



NEWSLETTER



New Environmental Legislation

A new set of environmental regulations came into force on the 01st March 2009. These were the Environmental Damage (Prevention & Remediation) Regulations 2009 and they are concerned with environmental damage which includes protected species, natural habitats, sites of special scientific interest, surface or groundwater and land.

These new regulations takes into account the current principle that the 'polluter pays'. The regulations place a positive reporting obligation where an activity has caused, or is about to cause, environmental damage. Under the regulations the responsible operator should take immediate, practical, steps to prevent further damage and then report all relevant details to the Environment Agency or Local Authorities (similar to reporting accidents under RIDDOR).

The enforcing authority will serve a 'Remediation Notice' which will identify the damage, any proposed actions to be taken and any further actions required to be taken.

If the 'polluter' fails to comply with the notice, the enforcing authority will carry out the remediation itself and forward the costs on.

THIS ISSUE

This month we ran a Health & Safety for Directors & Senior Managers course which from the feedback we received was very beneficial to those who attended. For the first time Akeva has arranged open courses on Manual Handling, Asbestos Awareness and Work at Height (please see back page for details).

Traffic management in workplaces is once again a big issue following more than one recent prosecution for injuries resulting from contact with vehicles, particularly forklift trucks, see Page 2.

We also report on a new product seen at the recent RoSPA Health and Safety Exhibition at the NEC. This is a product that could save some of you vast amounts of costs when disposing of 'rainwater' which has been contaminated in drip trays.

On the back page there is an introduction to the new national crane register and to changes to be made to the guidance to be issued to scaffold contractors in 2010.

CHANGES TO FIRST AID AT WORK GUIDELINES

In 2001 research into how employers viewed the Health and Safety (First Aid) at Work Regulations 1981 was commissioned. The research was conducted, a report provided and a consultation process commenced.

It was found that, due to changes in industry and more small and medium sized enterprises (SME's) developing, the requirements of the existing legislation may be out of date. Following the consultation process it has been decided that the principles of the Regulations still apply but the guidelines for compliance needs to be changed.

The biggest change to the guidelines will be in the requirements for first aid training. Currently, there is a 1 day 'Appointed Persons' course and a 4 day First aider course which requires a 2 day update every 3 years.

It was found that many SME's found it too burdensome to release an employee for 4

days to carry out first aid training. So, it had been decided to change the requirements for first aid training. As from October this year the new guidelines will introduce:

- A new Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) course, which will last 1 day and will enable a first aider to give emergency first aid to someone who is injured, or becomes ill, at work;
- A change to the existing 4 day first aid at work (FAW) course reducing it to only 3 days. This course will cover everything in the EFAW course as well as how to deal with a range of specific illnesses or injuries;
- A strong recommendation from the HSE that first aiders undertake an annual half day refresher course during their 3 year certification for both courses (EFAW and FAW).

The changes should relieve the burden on



SME's by reducing the time employees need to be away from the workplace in one go but also bring about more frequent refresher training which first aiders often say they need as they don't use their skills (thankfully) very often. The introduction of the EFAW course will also make the 1 day course regulated which the current 'Appointed Persons' course isn't.

As more information is released on this, we will endeavour to keep you all informed.

EFFECTIVELY MANAGE TRAFFIC MOVEMENT ON SITE

HSE warns employers to ensure they effectively manage all traffic movement on site.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is warning employers to ensure the effective management of the safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles around the workplace, after a man was reversed over by a forklift truck at the new £22.5m shopping complex at Willow Place, Corby.

The advice comes after BAM Construction Limited (formerly HBG Construction Limited), was fined £15,000 and ordered to pay £13,540.90 costs at Corby Magistrates' Court.

The company pleaded guilty to Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work act 1974. The charges relate to the failure to effectively plan, organise, control, monitor and review traffic on site. This includes a failure to maintain and manage traffic routes.

On 23 August, 2007, during the construction of the Willow Place Shopping Centre, Pyrotech Limited, a sub-contractor, was working under the control of BAM Construction Limited tasked with installing the fire protection system on site.

A male fitter with Pyrotech Limited was at the time of the incident carrying a piece of plasterboard and walking in the opposite direction of the forklift truck when he was unexpectedly reversed over by the vehicle in the Mall area.

The forklift truck driver stopped believing he had reversed on to a piece of fallen plasterboard which was obstructing his path. The driver dismounted in order to investigate, only to find the sub-contractor underneath the plasterboard adjacent to the FLT wheels.

The fitter, was taken to hospital, underwent surgery and suffered a broken tibia and fibia in his left leg, wounds in

his left foot, a broken left ankle and dislocated a bone in his right leg. Almost two years on, he has still not returned to work.

The investigating HSE Inspector said: "This was a very serious and preventable incident which has resulted in a man being away from work for nearly two years. One of the key messages that HSE is keen to express is the importance that workplace transport is planned and managed effectively at all stages throughout the construction project. Workplace transport is an HSE priority topic as it is one of the major causes of fatal incidents and major injuries.

"All companies must assess the risks when pedestrians and vehicles, such as forklift trucks work in close proximity and take appropriate precautions which are well documented in HSE guidance." This message should go out, not only to construction companies, but to any company that has a flow of traffic through or around their premises.

For more information regarding this subject, contact Kevin Symons or visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/index.htm>.



PLANT NAPPY

I recently visited the Health and Safety Exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham where I came across this product called the 'Plant Nappy'. The name itself was a bit intriguing so I decided to have a look and find out what it was all about. I came away with a sample product, which I will gladly show anyone on request, and the usual follow up call to try and sell me one.



Having looked into the product further, I believe that it could be a very beneficial item for owners of mobile and static plant to have. The cost of purchasing these items can be far offset by the potential savings made by not having to dispose of rainwater which has been contaminated by oil or diesel that has leaked from a machine or spilt through neglect.

The way the Plant Nappy works is that a liner is placed in the bottom. This liner soaks up and spilt or leaked diesel / oils. As it rains, the sides of the nappy allow the rainwater to permeate through without it having been contaminated by the oil or diesel.

The liner can then be removed and the contaminants squeezed out into a container and disposed of in the correct manner.

The Plant Nappy® is a better alternative to the use of drip trays under plant and machinery on site. It is designed for use outside in the rain and harsh conditions to provide containment of oil and fuel spills for generators and other site machinery, whilst overcoming the problem of filling with water.

If you are interested in this item, or finding out more about it, either give me a call or visit the official website at <http://www.plant-nappy.co.uk/index.html>.

FIXED PENALTY FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVERS

The Road Safety Act 2006 was recently amended to give the police more powers to deal with heavy goods and commercial vehicle drivers at the roadside.

Police officers and VOSA (Vehicle Operator and Services Agency) examiners can now collect on the spot fines from foreign drivers or drivers who have allegedly offended but are unable to give a satisfactory address.

Under the legislation, VOSA officials can not only give fixed penalty points to drivers but can immobilise mechanically defective and overloaded vehicles. Examiners can also prevent commercial drivers from continuing their journey if they believe they have been at the wheel for too long.

RoSPA Occupational Safety & Health Bulletin

FATAL INJURY ANALYSIS

In last month's newsletter, we reported that the HSE were targeting house builders and small domestic builders. An analysis into fatal accidents has found that more than half of the building workers killed in 2007/08 worked for small companies despite these firms employing only about a third of the construction workforce.

The analysis carried out by the Centre for Corporate Accountability found that 51% of construction workers killed worked for companies employing less than 50 people and almost half of these fatalities were in companies that employed 5 or less people.

Brian Berry of the Federation of Master Builders has said "There is already a considerable amount of health and safety legislations in place. We need to bring about a cultural change within the construction sector that takes health and safety more seriously."

We are asking our customers to question whether you believe you have a good safety culture or is there any more you can do to improve. If anyone would like to discuss this, give us a call and we will be happy to arrange a visit.

BRIEF HEADLINES

NATIONAL TOWER CRANE REGISTER

Calls for a Tower Crane Register are finally to be realised. The HSE has announced it will launch a regulatory consultation exercise to determine the full nature of such a register and how it will work. The register should be running as a statutory scheme by April 2010.

The aim of the register is to improve the competence of those involved in the erection, operation, examination and dismantling of tower cranes. Inspections will be carried out over the next year to determine if current crane-safety guidance is being followed.

Safety & Health Practitioner

NEW SCAFFOLDING GUIDANCE

SG4:05, the guidance for scaffolders to erect scaffolding safely is in the process of being revised. The current guidance looks at the use of fall restraint for scaffolders during scaffold erection.

The Work at Heights Regulations 2005 requires employers to avoid working at heights where reasonably practicable. Obviously this cannot be followed during the erection of scaffolding. Following the hierarchy, collective protection must always be given priority over personal protection.

The new version of SG4, which is due to come out in 2010, will introduce new systems whereby collective protection is given during the erection process.

Please Note that source for this Newsletter came from:

HSW Publication, Safety & Health Practitioner, HSE Website, RoSPA Website, Environment Agency Website

TRAINING COURSES

CITB SITE MANAGERS SAFETY TRAINING SCHEME (SMSTS) - 5 DAY

Dates: 16/23/30 Sept, 07/14 Oct 2009
Location: Latton Bush Centre, Harlow, Essex

Dates: 24 Sept, 01/08/15/21 Oct 2009
Location: E-Space North, Littleport, Ely

Includes CITB publications per student Registration with the CITB, Lunch and refreshment

Note: Minimum numbers are required for all courses to run.

CDM REGULATIONS 2007 (1 DAY)

Dates: 29 Jul 2009
Location: E-Space North, Littleport, Ely
Includes: Lunch and refreshments

ASBESTOS AWARENESS (½ DAY)

Dates: 30 Jul 2009 (morning)
Location: Latton Bush, Harlow, Essex

MANUAL HANDLING (½ DAY)

Dates: 30 Jul 2009 (afternoon)
Location: Latton Bush, Harlow, Essex

RISK ASSESSMENT & METHOD STATEMENT (1 DAY)

Dates: 08 Sept 2009
Location: Latton Bush, Harlow, Essex

WORK AT HEIGHT (1 DAY)

Dates: 09 Sept 2009
Location: Latton Bush, Harlow, Essex



*If you are in-scope and registered with CITB-ConstructionSkills you may be able to claim a grant to offset the cost (full details can be found on www.cskills.org/grant).

Please contact us if you would like more information on one or more of the above training courses.

Akeva arranges open courses to suit our customers' demands, if there is not a scheduled open course for the training you desire, please contact us.

AKEVA SAFETY SOLUTIONS LTD

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