that people are properly trained, competent and supported, but history shows us that things still go wrong. Why? Because people make errors.

The factors which underpin the failure of human based risk controls are well researched. Distraction is one of the key themes identified, and it also features prominently in learning from historical incidents. Many factors can

result in distraction including anxiety, fatigue, poor nutrition, workload and environmental factors. So, as we head into winter at the start of what is likely to be the most significant financial crisis for decades, it makes sense to focus our health and safety campaigns in this area.

There are many behavioural safety tools and programmes designed to support businesses in addressing distraction, and other human factors issues. In the current economic climate, organisations may not be able to resource significant change programmes, but the good news is that there is lots you can do to help address common causes of distraction for your operational employees.

The financial crisis is impacting people in many ways, making basics like food, housing, heating and hot water unaffordable to many, causing significant anxiety and driving people to borrow money, reduce their spending and take on additional work.

Many organisations have access to

Many organisations have access to an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) which offers staff free of charge and confidential access to specialist legal, and financial advice as well as counselling and support, but uptake is often quite low.

an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) which offers staff free of charge and confidential access to specialist legal, and financial advice as well as counselling and support, but uptake is often quite low. It's important to make sure that the services feel accessible to everyone. For example, a construction company invested in a financial adviser to support operational staff. Uptake was really low, but when they 'rebranded' the service as a 'Money Medic' the diary filled up immediately. This issue was that construction workers thought of 'finance' as the preserve of city bankers. Money management and the idea of a medic to assist in a crisis felt much more accessible and prompted them to engage. The benefits were plain to see in their regular pulse surveys.

Access to mental health support can yield similar benefits, particularly if delivered informally through a network of peers, with a more structured referral route to professional support for more significant issues.

Rest, recovery and nutrition are also important. The London 2012 programme did a lot of work in this area, and their learning is freely downloadable. In one project they offered free porridge to workers for breakfast and saw a direct correlation to a reduction in incidents where distraction or lack of attention were causal factors.

So there is loads you can do to support effective risk management by front line workers. You don't have to invest in a big programme, just some simple initiatives that help acknowledge and address topical issues in an accessible way.

Remember small things can add up to make a huge positive difference. ■

Louise Ward is safety & sustainability director at G&W UK – Safety. For more information, visit www.gwrr.co.uk



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EXECUTIVE COMMENT

Helen Balmforth looks at the importance of using the power of data to drive down incident rates and celebrating the success of proactive organisations.



DISCOVERING SAFETY is a programme of work, led by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and funded by the Lloyd's Register Foundation, that aims to improve workplace health and safety performance globally, by using data and novel analytical techniques to provide new insights.

We have been supporting organisations to be more proactive in exploiting the wealth of data that they routinely collect, using the intelligence they gain to support health and safety decision making. This has been proven to lower incident rates.

In the almost 50 years since the introduction of the Health and Safety at Work Act in the UK there have been substantial improvements in workplace health and safety, particularly in the frequency of work-related fatalities. However, many industries have seen performance improvement plateauing over recent years.

The more successful your organisation has been in improving

health and safety performance, the harder it becomes to maintain this level of success, and finding ways of making further significant improvements can be difficult. Organisations therefore want to understand what more they can do to make sense of the routine health and safety data sets that they collect and how they can use this data to gain valuable insights that will drive further performance improvement.

Data and analytical tools such as collection software and dashboards are commonly used to report on health and safety performance. The type of information that is derived from these tools tends to be a descriptive commentary on the nature of the incidents that happened, where they happened, when and to whom. In other words, the basic facts about the incidents. They don't address the root cause. So, it is important to go further and ask questions such as: "Why did the incident happen? When might it happen again? What do we do if it does?"

Knowing why you measure, how to measure, and what to measure is a good start to using the data you collect more effectively. Also, try to move the focus to upstream measures so that you can understand what analytics have predictive value. Then you'll be working towards a more intelligent use of leading indicators to predict risk.

Recognising the effort that organisations are going to in order to use their data more effectively, we want to applaud those who have taken the time to work towards the goal of predicting risk using their routine data sets. We are proud to support the Safety and Health Excellence Awards with a new category ready for the SHE Awards in April 2023: 'Best Use of Health and Safety Data to Lower Incident Rates.'

The awards celebrate innovation and achievements in health and safety and encompass the long-established British Safety Industry Federation (BSIF) Awards that promote the importance of innovation and underline the highest standards of excellence within occupational safety and health.

We're encouraging organisations to submit nominations for our new category on the SHE Awards website. It's a set of simple questions that could lead to your organisation getting the recognition it deserves.

Have you achieved improvements in health and safety performance as a result of data-driven intelligence? If so, submit a brief outline of the project and how far you have come at www.she-awards.com. The award ceremony will take place on 26 April 2023 at the NEC in Birmingham; we hope to see you there! ■

If you'd like to know more about Discovering Safety, email discoveringsafety@hse.gov.uk

Helen Balmforth is head of Discovering Safety at the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). For more information, visit www.hse.gov.uk Tel: 01298 218000

We are proud to support the Safety and Health Excellence Awards with a new category ready for the SHE Awards in April 2023: 'Best Use of Health and Safety Data to Lower Incident Rates.'

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OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS

IOSH calls on the Government to reverse the decision to exempt businesses with fewer than 500 staff from reporting requirements and other regulations. Lawrence Webb provides an insight.



WE WERE concerned at the end of 2022 when the UK Government announced a move to exempt businesses with fewer than 500 staff from reporting and regulatory requirements.

In announcing this move, it was claimed it would “free” 40,000 businesses from “future bureaucracy”.

This is not something to be celebrated; we feel it would be a huge step in the wrong direction, potentially creating a race to the bottom when it comes to occupational safety and health standards.

That was the point we put across to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak when we wrote to him. Our letter contained a number of calls for action, but we focused on encouraging him to make an “early, bold” move by reversing the decision, which was taken by his predecessor Liz Truss.

At the time of writing, it is too soon to know if this call will be heeded by the Government. But the fact is that the health, safety and wellbeing of the workforce should be a priority for every business, regardless of its size and what regulatory requirements it faces.

Small and medium-sized enterprises – or SMEs as they are commonly known – play a key role in national economies around the world, generating employment, adding value and contributing to innovation, sustainability and inclusive growth.

More than 99 per cent of UK businesses are SMEs, each with fewer than 250 employees. Together, they account for 60 per cent of private sector jobs, according to the Federation of Small Businesses. Globally, they represent about 90 per cent of businesses and more than 50 per cent of employment.

And health and safety is key for them. In fact, it is good for business and therefore good for the economy. Effective OSH regulations, proportionately and sensibly applied, help ensure many millions of lives



and livelihoods are protected each and every day.

SMEs have unique features that affect their approach to and outcomes from OSH and sustainable practices. These features should be taken into consideration by regulators and policy-makers when designing compliance, policies, strategies, programmes, tools and initiatives for SMEs to improve OSH performance, protect workers and improve working conditions.

Despite this, workers operating in micro-organisations and SMEs are often at a greater risk of workplace accidents and work-related ill-health and tend to have higher rates of accidents and disease.

An EU-OSHA report showed that SMEs have an increased risk of accidents, compared to large enterprises. In firms with fewer than 50 workers, the fatal accident rate is around double that of larger companies. The study also suggested that there is also a higher risk of non-fatal accidents.

Also, as SMEs become more active in supply chains and in the informal economy, their ability to manage risk becomes more important. Supporting micro-organisations and SMEs in their corporate governance and due diligence

is vital if we want to reduce accidents and ill-health in this key segment of the labour market.

Micro-organisations and SMEs stand to gain significant benefits from adopting responsible and sustainable business practices, irrespective of the sector they are in. IOSH calls on micro-organisations and SMEs to ensure they are aware of occupational safety and health requirements and risks in relation to their business, and to put in place proportionate systems and controls for the protection of their workers.

At the same time, we believe that policy-makers and regulators need to be more focused on proportionate actions, good and easily accessible advice and tailored solutions to upskill them. They should NOT be focusing on removing requirements to focus on such things. With OSH now endorsed by the International Labour Organization as a fundamental human right, the UK should be leading the way in setting standards and expectations. ■

Lawrence Webb is president-elect at the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. For more information, visit www.iosh.com Tel:0116 257 3100

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LESSONS IN SAFETY

When it comes to work-related stress, prevention is key. Natalie Sherborne shares some advice from the new NEBOSH HSE Certificate in Managing Stress at Work, which was developed in collaboration with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).



FIGURES SHOW that 1.7 million people suffered from work-related ill health in Great Britain in 2020-21. Of these, 822,000 (approximately half) were a result of work-related stress, depression or anxiety.

Employers in Great Britain have a moral and legal duty to protect employees from work-related stress as part of caring for their health, safety and welfare, and supporting colleagues' mental wellbeing is the right thing to do. Why wouldn't you want to maintain the health and happiness of your workforce? I appreciate that businesses need to be financially secure to pay their bills and keep their colleagues in employment, but the following information can make a compelling case that prioritising mental wellbeing is as good for business as it is for our people:

- Data from 2019-20 showed that stress, depression or anxiety results in an average of 21.6 days off work per employee, longer than any other reason for sickness absence: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/dayslost.htm>
- Research from Deloitte earlier this year revealed that the UK employer cost of poor mental health is increasing. Yet there is an average return of £5.30 for every £1 spent on staff wellbeing: <https://www2.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/press-releases/articles/poor-mental-health-costs-uk-employers-up-to-pound-56-billion-a-year.html>

FOCUS ON PREVENTION

My biggest piece of advice is to be proactive: prevention is better than cure. Here are my top tips to help you get started, all of which are based upon learning from the NEBOSH and HSE qualification:

Understand the common causes of workplace stress

There are six key workplace stressors – demands, control, relationships, support,

role and change – as well as other factors such as culture, job security and external factors. Understanding how your organisation currently manages these elements is key to creating an effective risk assessment that manages and prevents stress in your workplace.

Use the Health and Safety Executive's simple management standards process. This consists of the following steps:

- Get started – secure commitment and support from leadership, then establish steering groups to help share ideas, take action and assign responsibilities.
- Identify risks – understand workplace stressors and gather and evaluate information to understand the associated risks.
- Create an action plan – develop, organise and prioritise interventions using the information and evaluation gathered.
- Monitor and review – repeat some of the earlier information gathering activities, look at the data and review how your actions are influencing employee wellbeing.

Communication is key

Establish and maintain two-way communications channels with employees and key stakeholders such as leadership and steering groups. Surveys and absence data provides quantitative information but prevention is key and early information – such as that provided by focus groups or line manager feedback channels – can help you to be proactive.

Prioritise your actions by implementing interventions which will be the most effective in addressing workplace stress.

Characteristics of successful interventions include:

- Managerial commitment
- Worker involvement



- Organisation-wide engagement
- Integration with existing organisational systems
- Adequate resource

Use the tools and resources already available

The HSE's Talking Toolkit provides guidance on having conversations with people, focused on the six key workplace stressors.

The Thriving at Work toolkit also provides a selection of free resources, all intended to help employers can better support all employees, including those with poor mental health or wellbeing, to remain in and thrive at work.

NEBOSH HSE Certificate in Managing Stress at Work can be studied through NEBOSH's network of accredited Learning Partners, offering options for both online and classroom learning. ■

Natalie Sherborne is product development manager at NEBOSH.

For more information visit: www.nebosh.org.uk/hsestress

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There are six key workplace stressors – demands, control, relationships, support, role and change – as well as other factors such as culture, job security and external factors.

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DATA CHALLENGE

UK health and safety is heading in the right direction, but there is still work to be done, says Ben Henderson.



THIS MONTH the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Government Agency in charge of regulating and enforcing workplace health, safety and welfare released its annual report on health and safety statistics on work-related injury, ill health and costs in Britain.

The UK is continuing to make great strides in reducing the number of work-related injuries occurring each year. Incidents only marginally increased from last year, however it is thought last year's statistics were artificially lower due to the pandemic and changing working patterns.

Despite this increase, the UK's progress since the turn of the millennium is encouraging to see, especially compared to its European counterparts – with France reporting five times the number of fatal injuries per 100,000 workers as the UK – there is still a significant amount of work for the UK to do to continue to drive down work-related injuries and deaths.

To achieve this, companies must continue and, in some instances, start to put workplace safety at the heart of their company culture. This is of course easier said than done. One of the main barriers for organisations struggling to improve their safety culture is ensuring that employees are engaged and actively participating in trying to improve it.

The question that many companies ask themselves is how do we get employees engaged in the process?

The answer? Well, this can differ from organisation to organisation, however, whether we are working with clients from the oil and gas industry or in manufacturing, being able to demonstrate that the health and safety initiatives that have been introduced are having an impact is a sound basis to start from.

To be able to do this, companies must have their data in order. If they don't, they will be unable to track and measure their health and safety performance effectively, and as such, will not be able to demonstrate to their workers the



health and safety practices they have put in place are making a difference.

However, an Intellex research report released earlier this year found that of those health and safety professionals who have experienced at least one health and safety incident in the last 12 months, almost half said they were struggling to extract, format and submit the data they need to deal with the challenge successfully. This issue was compounded by the fact that they were using inconsistent data across multiple sources, and wasting time and effort trying to locate key information across different IT systems.

It is not that surprising therefore that almost nine out of 10 respondents to our research believe implementing technologies and applications specifically designed for monitoring, managing and reporting health and safety would resolve the majority of their organisation's health and safety issues.

This does beg the question that if more companies deployed bespoke health and safety management software

over the next five years, how much further could the annual statistics released by the HSE drop by? Of course, technology cannot remove all dangers in the workplace, or account for human error. But it can help health and safety professionals collect data, manage performance and identify trends as to where potential hazards may be – enabling them to put strategies in place to mitigate the risks, as well as showing where these strategies are working – all the while driving further employee awareness and buy-in.

This in turn will start to create a positive virtuous cycle. The more that employees are on board with health and safety initiatives, the fewer workplace incidents there will be, making organisations safer and pushing up their health and safety performance. ■

Ben Henderson is head of product solution consulting, EMEA at Intellex Technologies. For more information, visit www.intellex.com Tel:0800 047 8105


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In the spotlight with NIK RILATT

This month we put Nik Rilatt from RS Safety Solutions in the spotlight to find out how he found himself working in the world of health and safety.

How did you get into the health and safety industry?

A: My career in the PPE industry has spanned 20 years, starting as an office junior for one of the UK's largest distributors. During my time there, I worked in various roles such as branch admin, exports, and category management. I then joined Needlers four and a half years ago as product and procurement manager, and in my time I have worked hard to offer the very best range of products and solutions to our customers. Needlers was acquired by RS in 2021.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: I really enjoy how much my role challenges me every day and encourages me to seek out opportunities to innovate, work with new technologies and continuously develop our products and solutions. This industry is all about getting people home safe to their loved ones and being able to help people do that is extremely rewarding. I feel as though what I do really makes a difference!

What do you think are the biggest challenges facing the health and safety industry in UK?

A: The UK health and safety industry is a challenging arena in which to work for many different reasons. Legislation and regulations are ever-changing, making it a continual challenge to remain up-to-date and informed. In addition to this, the complexity of the industry means there is a lack of understanding around health and safety in general. Customers expect more from their suppliers, especially when it comes to cost, meaning that it is an incredibly competitive market, so I have to constantly consider how we can add value to our customers in lots of different ways. Sustainability is one way that we can add value, however this provides its own challenges. There are also significant challenges around the enforcement of our industry with the authorities stretched, and not able to give the attention or resources that our industry really deserves.



How do you think these challenges can be overcome?

A: I believe that we need to work with our customers and end users more closely to provide so much more than just product. Sharing expert knowledge and awareness is key to ensuring these challenges can be overcome. Also, the constant development of new technologies and materials can help with sustainability, compliance and also supporting cost challenges by providing more reliable products and solutions.

What sets RS apart from its competitors?

A: RS has a vast amount of resources available which helps us to innovate and constantly improve what we do. RS' acquisition of Needlers and Liscombe has created a strong personal protection equipment offering, and the combination of the three brands and depth of expertise - comprising many years of health and safety industry knowledge and experience across all the teams - provides a powerful proposition. We have also launched RS Safety Solutions, offering our expertise and experience to help customers choose the right products for their needs, their compliance requirements and the industry they operate in. We offer a consultative approach to help them shape a safety strategy that will be fit for purpose, yield cost savings and choose sustainable solutions where possible.

RS invests heavily in people to help develop skills and knowledge even further and to ensure we're abreast of a rapidly evolving industry. RS

is also very committed to ESG and everyone in our organisation plays a part in delivering our goals to help make the world a better place.

What are you most memorable successes at RS?

A: The global pandemic was a difficult time for many industries for many reasons. My role during this time was crucial to support our customers, as we are a critical supplier to the UK food industry, and without the products that we ensured made their way to the food sector, there could have been huge repercussions on the food supply in the UK which would have impacted us all. It has also been a memorable time being a huge part of raising our presence in the market as true experts.

What's next in the product pipeline for RS?

A: In line with our ESG commitments, sustainable products are high on the agenda for us as is ensuring that we only work with the highest quality and ethical manufacturers. We are also looking to develop our products to suit specific markets around the world, not just the UK. I'm excited to see our product offer expand as we begin to work closely with new suppliers. The industry has some work to do around producing PPE that fits more people properly; people come in all kinds of shapes and sizes and so being able to offer products that will fit more people in the right way is something we are keen to develop. There's a lot of focus on the 'safety' side of health and safety but far less awareness/visibility on the 'health' which is something we will be looking to also address in collaboration with our customers. What's your vision for the future of RS? RS has evolved to become more much than simply a distributor of products. We are a solutions-driven business providing a one-stop-shop for our customers encompassing breadth of quality product range, high service levels and unrivalled expertise. The RS Safety Solutions service is an example of this, and I believe we will continue to be the trusted experts in our field and our customers will work with us long term to provide for their needs.



What do you think the medium term future holds for the safety industry globally?

We are still in a period of settling down following Covid-19 disruptions, meaning that there are some challenges to still overcome. This combined with war and economic challenges across the world means the medium term future is all about remaining stable and providing for our customers as best as we can in the face of these challenges.

What health and safety issues are you most passionate about?

A: I am passionate about fully understanding the issues people face and the impact these issues have on their lives, so that I can work to find the solution that will ultimately make life better. It is important to me that what we do makes a difference.

How can we entice more young talent to work in the health and safety sector?

A: It is important to get under the skin of what is important to the younger generation when looking to entice young talent into our industry. Forward thinking companies which recognise the importance of the issues that matter will successfully encourage young talent to join. Some examples of this could be around support and understanding the importance of mental health, and as the research suggests, making ESG a high priority can be an attractive quality for young talent who are evaluating their career choices. It is also important that the stigma attached to the health and safety industry is broken down, and educate future talent on the impact they can have and how they can make a difference. Attracting young talent is all well and good, but it is also important that organisations focus on how they retain talent so as not to lose expertise and future leaders. ■

Nik Rilatt is product & procurement manager for RS Safety Solutions. For more information, visit <https://uk.rs-online.com>

BIGGER AND BETTER

SHW Live North returns to Manchester Central for a two-day event with a packed line-up of industry-leading exhibiting brands, networking opportunities, and thought-provoking seminars.

AFTER A hugely successful launch in 2022, Safety, Health and Wellbeing Live North (SHW Live North) will be making a much anticipated return to Manchester Central this February.

This live, in-person event is coming back bigger and better in 2023, with a host of brand new exhibitors, event features and speakers. SHW Live North will be taking place on the 14 and 15 February at Manchester Central, and you can register now for free.

After the success of 2022, with over 80% of the 1,500+ attendees saying they were either satisfied or extremely

satisfied with the event, 2023 is set to be even better. Exhibitors are focused on the needs of the health and safety community, and are particularly relevant to the manufacturing and engineering, construction, transport, and public sectors.

Professionals who are responsible for health, safety and wellbeing within their organisations are invited to register their attendance for this free event to discover the latest innovations, enhance their professional knowledge, discuss industry trends, and build important relationships with other industry professionals in the community.

One Manchester 2022 visitor said, "As my first time attending SHW Live, I thoroughly enjoyed it. Some thought-provoking seminars and great exhibitors made for one of the best events I have attended. I look forward to attending next year's conference and recommend it to everyone."

The event will champion excellence in workplace safety and occupational health, as well as inspiring improved standards in mental health and wellbeing. This unique regional event is designed to enable OSH communities to shift the dial on health and safety culture in the workplace.



The event will champion excellence in workplace safety and occupational health, as well as inspiring improved standards in mental health and wellbeing.

Last year, this two-day event delivered a packed line-up of industry-leading exhibiting brands, networking opportunities, and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) sessions for all delegates. And with 4 in 5 of last year's attendees saying they're very or highly likely to return in 2023, the event is expected to see high numbers once again.

With a focus on providing professionals with the tools they need to prioritise health and safety, attendees will have the chance to learn about the latest regulatory changes and work being undertaken to improve health and safety culture in the workplace. Topics covered will include sustainability in the industry, the evolving workplace health and wellbeing culture, mental health discussions, and much more.

This year, we will be collaborating with Health and Safety Matters Magazine to present the HSM Knowledge Hub, delivering a series of carefully curated panel debates, each focused on frontline health and safety priorities.

This event is delivered in collaboration with The Health and Safety Executive. All 2022 event partners have continued their support into 2023, including IOSH, NEBOSH, British Safety Council, BOHS, IIRSM, Safety Groups UK, UKATA, Institute of Occupational Medicine, No Falls Foundation and Safety4Good.

The exhibition and conference, SHW Live will also host a free networking drinks reception open to all visitors and exhibitors alike in Partnership with IOSH local branches.

The show is organised by an experienced team of professionals at What Else Events. With over 20 years' experience delivering the highest quality exhibitions and conferences for OSH professionals.

CONNECTING THE OSH COMMUNITY

"It was a great time meeting and networking with like minds and industry experts. Safety, Health and Wellbeing Live was worth every minute of the time spent." - 2022 Visitor

We were delighted to be able to once again connect regional occupational safety and health professionals in the North and Northwest of England in 2022. The event, which is taking place at Manchester Central, presents an easily accessible, in-person occasion for the industry.

With ongoing industry challenges such as restrictive budgets, travel, and time constraints, SHW Live aims to provide the only truly accessible, affordable, and sustainable platform for the community to meet up again in person.

SUPPORTED BY THE OSH INDUSTRY

Numerous industry-leading bodies, regulators and councils have pledged their continued support for the two-day exhibition and conference event as event partners. Organisers are supported by an experienced Advisory Council, which includes some of the UK's most influential voices in occupational safety and health.

The council comprises more than 20 accomplished professionals, representing some of the most respected industry bodies, including the British Safety Council, British Occupational Hygiene Society and NEBOSH.

MEET LEADING BRANDS

"Several of the team attended the event and feedback was unanimously positive. Everybody took something different from the event, which is a testament to the variety of exhibitors and seminars on offer. The visit has created a buzz in the team and focussed everybody on the importance of wellbeing and safety. I am looking forward to attending future events," commented a 2022 visitor.

With more than 80 new and returning exhibitors expected to take part in SHW Live North, the event presents an ideal platform for world-class brands to showcase their latest products and services to OSH professionals from across the buying chain.

Exhibitors will once again include leading brands such as the event's Founding Partners - Bollé Safety, Moldex, RRC International, Casella, Guardian, Evac+Chair, Haix, Unigloves and Cromwell.

With direct access to exhibitor sales teams and technical experts, the in-person event enables attendees to experience products and services first-hand and learn just how they work from those that know and understand them the most.

SHW Live North brings together industry-leading brands and suppliers showcasing the latest innovations, including live demonstrations and application inspiration to give OSH professionals the tools they need to enact real change in their workplace.





HSE COLLABORATION

2022 saw SHW Live deliver the highest-quality event of its type, and the organisers are proud to be continuing with their collaboration with the Health and Safety Executive to do so. HSE will be hosting sessions in the Keynote Theatre on day one.

HSE head of marketing Jacinta Atkinson spoke of the collaboration; "We are delighted to be collaborating with SHW Live to help shape the agenda for the shows to reflect the needs of our duty holders, stakeholders, and partners."

WORLD-CLASS CONTENT

SHW Live North will once again be bringing visitors a range of high quality educational content, delivered through two conference theatres - all included with the free pass.

The Keynote Theatre will be focused on looking forward to the future whilst the HSM Knowledge Hub - new for 2023 - will place a focus on the here and now, both theatres offering invaluable content that will really make a difference to your organisation.

For 2023, What Else Events is delighted to be partnered with Health & Safety Matters Magazine to deliver the highest quality debate and information for front line safety and health workers.

The HSM Knowledge Hub will deliver a series of carefully curated panel debates, dedicated to providing content tailored to the core of the market and responding to the day to day needs of the OSH professional.

The comprehensive programme will provide insights into key topics including PPE, legal regulations, management and leadership, safety culture, risk management and worker protection.

Keynote Theatre presentations include:

- The Line Manager Paradox - Marcus Herbert, British Safety Council
 - Science Briefing from IOM - Nathan Baker, Dr Karen Galea, and Prof Damien McElvenny, IOM
 - Impacts of Fire Safety Act - Dennis Davis, Fire Sector Federation
 - Leadership: Organisational Vs Individual Resilience - EurOSM Dee Arp Dip2OSH CMIOSH MIIRSM MCIEA, NEBOSH
 - IOSH
 - In the SHW Knowledge Hub, sessions will include:
 - Creating a Suitable Safety Culture - Dr. Julie Riggs, British Safety Council and Mark Creighton, Worknest
 - Do You Know the Suitable Evacuation Policy? - Colin Moore, Evac+Chair, and Russ Timpson, Tall Building Network
 - Managing MSDs and Ergonomics - Matt Powell-Howard, NEBOSH, Matt Birtles, Health and Safety Executive
 - RIDDOR and the Role of the Responsible Person - Rhian Greaves, DAC Beachcroft, and Matt Sulley, Pinsent Masons
 - Fire Safety Mock Trial - Warren Spencer, Blackhurst Budd Solicitors
- Attendees will have the opportunity to attribute learnings from any SHW Live conference sessions towards their CPD certification for the year.

Whether it's keeping up with the latest regulatory changes, evolving your workplace culture or working on mental health, SHW Live North will cover a vast range of topics, keeping you in the know.

The full agenda for both the SHW Keynote Theatre and HSM Knowledge Hub can be found at www.safetyhealthwellbeing.live. The packed

SHW Live North will once again be bringing visitors a range of high quality educational content, delivered through two conference theatres - all included with the free pass.

agenda complements numerous networking opportunities for professionals and exhibitors in a relaxed, enjoyable, and friendly environment.

MANCHESTER CENTRAL

"Great event and chance to meet up with acquaintances in the industry. Venue is centrally located and easy to access via train. Will definitely be attending next year," said a 2022 visitor.

Taking place at the iconic Manchester Central Convention Complex, event organisers have addressed the challenges of the industry relating to increased pressures on time, cost of travel and employer-imposed restrictions.

Located in the centre of the UK, Manchester benefits from excellent road, rail, and air links, which allow for easy access for delegates from all four corners of the country.

The venue is a world-class convention centre, situated in the heart of Manchester. As such, it is easily accessible for thousands of OSH professionals to attend. Furthermore, discounted car-parking, endless accommodation choice and hospitality and entertainment options are just moments away.

Whether your priority is workplace safety, occupational health or mental health and wellbeing, SHW live presents a unique chance to stay up to date with the latest legislation alongside unrivalled networking and procurement opportunities within the Safety, Health, and Wellbeing industry.

Featuring product launches, live demonstrations, and new technologies, come together with other OSH professionals to discover solutions across Health and Safety training, PPE procurement, occupational and environmental monitoring, H&S consultancy and much more. ■

SHW Live will take place at Manchester Central on 14-15 February 2023. Register now for your FREE pass at www.safetyhealthwellbeing.live



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SHW *Keynote Theatre*

Tuesday 14th February 2023

09:45-10:15	Managing work-related stress Health and Safety Executive	
10:45-11:15	Sentencing: learning from the mistakes of others Rhian Greaves , (DAC Beachcroft)	
11:45-12:15	The Line Manager Paradox Marcus Herbert , (British Safety Council)	
12:45-13:15	How mental health is related to physical health on construction sites Nicola Hodkinson , (Trustee of Mates in Mind)	
13:45-14:15	Health and Safety Executive address	
14:00-15:00	The science briefing from IOM Nathan Baker , Chief Executive, IOM Prof. Damien McElevenny , Biostatistician and Epidemiologist, IOM Dr Karen Galea , Research Team Lead, IOM	

Wednesday 15th February 2023

09:45-10:15	Brilliant careers; OSH as a first choice – an IOSH led discussion Chair: Lawrence Webb , IOSH President	
10:45-11:15	Impacts of the Fire Safety Act Dennis Davis (Fire Sector Federation)	
11:45-12:15	Leadership: Organisational versus individual resilience Dee Arp (NEBOSH)	
12:45-13:15	All inclusive: The value of diversity – an IOSH led discussion Chair: Fayola Francis , EDI Lead, IOSH	
13:45-14:15	The evolution of the OSH professional Dr. Julie Riggs (British Safety Council)	
14:45-15:15	What makes a sustainable workforce? – an IOSH led discussion Chair – Richard Bate , IOSH Vice-President	

HSM Knowledge Hub

Tuesday 14th February 2023

09:45-10:15	Do you have a suitable evacuation policy Colin Moore (Evac+Chair), Russ Timpson (Tall Buildings Network)
10:45-11:15	Designated Standards and PPE Adam Bradley (Moldex), Chris Bishop (UKATA), Mike Clayton (RPE Consultancy Ltd)
11:45-12:15	What's your health and safety focus Phil Roberts (G&W UK)
12:45-13:15	RIDDOR and the role of the responsible person Matt Sulley (Pinsent Masons), Rhian Greaves (DAC Beachcroft), John Southall (Opus Safety)
14:00-15:00	Fire Safety Mock Trial Warren Spencer , Blackhurst Budd Solicitors
15:30-16:00	Fire Safety Mock Trial Conclusion Warren Spencer , Blackhurst Budd Solicitors

Wednesday 15th February 2023

09:45-10:15	Falls from height - The biggest cause of workplace fatalities in the UK Peter Styth (Guardian), No Falls Foundation, PASMA
10:45-11:15	Creating a suitable safety culture Dr. Julie Riggs (British Safety Council), Bill McDonald (RRC International), Mark Creighton (Worknest)
11:45-12:15	Protecting workers in hazardous environments Kevin Bampton (BOHS)
12:45-13:15	Is your PPE Compatible Ken Smith (Cromwell), Tim Brett (INSPEC International Ltd), Steve Bray (Bolle)
13:45-14:15	Managing MSDs and ergonomics Matt Powell-Howard (NEBOSH), Matt Birtles (Health and Safety Executive)
14:45-15:15	Effective risk management systems Alex Minett (CHAS), John Nelson (IIRSM), Adam Walton (Safety Chair)





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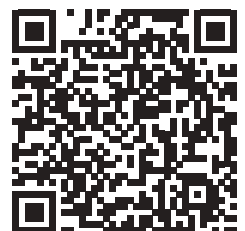
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UNIGLOVES GEARING UP FOR SHW LIVE

SHW LIVE Founding Partner and hand and arm protection specialist Unigloves is looking forward to being part of another highly successful event in Manchester in February 2023.

Unigloves, which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary in the UK, is driven by its mission to constantly find new and better ways to protect hands.

Sustainable products will feature on the Unigloves stand, including its latest nitrile biodegradable disposable gloves – BioTouch – combining chemical resistance, comfort and grip with innovative, environmentally friendly,

Biodegradable Technology.

Biodegradability performance is achieved thanks to an organic additive, which attracts microbes found in landfills. The biodegradation method is strictly enzymatic, dissolving and de-polymerising the polymer chain naturally.

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For more information, visit www.unigloves.co.uk

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ELITE SAFETY FOOTWEAR RANGE

HAIX WILL be exhibiting at Safety, Health & Wellbeing Live 2023, February 14-15, Manchester Central, stand 112, to share its expertise and innovations with occupational safety and health communities across the UK. As a founding partner of the event, HAIX will be joining leading manufacturers and suppliers to share best practices and discuss the latest trends in the sector. At the HAIX stand, visitors will find a range of footwear manufactured in Europe using industry-leading techniques and high-grade materials, including the Black Eagle Safety 54 mid and Trekker Pro 2.0. The knowledgeable HAIX team will be on hand to answer any questions and advise visitors. Visitors can expect to see the following boots at the stand.

The Black Eagle Safety 54 prioritises comfort, stability, breathability and durability, creating



a leading safety shoe, exceeding the EN ISO 20345:2011 safety standard, achieving S3 certification through exceptional safety features.

The Trekker Pro 2.0 is designed using high-quality materials and advanced production processes to ensure that the boot works with wearers all shift long.

For more information, visit www.haix.co.uk

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Lightweight yet robust construction, ease of manoeuvrability and lockable wheels make moving between sites and floors simpler and safer with less strain on the user – and it's this focus on improving working conditions for the user that is a key characteristic of

the new range.

The new range includes two battery driven models (PACE and i-series) that offer the same features as corded models and the extra convenience of cordless operation.

As well as making them quick to set up and start using, no power grid connection is required, optimising working time and versatility.

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www.husqvarnaconstruction.com/uk/

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The company also offers a host of health and safety eLearning courses and NVQs.

Courses are delivered by a team of highly skilled and experienced trainers who are experts in their fields. If your business has a bespoke requirement its team can work with you to adapt a course to better suit your business, or build a



bespoke solution.

On the 3B Training website, you can find course details as well as upcoming dates, prices and availability. You can also book online for your convenience.

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INVISIBLE THREAT WITH VISIBLE CONSEQUENCES

There is growing awareness of poor indoor air quality and how this can effect the health and wellbeing of workers. David Flower takes a look at this important issue.



POOOR AIR quality is the largest environmental risk to health in the UK according to the Government. Their statistics¹ show that between 2017 and 2025 the total cost to the NHS and social care of air pollutants will be £1.6 billion, with between 28000 and 36000 deaths a year.

Furthermore, over 12 million people living with pre-existing health conditions can find those exacerbated by air pollution.

For years, the danger of outdoor air pollution has been widely known, researched, and discussed.

It is only in recent times, particularly with COVID-19 that Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) has come to the fore as a major health concern.

From reduced cognitive function, lung cancer and asthma to COPD and increased risks of heart attack and stroke; the pandemic has shone a light on the public health consequences of poor building ventilation, indoor air contaminants and the threat they pose.

Whilst IAQ research and legislation lags behind that of outdoor air pollution, it continues because of growing awareness, to gather pace.

Leading bodies such as UK Research and Innovation and the IOM are at the forefront of work around health impact assessments, epidemiological studies, and intervention approaches. The IOM's most recent contributions in the field have included independent research on behalf of DEFRA and its Air Quality Expert Group.

With 80% of time spent on average indoors, a large proportion in the workplace and with huge numbers of people visiting doctors daily (up to 3 million² working days lost as a result), businesses need to ask themselves are they doing enough to combat the challenge of poor IAQ and protect their employees?

WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF POOR INDOOR AIR QUALITY?

Indoor air pollution arises from a multitude of workplace sources, processes, and activities.

These range from cleaning activities and materials, furnishings, building composites, moulds, ground gases, paint, heating and even air fresheners. In addition, it also comprises pollutants from outdoor sources.

When trapped in poorly ventilated buildings; those designed with energy efficient airtight construction; or small spaces with increased temperatures, lack of airflow, distribution, and humidity pollutants can reach uncomfortably elevated levels, remaining in the air for prolonged periods.

These include but not restricted to Nitrogen Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), allergens, radon, and particulate matter.

Indoor air pollution can vary dependent on the specific area within a building, and according to some statistics, indoor air pollutants can be two to ten times higher than outdoor pollution.

IAQ is one of the causes therefore

of what has been referred to as Sick Building Syndrome. This occurs when conditions within a particular building and its services lead to workers experiencing health symptoms ranging from lethargy, headaches, coughing, wheezing, itchy skin, and congestion.

In certain sectors such as manufacturing, one of the largest employers in the UK with approx. 3 million workers, the consequences can be far more serious in terms of severe health impacts. The nature of duties in this industry such as welding and abrading, can see prolonged exposure over long shifts and often with inadequate protection and control.

Along with the health consequences the impact of IAQ and SBS on productivity, employee satisfaction and wellbeing, and overall economic growth can be huge.

CURRENT LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

Historically, guidance and legislation around IAQ has been somewhat of a grey, often confusing area, miles behind that of outdoor air pollution and with little enforceable power or clarity.

This has been due to the complexities involved with indoor air pollution in terms of how you define IAQ; constantly changing internal environments, the evolution of a building/workplace, sources of pollutants and people's individual perceptions of comfort.

In the UK, the first comprehensive attention given to it with regards to potential health effects was in 1991 with the House of Commons Select Committee Enquiry on Indoor Air Pollution.

The most recent indoor air quality guidelines for England were published in 2019; these sit alongside the WHO European guidelines³. Together with HSE EH404 workplace exposure limits, and COSHH regulations, these set out UK IAQ workplace legislation and guidance around exposure levels, as well as the monitoring and measurement of known pollutants.

The Building Safety Act 2022⁵ has raised awareness around the provision of health and safety of persons in or around buildings and the condition of buildings.

With the use of CO2 monitors in buildings to measure indoor air parameters, allowing occupants to take control and increase ventilation which leads to an improvement of indoor air quality.

With the use of CO2 monitors in buildings to measure indoor air parameters, allowing occupants to take control and increase ventilation which leads to an improvement of indoor air quality.

IAQ IN THE WORKPLACE

With greater awareness and now focus given to the issue of IAQ; it is vital that businesses educate themselves and ensure they are doing everything necessary to protect staff as well as their visitors too.

It can appear overwhelming to know where and how to start evaluating IAQ, comply with legislation, and achieve ISO7730; but having up to date and accurate data is the first step to an effective strategy.

A comprehensive COSHH risk assessment carried out by an independent Occupational Hygiene consultant will help to analyse those pollutant concentrations which are of concern. This will include location, staff roles, duration, and variability of work. For example, a full day or short term events.

Employers can also employ a workplace survey to ascertain staff opinions and susceptibility as it relates to poor air quality, working conditions and their health and wellbeing. These proactive approaches and demonstrable efforts help to alleviate employee concerns and in so doing assist businesses in retaining and attracting staff.

From these steps, continual monitoring can be implemented to get a holistic picture, with a state-of-the-art air quality sensor such as those employed by the IOM.

This cost-effective technology provides continuous monitoring and real-time scientific data 24/7 to offer insight and accuracy around short and long-term exposure levels in often complex indoor environments.

As Dr Mark Cherrie, senior scientist at IOM explains, "Our research at the IOM has demonstrated that the majority of exposure to air pollution occurs within indoor environments, especially at home and work. We have demonstrated the feasibility of using real-time low-cost sensors to moderate these risks to health."

Sensors are available to measure key airborne indoor air pollutants:

- Humidity
- CO2
- Carbon Monoxide
- VOCs
- Barometric Pressure
- Temperature
- Particulates
- Range of gases including formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, ammonia, and hydrogen sulphide

These measurements presented on a remote dashboard, alongside survey and assessment results enable businesses along with their expert independent occupational hygienist to get a clear and reliable picture of their workplace indoor air quality.

David Flower, senior occupational hygienist with IOM explains, "A lot of traditional monitoring has been spot sampling, looking at the here and now. The problem with this is it is short-term and does not give a business the full picture."

"With the sensor, we are looking at long-term monitoring of indoor air quality to give us and the client a full gage of the situation. This ensures that changing variables within the working environment can be picked up and allows us to then offer the most comprehensive response."

Armed with this information businesses can take appropriate advice and action to optimise, evaluate and manage current control measures, precautions, ventilation and building design. In so doing they ensure staff and visitor health, comfort, and productivity.

RECOMMENDED CONTROL MEASURES FOR IAQ

Once the collation and analysing of data is complete, it should be straightforward to identify priority areas for action and whether a business requires new control measures or improvements/upgrading to current ones.

When it comes to IAQ, control measures divide into passive and active methods dependent on requirements but with emphasis being to eliminate or isolate individual sources.

Passive methods:

- Improving natural ventilation by opening windows and doors.
- Limiting the number of occupants in a room.
- Reassessing room layout and furniture configuration.



Active methods:

- Introduction of Local Exhaust Ventilation systems.
- Mechanical ventilation systems that incorporate HVAC systems to provide filtered air. Regularly assessing, cleaning, and maintaining your current filtration and HVAC systems to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- Humidity control and moisture management through dedicated dehumidification equipment.

CONCLUSION

IAQ effects businesses and those who operate within them hugely. From performance and productivity, to health, wellbeing, and compliance; the consequences of putting it to the bottom of health and safety strategies can be huge.

Professional organisations such as the IOM make it easy to stay on top of this important issue: with remote monitoring, ventilation, and occupational hygiene services to support building owners, occupiers and health and safety managers.

Moving forward, it is likely that IAQ will become an even bigger issue from a legislative and health point of view. Businesses will make real gains now by ensuring they embrace their responsibilities and give it the recognition it deserves. ■

When it comes to IAQ, control measures divide into passive and active methods dependent on requirements but with emphasis being to eliminate or isolate individual sources.



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- 4 <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/eh40.htm>
- 5 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/30/enacted>

David Flower is senior occupational hygienist at IOM World. For more information, visit <http://www.iom-world.org>

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TESTING IS POSITIVE

Ian Gil-Rodriguez highlights the importance of workplace culture and the role of drug and alcohol testing when it comes to safety at work.

WHILE IT may be an obvious link to some, the relationship between workplace culture, mental health and wellbeing, and the safety of employees can't be overstated.

Despite the significant strides made over recent years in attitudes to mental health, in some organisations it remains a taboo.

Within this arena, it is also important to consider the impact of impairment due to drugs (both prescription or illegal) and alcohol in the workplace, an issue which has become more prevalent since the pandemic.

MENTAL VS PHYSICAL

A culture of openness and awareness of mental health was reported as the number one factor in making people feel safe according to independent research carried out as part of the Dräger Safety at Work Report 2022¹. And – importantly – 56% of respondents stated that feeling able to bring up safety fears – be they related to mental or physical health – was the main factor that helped them feel safe.

Furthermore, 53% of workers believe that mental health should be given as much focus as physical health by their employers.

However, despite growing awareness around mental health in both the workplace as well as society in general, it can often still be seen as a distinctly separate issue from physical health when it comes to the topic of workplace safety.

The reality is that the mental health crisis following Covid-19, and recent increases in drug and alcohol use within society, as referenced in this Delamere report², combined with a lack of awareness regarding the potential side-effects from common medical treatments for issues such as depression and anxiety, mean that it often has the potential to have a very real impact on people's physical health and wellbeing at work.

During the pandemic and beyond, the report revealed that many individuals use drink and alcohol to alleviate stress, whether from the pressures endured during Covid or from the burden of the current cost of living crisis.



THE NEED FOR GREATER OPENNESS

In many ways the role of workplace culture, where there is an open attitude to mental health concerns, provides a cornerstone for the vital bridge between mental health and wellbeing, and physical health in the workplace.

Yet surprisingly, this year's Dräger Safety at Work research reported that less than half (40%) of managers believed that treating mental health and physical health equally is important for safety.

Furthermore, there exists a real disparity on the topic between managers and employees as well as across the generations. 56% of employees believing that mental and physical health should be treated the same, suggesting that managers have some work to do on this issue. Additionally, younger workers feel less supported than older respondents, with nearly a third (32%) of 18-24 year olds claiming that their workplace doesn't take mental health as seriously as physical health. Conversely, amongst the over 55s this drops to 16%. This view was particularly prevalent amongst oil and gas workers (33%) and those in renewables (30%), compared to the utilities (18%) industries.

TODAY'S WORKPLACE

Poor mental health is a very real issue in today's workplace, which needs to be managed sensitively. The charity the Mental Health Foundation³ reports that 13 percent of all sickness absence days in the UK can be attributed to mental health conditions, while a report by Deloitte published in April 2022 reveals that poor mental health costs UK employers up to £56 billion a year.

MENTAL HEALTH AT WORK

Dräger's research indicates that stress, anxiety and other mental health issues at work are common, with 27% of all respondents reporting that they have significant experienced of this, and nearly half (49%) reporting that they have experienced mental health issues once or twice.

Just 23% report never having experienced a mental health issue.

When it comes to different generations, those in the 18-24 years bracket are more likely to have experienced mental ill health with almost nine in ten people (87%) reporting this, compared with less than half (45%) in the 55+ years bracket.

It is recognised that a person who suffers from mental ill health may also increase their alcohol intake or use

DRÄGER SAFETY AT WORK REPORT – EXPERIENCE OF STRESS, ANXIETY OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AT WORK

	Total	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
Experience stress anxiety or mental health issues at work - a lot	27%	31%	31%	27%	23%	9%
Experience stress anxiety or mental health issues at work - once or twice	49%	56%	51%	49%	48%	36%
Never experience stress anxiety or mental health issues at work	23%	14%	18%	24%	28%	55%

It may be obvious that if someone is operating safety critical machinery, they should be regularly tested but, for example, driving a colleague to a meeting also has a risk factor.

recreational drugs in an attempt to self-medicate, or indeed they may take the step of seeking prescription drugs to support their mental wellbeing.

It may be obvious that if someone is operating safety critical machinery, they should be regularly tested but, for example, driving a colleague to a meeting also has a risk factor.

THE IMPACT OF COVID

A 2022 report by Delamere⁴ on drug and alcohol use suggests that post-Covid drink and drug usage, particularly drinking is becoming normalised behaviour. During the pandemic and beyond, the report revealed that many individuals use drink and alcohol to alleviate stress, whether from the pressures endured during Covid or from the burden of the current cost of living crisis. More than half of the

respondents (56%) stated that alcohol in particular helps them to relax, while an alarming fifth (21%), said that it helped to diminish feelings of stress, whilst acknowledging that this led to a vicious circle of alcohol abuse, often leading to increased anxiety.

It is also evident that the increase prescription of legal drugs, which in part may be attributed to treatment of mental health and general wellbeing, is also part of the wider increase in drug and alcohol consumption. And while it can be seen as positive that there is starting to be an acceptance and awareness of the importance of mental health in the workplace, alongside physical health, there are, nevertheless, implications for safety at work, regardless of the motivation.

It's important to recognise that prescription medicines, such as benzodiazepines (which treat common



medical issues such as depression) can have the potential to impair the cognitive ability performance of the individual taking them, and in turn, the potential to impact safety in the workplace. Common side effects from such drugs can include drowsiness, dizziness, loss of balance, confusion or memory loss.

Clearly this type of side effect has very real and practical impact, particularly in safety critical jobs. It is therefore vital that employees are given appropriate support, and to ensure they keep taking their medication, while sensitively managing any possible risks to workplace safety.

IMPAIRMENT TESTING

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is clear that all employers have a legal duty to protect employees' health, safety and welfare. As part of this, having a drug and alcohol policy which tests for all substances that have the potential to impair safety is increasingly seen as an important part of fulfilling this obligation and protecting all employees.

It is not surprising that more businesses are considering the implementation of a drug and alcohol testing programmes. The main benefit of this kind of programme is promoting a safer working environment for employees, this is particularly true for safety critical industries, such as those involving hazardous chemicals, heavy machinery or driving, as impairment significantly increases the risk of a

workplace accident. Furthermore, it provides the employer an opportunity to offer support to employees affected by stress and anxiety, while improved education about the impact of drugs and alcohol can promote a healthier workplace.

On the other side of the equation, there is a financial cost and resource commitment. Plus, some employees may view this type of policy as an invasion of their privacy.

However, indications suggest that employees have a growing recognition of the role played by everyone within a business in keeping colleagues safe, with Dräger's research showing that there is growing recognition of the important role of drug and alcohol testing in workplace safety. More than four in five (83%) respondents stated that they would be happy to comply with drug and alcohol testing at work to ensure the safety of the workforce as a whole, and a perhaps surprisingly, 70% reporting that they would be willing to be tested in their own home when working remotely.

The survey findings reflect Draeger Safety UK's own experience of working with customers, indicating that there is a growing recognition that screening is part of a company's comprehensive health and safety policy.

OdiliaClark, a specialist impairment risk management and wellbeing company, whose services include independent drug and alcohol testing services to help businesses maintain



a safe working environment, say that their experience of working with UK businesses backs up the research findings.

The company's managing director David Whiffin says, "In the main, employees see testing as a positive activity. They understand that testing is there as a safety net to support the many, not penalise the few.

"It's important that whatever the case for introducing a screening programme, the policy itself is fair and consistent, the procedures and process used are in line with current guidelines and best practice, and that the equipment and subsequent analysis are high-quality and accurate. The benefits of a good policy and programme should complement the overall approach to health and safety in the workplace and should be deployed in a non-punitive manner."

THE FUTURE

In conclusion, the research carried out for the Dräger Safety at Work report suggests that workforce culture needs to further evolve to adapt to the post-Covid workplace. The pandemic has been a catalyst for change in many aspects of workplace safety but when it comes to workplace culture, more forward thinking companies are recognising the central role of mental health in driving corporate policies to engender a safe working environment which will drive employee motivation and company productivity. ■

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- 4 <https://delamere.com/blog/drug-and-alcohol-use-survey-2022>

Ian Gil-Rodriguez is marketing manager – impairment at Draeger Safety UK. For more information, visit www.draeger.com

THINKING ABOUT DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING AT WORK, DO YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS - ALL RESPONDENTS

	Yes	No
I am horrified at the idea of being tested for drugs and/or alcohol by my employer	36%	69%
I think this is an invasion of my privacy	83%	64%
I would be happy to comply with any such testing policy as I think it is in everyone's interest to be safe at work	53%	47%
I think that testing of employees who operate potentially dangerous equipment is essential but I don't feel that office-based staff should be tested	53%	47%
I would be happy to be tested in my workplace	84%	16%
I would be happy to be tested whilst working from home	70%	30%



KENTEC WINS AWARD

KENTEC HAS won the Active Fire Project of the Year Award at the 2022 Security & Fire Excellence Awards for a project that utilises its flagship Taktis control panel and wireless fire detection system in Chester Cathedral.

The specialist installer, Charles Thomas Heritage Fire Protection was tasked with specifying and upgrading the wireless fire detection system previously installed at Chester Cathedral. The thick walls and lead-lined roofs and the other challenges that come with a building that can trace its roots back to 1093, meant that Charles Thomas had to think outside the box.

To ensure there was minimal disruption at the Cathedral Charles

Thomas Heritage Fire Protection chose Kentec's K-Mesh wireless fire protection system, powered by its flagship control panel, Taktis.

K-Mesh's technology uses self-healing and configuring Mesh technology to deliver optimum levels of reliability and performance. It also makes it easy to use, install and commission – and ultimately provides robust assurance that fire incidents are detected and communicated immediately. Due to the size of the Cathedral, many wireless expanders were needed to connect the system to the Taktis panel; capable of networking up to 32 panels simultaneously.

www.kentec.co.uk
Tel: 01322 222121

WIN A £100 JOHN LEWIS/ WAITROSE VOUCHER!

SHAWCITY IS conducting its annual brand survey to gain insights from your feedback and understand your opinions of its products and services. As one of our key audiences, we'd be grateful to the HSM magazine readers for your input, especially after another challenging year for everyone.

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and, in appreciation of your time, if you opt in we'll enter you into a prize draw to win one of five x £100 John Lewis/ Waitrose vouchers. Alternatively, you could choose £100 off your next purchase with us instead.

Prize winners will be announced on Tuesday 20th December and vouchers will be emailed to arrive in time for Christmas or maybe to grab a bargain in the sales!

We're particularly keen to hear

from the HSM audience and get your perspective of the health & safety industry. Don't miss the opportunity to let us know how we're doing and help shape the way we work together in the future. The survey closes at 23:59hrs on Monday 19th December. Good luck!

Follow this link to take part:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/B75LXHB>
Tel: 01367 899419



SLIPTEST'S NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL

SLIPTEST HAS been busy putting together lots of content for their new YouTube Channel, with the goal of helping people to understand and manage all things slip risk!

The channel looks at everything from the slip testing equipment we use, such as the Pendulum or the SlipAlert and how they work, to the reasons why you should slip test and the personal liability you could face.

The company recreated some practical scenarios to demonstrate how various contaminants left behind on the floor might appear visually when carrying out your cleaning regime. This is to help you recognise for yourself when cleaning



if there is potentially, an otherwise invisible slip risk, empowering you to proactively manage the slip risk. If nothing else, use it as a prompt to pick up the phone to SlipTest for some advice on what you are seeing.

Look out for the sneak peek video at one of our Slip Risk Awareness Training sessions.

View the channel at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCPGmJOOJpWeKsg8ic1e1PZQ
For more information, visit www.sliptest.info

Tel: 01234 712160

EUCHNER'S KEY APPOINTMENT

EUCHNER COMMITS to growth strategy with its new business development appointment.

Hollie's roles have been product-focussed and customer-facing since joining Euchner, so she is already well-versed on the company and its portfolio of machinery safety products and training solutions.

Commenting on the appointment, managing director (UK&I) David Dearden says, "Hollie's all-encompassing role helps support our major growth plans by being a key contributor to UK sales and marketing strategies for both products and services for Euchner.

"Her role will include research and analysis of key trends in new and existing markets, collaborating with both internal and external resources on new product launches



and working closely with the sales and services teams on growth strategies and the continued development of Euchner's key accounts network."

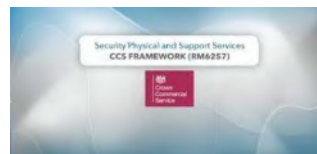
For further information, visit www.euchner.co.uk

Tel: 0114 2560123

SIMPLE ROUTE TO SECURITY SERVICES

RELIANCE HIGH-Tech has worked as an appointed framework partner with Crown Commercial Services (CCS) for a number of years, and is proud to announce its appointment to the new CCS framework (RM6257), 'Security Physical and Support Services'. As an approved and vetted supplier on CCS, Reliance High-Tech is pre-qualified to provide Electronic Security and Lone Worker Protection Services – including design, installation, maintenance and monitoring to any public sector entity wishing to use this framework.

The new framework provides a simple route for public sector



organisations to access security services and has been designed to provide value for money, trust and experience. Organisations that can access our services under the new framework include police, local government, health, education, housing associations and charities.

www.reliancehightech.co.uk
Tel: 01977 696649

HELPING HANDS

Nick Foort shares hand skin protection advice so that you can get your skin in order this winter.

PEOPLE WHO work with their hands on a daily basis rely on good skin condition.

Damaged and broken skin does not just affect workers' skin health, it can have a real detrimental impact on work productivity too.

As the winter months approach, so do colder temperatures and windier days; for those who work outdoors especially, this can have a significant impact on the health of the skin.

In 2021, alone, there were an estimated 8,000 new cases of 'skin problems' reported in the UK, that were made worse by work¹ - but a robust skin care programme, informed by best practice and scientific research, can help workers maintain good skin condition all year round, creating better working conditions for all.

WHAT IS AN IMPAIRED SKIN CONDITION?

Impaired skin conditions can range from dry skin, which may cause your employees minor discomfort while working, through to dermatitis, which carries more severe consequences. A study led by SC Johnson Professional found that 93% of industrial workers had dry skin, with 72% having visual signs of skin damage to their hands².

Further research completed in the US revealed that up to 10-15% of industrial workers may suffer from dermatitis at any one time³, with each case having the potential to cost an employer up to £6,000⁴.

THE BACKGROUND

In the UK, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) states that skin care plays an important role in preventing skin disease⁵. Despite this, regular compliance with best practice when it comes to work skin safety creams is estimated to be less than 10%⁶ and employees may simply accept their skin condition as part of the job, not viewing skin care as a priority at work.

Seeking to delve further into the behaviour of industrial workers, SC Johnson Professional carried out extensive research into attitudes towards skin care protection and restore creams

to find out what any possible barriers to use were. The study found that most workers avoided their use because of sensory issues; they disliked creams that were sticky, took too long to dry or affected their grip when using tools at work, for example.

Workers were also seeking an immediate benefit with creams, especially moisturisation creams. If experiencing dry, itchy skin, they wanted to feel relief and a signal that the cream was working straightaway – however regular use is needed to really improve the long-term condition of the skin.

It was also found that some workers would only turn to restore creams once their hands were in very poor condition. Creams were then used until the condition improved, however not continued as part of a regular, ongoing skin care programme that would help keep the skin in a healthier condition all year round. The report concluded that users need both instant benefit and the demonstration of improved skin condition over time from their skin creams.

A WINTER WARNING

A good skin care programme is essential all year around – but it becomes even more crucial during winter. Trans epidermal water loss (TEWL) from the skin increases as a result of colder conditions, often accompanied by low humidity and higher wind. Together, this can result in significantly less moisture at the skin's surface, increasing the likelihood of it drying out.

Water loss is the main phenomenon behind this and is a key indicator of the skin barrier function and therefore skin





Impaired skin conditions can range from dry skin, which may cause your employees minor discomfort while working, through to dermatitis, which carries more severe consequences.

condition. Human skin is constantly losing water from its upper layers (stratum corneum) – in fact, water loss is how the skin regenerates and a healthy skin barrier depends on the rate of this loss. When TEWL is measured at a high rate in winter conditions, this often spells one thing; dry, stressed or damaged skin with moisture being literally blown from its surface. Therefore, when the humidity is low during windy or cold weather, it often drives a high TEWL rate.

All of this means that, for those who work with their hands, and for those who work in the cold or outdoors in particular, if a robust skin care system isn't in place a worsening skin condition can become easily noticeable by midwinter.

THE DANGER UNDER GLOVES

Many outdoor workers use gloves during the winter to protect against contaminants they may come into contact with. However, risk can accompany prolonged glove use. When worn for long periods of time, gloves can prevent the moisture that naturally passes through the skin's barrier from actually leaving that surface, trapping it against the skin and causing it to soften and wrinkle.

Glove use also increases the risk of maceration – an abrasive action against the skin – which makes it easier for skin cells to be scraped and for the skin to become damaged.



Once the gloves are off and after the skin has dried out, the damage can become clear.

THE SOLUTION

Ultimately, in order to help protect the hands, control needs to be taken through a skin care programme that will help to maintain good skin condition in the first place – during winter and beyond.

Protective skin creams used prior to and during work can help to reduce direct skin contact with workplace substances and contaminants. The use of protective creams can make the skin easier to clean with light hand cleaners. Additionally, for those that wear gloves, there are creams that can help to increase comfort while wearing gloves and can help to improve grip when using hand-held tools.

Protection creams can provide some level of comfort during glove use, but what is most important is to wash with an appropriate hand cleaner and then

use a restore cream after removing gloves. Applying restore creams at the end of the working day can help to maintain good skin condition by supporting the skin's natural barrier. Restore cream products can nourish and enhance the water holding capacity of the skin's upper layers, supporting the skin's own moisture system and helps improve skin elasticity.

This makes the skin feel smooth and supple and helps prevent it from becoming dry, rough and cracked, which can cause discomfort.

It can take weeks for the skin to renew and recover from damage, which means it is crucial that workers are preparing with protect and restore creams ahead of the winter months, applying them more frequently while the weather is colder.

Restore creams can help to bring an immediate benefit and replenish the skin while it is dry or damaged, but ultimately it is the consistent, repeated use over a prolonged period of time

that helps keep the skin in its healthiest condition. ■

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Nick Foort is industrial skincare specialist at Arco and SC Johnson Professional. For more information, visit www.arco.co.uk/expert-advice/occupational-skin-disease/range.

Tel: 01482 222522

Protection creams can provide some level of comfort during glove use, but what is most important is to wash with an appropriate hand cleaner and then use a restore cream after removing gloves.



CAN YOUR SAFETY SHOWERS SURVIVE THE COLD?

WITH WINTER quickly approaching, ensuring that your emergency safety equipment can withstand the steep drop in temperature is a must.

Water can freeze in the standpipe, rendering the unit inoperable. If your safety showers and eye baths are not functional in the event of an emergency, this poses further danger to the casualty and significant fines and/or imprisonment can be imposed.

Trace tape heated products protect the pipework from frost in temperatures down to -25°C. For extreme freezing temperatures, immersion heated models such as the STD-MH-15KS/11KS ensure

water within the pipework is protected in ambient conditions down to -35°C.

Hughes provide self-contained mobile safety showers for short or long-term hire if your permanent models are out of action due to damage or maintenance. For compliance with international and EU standards, our 1200L immersion heated model is capable of providing a flow of tepid water for over 15 minutes at a rate of 76 litres per minute. The STD-40K/45G is available with an immersion heated jacket to ensure protection against the elements.

www.hughes-safety.com
Tel: 0161 430 6618

MAKING THE FLOORING INDUSTRY A SAFER PLACE

THE USE of heavy-duty machinery when floor grinding, cutting, or drilling creates and encourages the spread of hazardous dust, which presents significant health and safety issues for contractors on the job.

Every contractor working in flooring must follow the regulations set out in the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002, which highlights the Workplace Exposure Limits (WEL).

The HSE's Construction Information Sheets 36 and 69 outline the necessary steps to take when it

comes to on-tool dust extraction; the most efficient form of dust prevention for those working in the flooring industry.

Dustcontrol UK is committed to making work environments cleaner and therefore safer. All of its machines are manufactured to application Class H standard with a pre-filter and HEPA 13 filter to cover a wide range of applications, ensuring healthier, cleaner workspaces for those operating in the flooring industry.

www.dustcontroluk.co.uk
Tel: 01327 858001



NEW MODULAR MIST FILTER SYSTEM

AIRBENCH HAS released an upgraded range of OMF mist filtration units to strengthen its range of coolant mist filters.

The new OMF models are based on a modular design allowing multiple variants and filtration systems to be assembled to suit customers machining processes. Available in nominal airflow capacities ranging from 500m³/h up to 4000m³/h, or 8000m³/h using our manifold system, the latest OMF range also benefits from an upgraded door seal system and improved filter clamping to reduce maintenance requirements.

The modular approach allows for the addition of secondary filtration

stages where applications demand; for example, the addition of prefilter stages to reduce main filter loading on processes with heavy coolant contamination.

OMF mist filtration units are designed to capture coolant mist from machining processes; and are usually installed either to larger machine tools, or as central systems servicing multiple machines to minimise maintenance and operator involvement.

www.airbench.com
Tel: 01206 791191



ANALYZE HARMFUL WORKPLACE EMISSIONS

WORKPLACES SEEKING to measure harmful noise emissions can now map and analyze the levels using new, state-of-the-art software, SoundPLANmdata.

Developed by innovative software and engineering company, SoundPLAN, it's the perfect tool for occupational health and safety experts to help them assess environmental hazards.

The measurement data can be easily imported to instantaneously display a color-coded map with contour lines representing the measurement value all over the mapping area, using

SoundPLANmdata's intelligent and fast interpolation algorithms. The results are shown in easy-to-use map layouts, with multiple options to adapt to user requirements, making the process as simple as possible.

The software can also be used to measure temperature and air pollution in the workplace.

www.soundplan.eu
Tel: +49-7191.9144-0



MAXIMISE WORKER SAFETY

THE NEW F-Tech Wolf, in combination with the F-Tech Fume Torch is a high quality on torch extraction system that can be used with two fume torches simultaneously.

It offers over 99% filter efficiency via 3 stages (cartridge BIA M class + active carbon + spark trap). Extraction capacity is 200m³/h. It comes with a 5 year no quibble warranty.

Designed and manufactured in Europe, the Wolf extracts the fumes directly at the source, ensuring maximum safety not only for the welder but also for other factory personnel.

Key features include stop/start function fitted as standard, active carbon filter for VOC's (Stainless/galvanised steels), brushless motor

on all models, easy to use digital control including hour meter and clogged alarm filter. Fume can be extracted at the same time from 2 x 15 mtr hoses.

Available in 110V, 230V and 400V models, the standard package includes fume extraction unit, F-Tech 300 Amp 4 mtr fume torch, 5 mtrs of PVC super elastic fume hose, a torch side hose connector and P3 disposable mask/gloves.

www.wilkinsonstar247.com
Tel: 0161 793 8127





TAKE CHARGE

When it comes to electrical safety, both employees and employers need to take charge to ensure they have the right level of protection. Peter Dumigan takes a look at the importance of protective wear.



Protective Wear, which can have one or more CE (European Conformity) marks, has been designed and developed to protect the wearer from serious risks such as heat, flames, electric arcs and hazardous chemicals.



WHILE IT'S an employer's legal responsibility to ensure that staff have the right level of protection and training against risks on site. Employees have a personal responsibility to be aware of risks and potential injuries to ensure adequate protection for themselves, their safety and wellbeing.

Depending on the job task to be performed, PPE for electricians generally includes safety glasses, face shields, hard hats, safety shoes, insulating (rubber) gloves and flame-resistant clothing.

A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

In terms of clothing, there's a big difference between conventional Workwear and specialist Protective Wear. Over the years, workwear has evolved to make your working day more comfortable and efficient, with built-in functionality for tools and fixings, as well as protection against cold, rain and the effects of warm weather.

Protective Wear, which can have one or more CE (European Conformity) marks, has been designed and developed to protect the wearer from serious risks such as heat, flames, electric arcs and hazardous chemicals. In effect, clothing that can mean the difference between life and death for the wearer.

CE PROTECTION CATEGORIES

In order to meet the protective requirements of a specific risk area, protective wear is divided into three categories - the higher the category number, the higher the level of protection it provides.

- Category I covers exposure to minimal risks, and for this category there are CE standards such as EN 343 (rain protection) and EN 14058 (cold protection).
- Category II includes exposure to medium risks, for instance EN 20471 for high visibility clothing.
- Category III covers exposure to serious risks, which include major hazards such as electric arcs and molten metal splashes or liquid chemicals.

WHAT PROTECTION DO ELECTRICIANS NEED?

To be able to properly identify what protection you need, you have to know what risks you, your employees or your workmates face.

Never assume that a Category I garment will protect against the more



In order to meet the protective requirements of a specific risk area, protective wear is divided into three categories - the higher the category number, the higher the level of protection.

serious hazards and risks defined in Category III. It won't and you'll be putting yourself at serious risk if you think it will.

That means understanding the hazards and risks of a specific electrician's working environment or knowing the risk level before you start work and therefore wear appropriate clothing and PPE accessories.

That risk assessment and therefore the determination of the calorie levels required in the clothing needed has to be carried out by the company buying the clothing. Importantly, each working situation will have its own required

minimum protection depending on the risk situation.

How do I know the protection level of my outfit?

It all starts with having working clothes with the appropriate CE mark for the specific risk environment.

In work locations that involve a risk of electric arcing, you must also ensure your clothing offers a level of protection that corresponds to the risk level - Category III.

You do this by adding up the total number of Calories of all the layers of your outfit and it's important to remember that high-risk environments require that all the clothes you wear, including underwear and base layers provide protection against heat and flames.

For instance, using Snickers Workwear ergonomically designed ProtekWork clothing, a typical set of garments that could be worn in an electric arc risk environment would be:

- Baselayer - 2462 long sleeve turtle-neck shirt and a pair of 9468 wool long johns.
- Midlayer - 2660 long sleeve polo shirt and a 2862 hoodie.
- Toplayer - 1260 Shoftshell jacket CL3 with a pair of 6362 work trousers, plus a 9068 beanie, a 9069 multi-purpose neck/head warmer and 9262 wool socks.
- A PPE Calorie

In PPE terms, Calories are used to define the protection level of a fabric an item of clothing or the system of materials/garments.



When an electric arc is triggered, different types of energy and risk factors are created, such as arc power, arc energy and incident energy, all of which are measured in Calories. This is why calories per square centimetre (cal/cm²) has become the unit used to measure a fabric's or garment's level of protection.

Arcs due to electrical faults can cause severe injuries and damage such as thermal injury, serious burns, electric shock, noise, UV emissions, pressure and shrapnel, as well as toxic exposure and the impact of physical and mental shock.

TYPES OF BURN INJURIES

A burn to the skin or other tissue caused by heat or hot substances in a solid, liquid or gaseous state. They can cause tissue damage to various degrees, depending on the nature, intensity and duration of the damage. **Burns are classified into four types:**

- A First-degree burn results in damage to the epidermis (outermost layer of the skin), which normally heals in a couple of days.
- A Second-degree burn damages the dermis (thick layer of living tissue below the epidermis), usually causing skin blisters and major inflammation.
- A Third-degree burn causes total damage to skin/tissue and is characterised by hard, white skin resembling parchment. In a full-thickness skin injury, sensory receptors in the tissue are damaged, meaning no pain will be felt in the damaged area.



- A Fourth-degree burn extends through the entire skin into underlying fat, muscle and bone and, as a result, the skin is black and charred with dead tissue.

The injury area is defined as the TBSA (Total Burn Surface Area) percentage, which expresses the size of the burn as a percentage of total body area. For instance an arm is approximately 9%, and a leg 18%.

Avoid Injury – work safely, ensure sure your whole outfit offers proper protection “Based on independent tests and reports coupled with our years of experience, we recommend that you should never wear garments that offer total protection of less than 11 calories/cm² if you are going to work in or near a high-risk environment”, says Peter Dumigan.

“This calorie level does not in any way provide total protection, far from it, but should be seen as a minimum level. Different jobs require different levels of protection, and the higher the calorie level your clothes (or outfit) have, the better protection you get. Be sure you know the risk level before you enter a specific risk environment, and wear appropriate clothing”.

LAYERS INCREASE PROTECTION

“One of the best ways to improve your level of protection is to wear layers – base-, mid- and top-layers. A fundamental requirement is of course that all the garments are certified and flame retardant” says Peter.

The main benefit of wearing layers

Arcs due to electrical faults can cause severe injuries and damage such as thermal injury, serious burns, electric shock, noise, UV emissions, pressure and shrapnel, as well as toxic exposure and the impact of physical and mental shock.

is that the air gap formed between different garments provides increased protection. There is no general rating for how much increased protection the air gap between layers provides. However, we have conducted a number of tests that show that the air gap increases protection by more than 5 cal/cm².

The calorie level of the extra protection depends on a variety of factors, such as fabric structure, thickness and construction – and for a precise value, combined tests on each layer must be performed. “What we know for certain, says Peter, “is that wearing multiple layers improves the protection rating. It's therefore best to think of the air gap between each layer as extra protection that improves your chances of avoiding burns in the event of an accident”.

UNDERSTAND THE RISKS – CHOOSE THE RIGHT LEVEL OF EFFECTIVE PROTECTION

Working in high-risk environments involves, as the name implies, high-risk levels. Arcs due to electrical faults can cause severe injuries and damage. So it's vital that you choose the right protective wear to ensure your safety and well-being on site. ■

Peter Dumigan is managing director of the Hultafors Group UK, owners of Snickers Workwear and its ProtecWork range of Protective Wear.

For more information, visit www.snickersworkwear.co.uk

Tel: 01484 854788



MID-LAYERS BENEFITS WORKERS

SNICKERS WORKWEAR'S mid-layer clothing has excellent breathability for efficient body-temperature management when you're working hard.

The body-mapping designs and sustainable fabrics keep you ventilated as the heat from your body is regulated to give you winter warmth and cooling comfort when you need it.

The new autumn-winter styles

include the FlexiWork High-Vis Hoodie which is stretchy, versatile and made from a 2-layer mesh fabric and recycled polyester fibres. This Class 1 Hoodie comes with glow-in-the-dark and flashes and plenty of features to deliver comfort and functionality.

For more information, visit www.snickersworkwear.co.uk
Tel: 01484 854788

FACE MASKS FOR EXTENDED WEAR



LIGHTWEIGHT FABRIC face masks for all-day wear and treated with a permanent antiviral, antibacterial and anti-fungal technology have been launched by Meryl Medical.

Ideal for production lines and working in close-proximity, the masks come in single-layer for ultimate comfort or a double layer for extra filtration.

The comfortable soft touch yarn is ideal for extended wear and does not release microfibres carrying viruses or microbes reducing contagion risk.

Made with Nylstar Hydrogen technologies the masks are also hypoallergenic and non-toxic and provide maximum absorbency, breathability and skin hydration. Worn correctly they overcome the issue of fogging glasses.

Three times more durable than disposable and with a usage period of two months, the masks can be washed up to 100 times at 70°C without losing effectiveness and as a non-shedding fabric they release zero microfibre pollution into the water or air.

Customers can return used items for remanufacture into new masks. <https://merylmedical.com>
Tel: 01260 548610

CUT-RESISTANT PPE

PRODUCED IN the UK and developed by Tilsatec's specialist team of yarn technologists, Rhino Yarn Technology is an engineered yarn process combining technical fibres and materials.

Such materials when blended together to create a composite yarn can achieve high levels of cut protection without compromising on comfort or dexterity.

Each component is carefully selected to engineer a glove, sleeve or garment that delivers the desired performance in the most efficient, durable and comfortable



structure possible.

Tilsatec specialises in cut-resistant hand and arm protection. Working closely in partnership with customers, it designs and develops PPE solutions from the ground up to ensure maximum performance/cost efficiencies.

www.tilsatec.com
Tel: 01924 375742

HIGH-PERFORMANCE ELECTRICAL PROTECTION

THE EVOGUARD C5MAX Helmet System combines an EVO 5 Olympus safety helmet with the EVOGuard C5MAX visor to deliver a complete electrical protection solution.

The helmet offers 1000V electrical insulation, as well as shock absorption and penetration resistance for industrial environments. The visor provides A-rated impact resistance with excellent coverage and panoramic vision. Meeting GS-ET-29, the system offers protection against electric arc risks when worn as part of a protective arc flash ensemble.

EVOGuard C5MAX offers



comprehensive coverage without limiting movement. The innovative all-in-one moulded carrier and visor design with clear integral chinguard enhances facial coverage while maintaining optimum vision. Self-lubricating hinges hold the visor securely in position for balanced weight distribution.

EVOGuard C5MAX maximises compatibility with prescription eyewear and other JSP PPE for combined high-performance protection.

www.jspsafety.com
Tel: 01993 826050

SEAMLESS KNITTED CUT AND IMPACT RESISTANT GLOVE



POLYCO HEALTHLINE is proud to bring to market the first seamless knitted cut and impact resistant glove, that has a completely waterproof membrane.

Armor Guard- The BEAR, is an ISO cut level E glove loaded with

encompassed features. It has hot and cold protective compliance, a Velcro cuff to hold in place, and is touch screen enabled. Our drive to produce The BEAR was born from our desire to offer the first waterproof, seamless glove in the world.

Developed with the offshore market in mind, where workers are faced with extremely tough environments and unforgiving outdoors conditions. The company says that by developing a glove in conjunction with the toughest application on earth, it can offer a solution that can be used in the widest set of other sectors imaginable.

For more information, visit www.polycohealthline.com
Tel: 03333 208550

SUPERIOR STRENGTH NITRILE GLOVE

JUST 1 SOURCE & Supply Limited, has a desire to keep the UK as one of the world leaders in health & safety. The company introduces its range of The Mercator Green Ideall Grip Multi-Use Nitrile gloves.

The Ideall Grip Green is a powder free, superior strength 7 mil (8.6-gram) Nitrile glove, with an acceptable quality level (AQL) standard at 1.5.

AQL (Acceptable Quality Level) usually refers to the product's permeability, absence of holes (gloves), but may also refer to other features such as strength, external appearance. This is also a limit of average permissible faults in the production process. The level determined based on the

quantity of defective products in the tested sample. AQL is not expressed as a %. The lower the AQL, the lower the likelihood of a defective product. For medical and protective gloves, the minimum AQL for the absence of holes is 1.5, therefore the Ideall Grip Green clearly meets the highest standards compared to most of the disposable gloves that appear in the consumer marketplace.

<https://just1source.com/>
Tel: 01653 617 718



STAND THE TEST OF TIME

The need to ensure that manufactured electrical and electronic goods comply with required conformance standards is inextricably linked to effective product and component testing, says Nathan Barwell.



THE IMPORTANCE of electrical safety testing is paramount to ensure that electrical and electronic products rolling off production lines are safe and that consumers will not be harmed when they use them. This is enshrined in safety requirements such as the Electrical Equipment Regulations in the UK, the Low Voltage Directive and product safety standards.

These assert that comprehensive testing must be completed on electrical products that are either manufactured or returned for repair. Moreover, properly maintained records of the product design for each manufactured item must also be kept.

Generic product safety standards and European Directives make clear a requirement to ensure conformance from both. However, the common

There has been growing recognition of the advantages that can result in the pro-active identification of problems and defects before assembly.

reaction still remains 'Does this mean I have to do 100% testing?' Batch sampling and product verification tests are essentially designed to determine that type test and build instructions are being maintained via a set of 'working standards' and rely on a traceable scientific relationship between the sample and the rest of the batch.

In order to maintain a proper relationship back to the 'type approved

product, testing of the batch sample should theoretically involve a repeat of the type test. This could involve the use of external test house or the transfer of the sample to a dedicated, in-house test laboratory - with both cases likely involving high costs and complex test routines. In addition, where batch sampling results in a test failure or a safety problem, remedial measures must be put in place. This could involve shutdowns to production and product recalls until the extent of the fault is identified.

PRO-ACTIVE

In reality, this is likely to involve re-call costs (time, labour, discarded packaging etc), testing costs (which will now include skilled labour), rework costs (time, labour, parts if any), lost production (highly unlikely that all items are salvageable) and potential late delivery penalties. Similarly, it is clearly in the interests of manufacturers of finished products that the safety critical components used to assemble a product are satisfactory - preferably before being incorporated into the product. Many manufacturers now request 'Certificates of Conformity' from suppliers of safety critical components.

There has been growing recognition of the advantages that can result in the pro-active identification of problems and defects before assembly. In this situation many electrical and electronics manufacturers now request 'Certificates of Conformity' from suppliers of safety critical components.

By complementing this approach with 100% product testing, significant information can be gathered and used to improve and refine manufacturing processing and techniques. Identifiable reasons for product failures can be highlighted and quickly acted upon. Even simple fault counters can indicate particular areas of the build phase that may require further investigation.

In developing production line safety testing policies, product manufacturers will review their own processes for Class I and Class II products and accordingly introduce the three main tests for ensuring product safety: High current Earth Bond measurement, Insulation Resistance measurement and High Voltage Flash (or hipot or dielectric strength) Test. In addition, many manufacturers will be driven by specific product standards and customer requirements, or even their own in-house guidelines, to complete functional tests (also known as run or load leakage testing).

EFFECTIVE TESTING

With such a range of tests, and the availability of relatively inexpensive test instrumentation, typical electrical safety testing to meet routine product test requirements can be completed in seconds. For example, with simple to use set-up and control features, test stations can be readily incorporated into the production environment without the need for highly skilled labour.

Of course, specific type testing standards may involve a flash test (also called a hipot testing or dielectric strength test) using high current levels (sometimes in excess of 100mA) and extended test times (several minutes for some standards). However, for routine production line testing, electrical safety standards define not only a lower safer trip level, but also the setting up of the test area to ensure the safety of the operator.

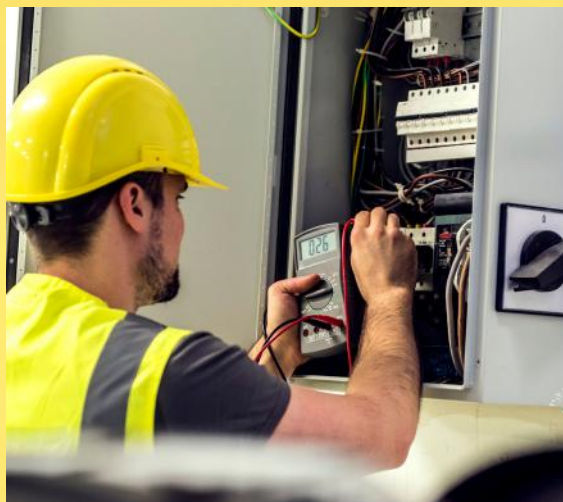
As a result, where delicate electronic components are involved, far from omitting the flash test, various techniques can be incorporated to soft-start (ramp) the test voltage or apply DC voltages with discharge circuits, thus removing any likelihood of damage occurring. Far from costing time and money, routine 100% electrical safety testing on the production line makes sound economic and business sense.

Seaward's free guide www.seaward.com/gb/support/guides/manufacturing/f4c40-electrical-safety-testing-during-manufacture-a-practical-guide/?gmsource=PR helps manufacturers understand better electrical safety testing requirements. ■

Nathan Barwell is category manager at Seaward. For more information, visit www.seaward.com

Tel: 0191 586 3511

For routine production line testing, electrical safety standards define not only a lower safer trip level, but also the setting up of the test area to ensure the safety of the operator.



NEW TEST APPROACH

The installation of advanced production line test technology is helping Aga Rangemaster to uphold its global brand values for high-performance quality products.

With the introduction of new product innovations and technical advances, the company has recently introduced new bespoke and integrated 'end of line' electrical test bays at its Telford manufacturing site.

Utilising specialist Seaward HAL 104 multifunction electrical safety testers and comprehensive Safety e-Base software, the new test approach combines ease of use for operators with the versatility to meet the technical test needs of over 30 different Aga and Rayburn cooker types.

All cooker products manufactured at the Telford factory must undergo a combination of electrical safety and functional tests before being approved for despatch to customers. As well as electrical cookers, the range includes gas and oil powered products, each with their own specific features and often complex test needs.

William Fletcher, Aga Rangemaster production engineer said, "The combination of automatic sequencing of testing and step by step on screen instructions has reduced the technical training required by operatives. In addition, when any subsequent product issues have arisen, the database availability of automatically recorded test data results has assisted in satisfying any warranty issues.

"Seaward's technical guidance, hands on support and troubleshooting have been invaluable in ensuring that we have a system that completely meets our needs and is making a significant contribution to the efficiency and success of the business."

Safety testing specialist Seaward is a longstanding supplier of electrical test equipment to Aga Rangemaster and also has systems installed at the company's Leamington Spa factory.



PERMIT TO WORK SOLUTION

With the Health & Safety Executive reporting over 65,000 non-fatal and 123 fatal deaths in the UK in 2020/21 there is clearly a need for improvement, particularly in the Construction and Manufacturing sectors – which accounted for almost half the total number.

A new software solution from Elecosoft will help companies address many of these factors and boost safety for workers who face risk on maintenance and operational tasks. The new digital Permit to Work module in Elecosoft's ShireSystem, provides businesses with more control and insight over

safety-critical operations such as working at height, where there were 29 deaths in the period.

The digitalisation of a Permit To Work enhances safety by standardising all the important factors for work permits, such as competence, procedures and communications by making data available at all points of the workflow – from scheduling and preparing through to completion.

Elecosoft developed the new module as an add-on to its ShireSystem software.

www.elecosoft.com
Tel: 034 56461735

BE SEEN

BEING SEEN instantly in dim or dark light conditions is a life-saver – so stay visible to stay safe.

With a choice of garments in fluorescent yellow or orange, the latest additions to the Snickers Workwear High-Vis collection are partly made from bio-based Sorona fabrics in which 37% of the fibres use renewable plant-based materials. In addition to offering a sustainable solution, Sorona® fabrics also provide superb colourfastness, long-lasting elasticity, and optimal comfort.

Snickers Workwear's new winter High-vis collection includes Trousers, Tops and Jackets in



classes 1, 2 and 3. They're the stand-out choice for tradesmen and women in hazardous working environments with a diverse choice of functionality, comfort and hard-working durability for longer-lasting sustainability and wellbeing.

For more information, visit www.snickersworkwear.co.uk
Tel: 01484 854788

ACCELERATE ROAD SAFETY



IT'S TIME to accelerate road safety delivery, says IAM RoadSmart CEO, Antony Kildare.

It was just last month that we issued a statement to the, then new, Secretary of State for Transport Anne Marie Trevelyan MP, calling on her to take immediate action to get the UK back on track as a world leader for road safety.

Driver and rider trainingE-scooter regulationSelf-driving and other new car technologyOlder driversDriving for workDrug and drink-drivingMotorcycle strategy

As the UK's leading independent road safety charity, we have a vision of a society where all road users can safely and sustainably use the public highways together resulting in zero deaths. We believe that by working in partnership with the new government Britain will make great strides in moving closer to this shared vision.

To learn more about how IAM RoadSmart can help you enhance your fleet, contact us.

Tel: 0870 1202910

TUNNELLING INDUSTRY SAFETY

DRÄGER IS calling for increased regulation and more detailed safety guidance within the tunnelling industry, following recent research highlighting safety as a major concern for those working underground.

The survey gathers a range of perspectives from tunnelling professionals and the research revealed that the four highest perceived risks were the availability of safety equipment, gas/vapour leaks, the time taken to evacuate a tunnel, and a lack of robust and up-to-date safety plans.

Just 14.8% believed that all contractors on site had a thorough



understanding of safety planning, and more than two in five (40.7%) respondents said they did not think enough priority was given to safety planning in tunnelling projects.

For more information please visit:
<https://tunnellingjournal.com/archive/tunnelling-journal-october-november-2022/>

www.draeger.com
Tel: 01670 561200

CONNECT APPS

MANY WORKPLACES use multiple systems for different tasks, but it's rare that those systems work together well. Now though, Work Wallet has closed the loop on workplace safety by partnering with Zapier to deliver end-to-end automations.

Zapier is a free automation platform that connects work apps together, completing repetitive tasks automatically for the user, saving time, effort and cost. It is a simple and secure way to transfer data and automate workflows across multiple apps and systems, based on rules defined and controlled by the user.

Using multiple systems in the workplace often leads to inefficiencies and even data loss. Information stored in one system by one department may not be accessible to others. Therefore



opportunities can be easily missed to maximise workplace benefits. When health and safety is at stake, this can have serious consequences.

With Zapier, connections called "zaps" are triggered when a user takes certain action in the Work Wallet app, such as creating a risk assessment or scheduling an asset inspection. Then, for instance, it can automatically file your risk assessment PDFs in your Google Drive, or add diary reminders to your Outlook calendar.

For more information, visit www.work-wallet.com/zapier
Tel: 01332 505252

SUPERIOR EMERGENCY SAFETY SHOWERS

AQUA SAFETY SHOWERS is a worldwide provider of emergency safety shower and eye wash units for the oil, chemical, gas and utility industries.

The company's units can operate in temperatures ranging between -55°C (-67°F) and +60°C (140°F). Safety equipment includes indoor/outdoor units; units for use in remote locations; mains-fed/self-contained.

All are of superior build quality plus we have the flexibility to adapt, modify or design bespoke units in our UK manufacturing facility. All products exceed ANSI/EN safety standards.

Prepare sites for winter

It is that time already where preparation is power. Ensure worker

safety in the winter months by asking the following questions and acting accordingly:

Are your safety showers fully operational/tested regularly? Will they deliver tepid water, even in cold conditions? Are units frost protected? Is water level/temperature of self-contained units visible at all times?

www.aqua-safety.com
Tel: 01942 318096





SMART TECHNOLOGY DRIVES SHARED TRANSPORT

AN ALTERNATIVE to the long daily commute, shared transport solutions allow employees to share trips to work with colleagues who are travelling in the same direction, to the same place.

Zeelo designs routes using RINA (Routing Intelligent Navigation Algorithm), a proprietary AI-powered software, and a customer-centric methodology to provide a service that surpasses the convenience of driving a car.

It can collect and input anonymised geographic data to pinpoint underserved public transportation areas for employees and through assessing various

demographic and travel to work patterns and create practical timetables that easily adapt to suit changing and flexible work schedules.

Zeelo is able to use this captured data to determine "clusters" of employees or students and best determine the optimal location to create collection points (virtual bus stops). We also use this data to assess the availability of local public transportation and plot a maximum distance a user would need to travel from their homes to their nearest stop.

<https://zeelo.co.uk>

Tel: 0330 808 3306

AIR QUALITY DATA LOGGER



MONITORING CO2 levels inside became increasingly important since the updated Building Regulations were released in June this year. The guidance suggests that offices, factories, schools, workplaces and spaces with high levels of activity should all have a means of

monitoring indoor CO2 levels.

The monitor should:

- Directly measure CO2, not provide an estimated CO2 level based on a different factor.
- Be able to measure as low as 400ppm to over 5,000ppm
- Be calibrated to ensure accurate readings

Lascar Electronics says its new wireless indoor air quality monitor does all this and more. The EL-IOT-CO2 monitor's carbon dioxide (CO2), temperature and humidity, continuously recording these parameters to provide users with reading in its digital display.

www.lascarelectronics.com

Tel: 01794 884567

ARE YOUR INSPECTIONS BEING RUSHED?

CFTS IS asking employers to think about how long each Thorough Examination of their lifting equipment is taking - and to question whether the inspections are thorough enough to assure legal compliance and truck safety.

"We do hear stories that these vital and complex safety checks are being completed in as little as 15 minutes," said Geoff Martin, CFTS chairman. "Typically, it should take a minimum of 45 minutes for a 1.5 tonne three-wheel electric forklift. Anything less and the inspection could have been rushed. As a truck's complexity increases, so does its inspection. A conventional



telehandler, for example, might take 3 hours to inspect properly."

A CFTS Thorough Examination follows a quality-controlled standardised testing process. This includes performing physical examinations on the lifting parts of the truck.

www.thoroughexamination.org

Tel: 01344 623 800

BOLLÉ SAFETY RELEASES RESULTS

BOLLÉ SAFETY reveals the results of the tests carried out on its Platinum technology: an exclusive anti-fog and anti-scratch coating applied on both sides of the lenses of its premium range of products.

The safety glasses' market is regulated in Europe by the EN166 standard: if the lenses are marked with the letter K - resistance to abrasion - and the letter N - resistance to fogging - the equipment guarantees protection against fog and (micro) scratch. Independent laboratory POURQUERY evaluated the effectiveness of its Platinum technology.

Platinum anti-fog test results: The representative sample of Bollé Safety glasses tested resists the appearance of fog for 15 minutes above a source



of steam. A figure 100 times higher than the requirements defined within the EN166 standard.

Platinum anti-scratch test results: The representative sample of Bollé Safety glasses tested retains its properties (K & N) even after 100 cleanings.

Platinum test results: Out of the 9 most commonly used chemicals in industry, PLATINUM is resistant to 8 of them and retains its K and N properties after being in contact with these products.

www.bolle-safety.com

Tel: 020 8391 3194

MBM BUS MODULE FOR ETHERCAT P



APPLICATIONS ARE becoming ever-more complex it's safety engineering, and Euchner has not only kept up with this trend with its Multifunctional Gate Box (MGB) safety door system but has gone a step further by employing modular design to make the MGB2 Modular fully customisable for maximum optimisation.

So, more than simply providing safety door protection, thanks to its modular design the MGB2 Modular lets you implement numerous additional functions, including the new MBM bus module, which is now available in a version that connects to EtherCAT P, meaning that every function of the MGB2 Modular can also be used with EtherCAT P.

www.euchner.co.uk

Tel: 0114 2560123

EVOLUTION LAUNCHES NEW DIVISION

EVOLUTION HAS launched a new dedicated Life Safety Systems division to provide a range of specialist services and solutions to new and existing clients.

The new division will build on the company's 26 years' experience, expertise and success of its fire safety systems team, to deliver a range of new services and technologies to accommodate a broader portfolio of environments and risk.

Services include the design, installation and maintenance of critical safety systems including sprinklers, fire hydrants, automatic opening vents (AOVs) and gas suppression systems, as well as the provision of portable extinguishers.

It will design and deliver Disabled Refuge solutions and Public Address/Voice Alarm (PA/VA) technologies in scenarios where the safe evacuation of large numbers of employees, residents, patients or guests is key.

The Life Safety Systems division will also provide technical services including fire risk assessments and strategic risk assessments, as well as ongoing inspections and repairs of fire door systems and passive fire protection services.

www.evolutionsecurity.co.uk

Tel: 01628 530 380





SPRITZ OF SAFETY TO FRAGRANCE MANUFACTURING

THE MANUFACTURING process for cologne and perfumes involves delicate extraction and mixing of several compounds, some can cause harm to workers if mishandled. Providing workers with the appropriate safety equipment in the event of an emergency is vital to prevent lasting harm. In the event of a chemical spill, workers can treat an affected body part using a Hughes unheated indoor shower which exceeds the recommended 15 minutes of water that must be provided to meet EN and ANSI standards. For sites that struggle to maintain a tepid water range,

the STD-TC-100KS/45G unit has a 300L integral heated water tank to maintain a water temperature between 20-25°C.

Excess perfume contacting the skin can lead to perfume poisoning, which can cause an affected person to suffer symptoms such as confusion and dizziness, followed by vomiting and slurred speech. To mitigate this risk, tank showers positioned at the site of loading can allow a casualty to flush the site and minimise perfume absorbed by the skin.

For more information, visit www.hughes-safety.com
Tel: 0161 430 6618

NEW GENERATION OF VOC DETECTORS

ION SCIENCE has introduced a new range of rapid, accurate Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) detectors pairing tough, robust design, with unrivalled sensitivity and performance.

The Tiger XT line-up retains all of the attributes of the well-established and trusted Tiger range including the award-winning MiniPID 2 sensor with its patented fence electrode technology, in an even stronger exterior moulding. This makes it even more suitable for use in the most demanding environments.

The new range comprises three models: the entry level Tiger XT1 Portable VOC Gas Detector; the



Tiger XT Handheld VOC Detector; and the Tiger XT Select Benzene Gas Detector, which incorporates a 10.0 eV lamp within the MiniPID 2 sensor capable of detecting total aromatic compounds including benzene down to concentrations as low as 1 ppb.

Each Tiger XT product has a humidity-resistant, anti-contamination design and an exterior semi-conductive thermoplastic elastomer outer moulding, making it intrinsically safe.

www.ionscience.com
Tel: 01763 208503

ROBUST RADAR TECHNOLOGY

SICK HAS launched the safeRS3, a safe 3D radar system designed to enable maximum productivity with highly-reliable safe access protection for workers in hazardous industrial areas, including robot cells.

The robust radar detection principle is ideal for heavy industrial or harsh outdoor environments, which the company says may challenge conventional optical detection systems.

Incorporating safe radar technology, the SICK safeRS3 is an electro-sensitive 3D protective device for safe personnel detection. With a higher measurement accuracy, it protects personnel in stationary



applications to PLd or SIL2 in line with ISO 13849-1 and IEC 62061.

By introducing the safeRS3, SICK has achieved a longer 5m protective field range, with a 100° opening angle and the ability to set up to four protective fields. A safety-over-networks version has been introduced with PROFINET control for easy integration into a PROFIsafe network.

www.sick.co.uk
Tel: 01727 831121

KEEP THE ELEMENTS AT BAY

IF YOU'RE working outside in cold, wet, or windy weather for long periods, work gets tough. That's when you'll need to keep safe from the elements with your own protective shell.

A weatherproof outer-layer with one of Snickers Workwear's Winter Jackets. This kind of protective shell will deliver effective wind and water protection to keep you warm, dry and ensure the effectiveness of the clothing underneath. You'll want to avoid getting too warm, so insulation combined with ventilation features in your Jackets are absolutely vital.

Check out the new FlexiWork Quilted Jacket, which is windproof, water-repellent and designed to be durable and weatherproof for great



technical functionality.

Like all Snickers Workwear's Work Jackets, it's built to be weatherproof enough to keep the elements at bay and durable enough to withstand the wear and tear of hard day's work but still delivering the level of breathability and ventilation you need for a comfortable and effective day at work.

www.snickersworkwear.co.uk
Tel: 01484 854788

CONSISTENT TRAINING IS KEY



CONSISTENT TRAINING across your workforce is key according to Nicola Bellamy, technical service manager, from Kersia UK.

She says, "Continually training teams means they increase, modify and develop knowledge, skills and attitude which benefits the business they work for. Within the food processing and food service sectors the learning and development of all employees ensures that teams are enhancing food safety through

knowledge management.

"Existing members of staff and new starters should be trained in key areas of the business and it should take place on a regular basis. Kersia UK's training focus is to supply a range of courses that benefit, primarily, the roles of hygiene and technical teams directly involved in the operation, monitoring, control and management of hygiene on their sites. They include, virtual sessions, eLearning and, where appropriate, face to face."

"The training provision has been developed over a number of years and we have continued to grow our training portfolio and see its associated impact on the number of companies and individuals we have trained. The courses are developed and delivered by Kersia UK's experienced training team consisting of Technical Directors and Technical Service and Training Managers."

www.holchem.co.uk
Tel: 01706 222288

FUME AND DUST EXTRACTION

AIRBENCH HAS released a new model in its range of VertEx Cross-Draught Extraction Systems designed specifically for extraction of welding fume and grinding dust.

The new VAW range uses AirBenches proven spark protection system to protect a high-grade final filter. VAW units, like all VertEx models, can be combined into a full booth configuration alongside the VB modular booth system; or used as stand-alone systems to create a filter wall.



Working within a filtered booth provides a significantly more effective method of capture for dust and fumes when compared to flexible arms and similar systems which rely on continuous operator adjustment to work effectively.

The VertEx modular approach allows for reconfigurable production and units can even be reconfigured for different dust or fume extraction issues.

www.airbench.com/vaw
Tel: 01206 791191



CHOOSING THE RIGHT HAND PALLET TRUCK FOR YOUR OPERATION

A HAND pallet truck is a crucial piece of equipment for many businesses whether it involves handling inventory in warehouses, loading transport vehicles or receiving goods. Investing in the correct pallet truck will not only increase your company's productivity but improve the health and safety of your employees.

There are a number of key considerations when choosing a hand pallet truck, however, its principal function, size and weight of loads to be moved and any special requirements should be taken into account first.

With so much choice of pallet

trucks on the market its often easy to fall into the trap of purchasing the cheapest option, however, it is also worth considering the cost and inconvenience of frequent replacement, expensive repairs and large service bills.

For operators working long shifts, it is essential to make sure they are safe and comfortable and to avoid any injuries. It may be worth considering quick lift or assisted handling models which dramatically reduce the effort needed to move goods.

For more information, visit <https://toyota-forklifts.co.uk/>
Tel: 0370 8501409

TRAINING IS KEY

IMAGINE A work setting with all the latest and greatest safety showers and eyewash stations located within 10-15 seconds of a potential hazard.

While this scenario depicts a facility well equipped to handle an exposure crisis, the question still remains: Are your employees adequately trained to use the safety showers and eyewashes properly and successfully in the event of an emergency?

Repeated experience with operating safety showers and eyewash stations will help emergency response become second nature. All safety shower units should be

visually inspected and activated weekly to flush the line and verify proper operation.

Workplaces and workers are notoriously busy, and schedules are tight, but wouldn't this weekly test and inspection be a good time to actively keep your workers educated and aware of equipment's purpose and function?

Another training suggestion is using role-play techniques to help employees mentally and physically work through processes when faced with an emergency.
www.aqua-safety.com
Tel: 01942 318096

AQUA SAFETY SHOWERS
WORKER SAFETY IS OUR BUSINESS

TANK-FED MAINS-FED PORTABLE EYE WASH
SELF-CONTAINED
CORROSION RESISTANT
EXCEEDS ANSI & EN STANDARDS
HEAT TREATED TEPID WATER
MADE IN BRITAIN

020 sales@aqua-safety.com
+44 (0) 1942 318096
www.aqua-safety.com

EMERGENCY SAFETY SHOWERS & EYE WASHES FOR ANY ENVIRONMENT

HAVS MONITORING GETS THE THUMBS UP

OPERATIVES IN three of Howard Civil Engineering's sites across the north of England have had their risk of Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) significantly reduced after the business introduced HAVS monitoring smart watches from workplace health risk prevention experts, Reactec.

Launched in August 2022, Reactec's third-generation workplace wearable, R-Link, monitors hand arm vibration exposure and provides real-time alerts to notify workers when they are close to exceeding their time operating power tools.

Reactec's analytical platform provides cloud-based reporting which allows dynamic risk assessment and exposure reduction.



For example, the team will be able to identify if a piece of equipment is faulty and if it emits more or fewer vibrations than the manufacturer states, enhancing the operatives' safety while ensuring a quality product for clients.

Operatives on site in Sunderland were the first to receive their new R-Link smart watches in November, followed by teams at Scarborough Hospital and The New Prison, Full Sutton.

www.reactec.com
Tel: 0131 221 0920

MARTINDALE SIMPLIFIES PHASE ROTATION MEASUREMENT



WHEN IT comes to verifying the phase sequence, or rotation, of three phase circuits, leading test equipment specialists Martindale Electric offers a professional range of testers. Getting the phase sequence wrong can have devastating consequences for plant and machinery with serious implications for machine safety.

Providing enhanced user safety, Martindale Electric's PSI4000 and PSI4300 non-contact phase

sequence indicators can quickly and accurately identify three phase sequences for motor installations and other systems. Designed for use on both insulated and non-insulated conductors, the PSI4000 and PSI4300 carry out measurements via inductive crocodile clips, which can be simply clipped on to speed up testing and reduce the risk of coming into contact with live parts.

Another solution is the PC15250 phase rotation indicator, which has been specifically designed to quickly and simply prove the presence of all three live phases (or identify which are faulty) and show the sequence of phase rotation when all three phases are confirmed as present.

<https://martindale-electric.co.uk/>
Tel: 01923 441717

'TIS THE SEASON TO CHECK MHE

"WE ARE heading into the perfect time of year to make sure essential equipment is not only safe but is in good working order, ready for when things get much busier," said Geoff Martin, chairman of Thorough Examination accrediting body CFTS.

"If you don't have a Thorough Examination (LOLER) scheduled, for many businesses, the slower months following the Christmas rush are the perfect time to resolve those issues."

Every year there are over 5,000 incidents involving transport in the workplace around 50 of which result in fatalities. "In the case of the annual safety inspection that means examining not just the lifting systems and components (including



mast, forks, and chains covered by LOLER), but also the steering, braking and traction systems, along with overhead guards, wheels, tyres, seats, etc, in order to comply with PUWER," he added.

www.thoroughexamination.org
Tel: 01344 623 800

Q & A THE BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL



Each issue, British Safety Council will use this page to answer YOUR questions. Please send any problems, issues or general enquiries about health, safety and wellbeing to policy@britsafe.org and their experts will respond in future issues.

Q: I am a self-employed electrician. Can you tell me what my responsibilities are in terms of handling asbestos, given I am not always the main contractor on site?

Under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAW), those planning to carry out building, maintenance and similar work in or on premises, plant and equipment that could contain asbestos must assess – and then eliminate or adequately control – the risk of their employees or others being exposed to the substance.

If this work is being done in a domestic setting the responsibility will remain with you as householders are not deemed suitably competent this however does not apply in a commercial setting where you may be working alongside other trades. This means that, before starting any work that could disturb asbestos-containing materials (ACMs), or suspected ACMs you need to be clear as to who is co-ordinating the works. If you are the main person responsible for doing the work, you must identify whether asbestos is present and determine its type and condition.

If no information is available, you should have the area surveyed and get samples of the material due to be worked on analysed. Alternatively, assume any material that will need to be disturbed contains asbestos and take the appropriate precautions for the highest risk situation. If it's not possible to avoid the risk, then



identify who might be at risk and the possible level of asbestos exposure and decide if the work needs to be carried out by an HSE-licensed asbestos contractor.

Q: My boss recently told me and other colleagues to set up the tower we use for our work as painters and decorators above ground floor level, but we've not been trained. Do you have any advice?

Like all access equipment, tower scaffolds must only be erected, used and dismantled by trained and competent people. This is important because the safety and stability of a tower can be easily disturbed, which could either cause you and your colleagues to

fall from the tower or cause the tower to overturn. For example, a tower can be made dangerous if the platform guard rails are missing, kick boards are not fixed properly or if a ladder is placed on top of the platform.

Towers should only be assembled and dismantled using one of two methods recognised as safe by HSE and PASMA, the trade association for the mobile access tower industry.

Tower scaffolds must also feature suitable edge protection, such as double guard rails and toe boards, to prevent people or materials falling from them. There must also be a safe way of getting to and from the working platform, such as a built-in internal ladder. It must be placed on firm, level

ground with the locked castors or base plates properly supported.

Q: I recently heard that it's my legal duty as an employer to assess the risk of stress in my workplace. Can that be right?

Yes. As an employer, you have a legal duty to protect your staff from stress at work by doing a risk assessment and acting on it.

To help employers eliminate or control the risk of ill health from work-related stress, the Health and Safety Executive has developed a set of Management Standards.

The standards provide an organisational framework for employers and employees to work together to identify and then eliminate or reduce the risk of harmful stress at work.

The standards are designed to help employers identify the underlying causes – or potential causes – of work-related stress. They also set out a step-by-step process for employers and employees – or employee representatives – to work together to identify the most effective ways of removing or reducing the risk of harmful stress by improving aspects of the work design. You can find out more about your legal duties and best practice in managing stress here: www.hse.gov.uk/stress/overview.htm ■

Don't forget to submit YOUR questions to policy@britsafe.org Tel:0208 741 1231

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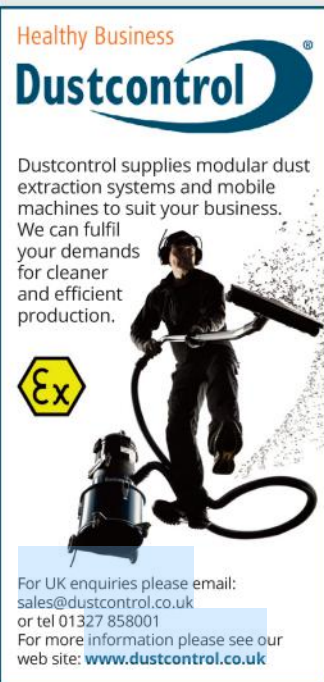
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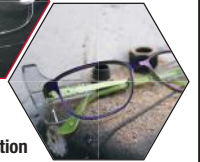
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