



NEWSLETTER

THE FUTURE WITH AKEVA



The key to success they say is to listen, communicate and to continually improve.

Well we had some very positive feedback from our first newsletter, so hopefully the communication will continually improve as we move forward together.

We are now looking of ways to develop the services we provide and have had some very interesting suggestions from our customers.

Recently I was present whilst a customer underwent an external audit as requested by the customer's client. The auditor was very impressed with the systems that we had developed between with them and thought our customer would have no problems passing a CHAS audit, which was their ultimate goal.

The Auditor however did mention about:

- carrying out regular safety review meetings, and
- keeping of safety statistics, which had also recently been mentioned to me by one of our new customers. If anyone would be interested in Akeva keeping safety statistics on their behalf please let us know.

One of our customers has shown an interest in **OHSAS 18001** the international Health and Safety standard equivalent to ISO 14001 or 9001. So we took a look at how much it would cost to become an auditor. The course itself is costly so to ensure that it is a viable option we would like your feedback as to whether you would consider pursuing this standard before we look into it further.

CDM Co-ordinator

Kev Symons has had it in mind for some time to attend a CDM Co-ordinators course. This is initially to gain more credibility when dealing with CDM-C's on behalf of our customers. However there could be scope in the future to take on the duties of a CDM-C on some contracts. Kev is now booked on a course later this month and will then be applying for membership with APS (Association for Project Safety).

HEALTH & SAFETY DOES PAY!

Research carried out by academics at Loughborough University has found that companies that are proactive towards health and safety are more profitable and, in some cases, they have achieved a 25% increase in their profit margin.



During the research, it was reported that companies had seen a 50% drop in their accident rates which, in itself, can result in an increase in production and higher levels of morale as employees have more faith in their employers.

31 organisations took part in the research, which included interviews with 78 senior managers / board members

and 2067 staff members. The research also found that sickness absence levels in large organisations were twice as high as those in small and medium sized companies. The contradiction was

thought to be because larger organisations have wide ranging sickness management policies whereas smaller organisations would normally encourage staff to come to work when they should really be off.

The study will be on-going for the researchers to say for certain that this is a true picture but the initial findings are encouraging.



Workplace Transport

The management of occupational road risk (MORR) is a very hot topic at the moment and, as a few of you have heard Kev say, he predicts that the first prosecution under the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 will be following a road traffic incident. In May Kev attended a Workplace Transport Conference in Birmingham and plans to start looking at procedures for MORR. As a starter though, the HSE have produced a simple 'Workplace Transport Checklist' that may be of interest. This can be found at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/forms/transport/wtchk1.pdf>

ROOFING BOSS SENT TO PRISON

Roy Clark, the boss of a roofing contractor based in Bridgend, South Wales, has received a 10 month prison sentence after pleading guilty to manslaughter following the death of a teenager who had only been working with him for a week.



The parents of the 17 year old worker had asked Clark, who they knew, to provide work for their son on a contract which involved the construction of an extension to a steel

framed building in a retail park.

On the day of the incident, the youngster had been

sent back onto the roof of a shop to collect timber which had been left behind after completion of some work. There were fragile

rooflights on the existing building which had not been identified as posing a risk. The youngster stepped on one of those rooflights and fell nine metres into the shop below, sustaining internal injuries, from which he later died in hospital.

Previous Prohibition Notices served on Clark in 1997 and 1999 for carrying out unsafe roofwork, including working near fragile rooflights, were taken into account.

ENGINEERING COMPANY FINED AFTER AMPUTATION

A machine operator had his arm amputated below the elbow when he was dragged into an unguarded piece of machinery.

An experienced computer numerically controlled (CNC) machinist was setting up his machine, a routine operation, on the CNC lathe. Four bolts that were protruding from the end plate caught the operator's overalls and dragged him into the machine. As it rotated, he was thrown over the top and his lower left arm was ripped off.

Although the company had carried out risk assessments

for most of its processes, the risk of entanglement during setting up operations had not been identified.

The company were fined £7,500 and told to pay £16,000 towards the HSE's costs after pleading guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, for failing to protect the safety of employees.

Lessons to be learnt from both of these incidents are that companies must ensure they sufficiently risk assess all works (including non-routine and emergency works), the environment that the work is being carried out in and the experience of those carrying out the works.

In the circumstances relating to both incidents described, there was a distinct lack of guarding. On the roofing incident, there should have been suitable barriers or guard rails around the roof lights and those carrying out work at heights should, in accordance with the Work at Height Regulations 2005, be trained.

On the incident in the machine shop, there was a lack of guarding of moving parts of machinery.

Guards or barriers must be put in place to protect unauthorised entry to hazardous areas. If physical guards or barriers cannot be installed then other measures must be taken.



Excavation fall costs firm £30K

A worker who was involved in the installation of a septic tank was injured when the loose, excavated, earth he was walking on, collapsed beneath his feet.

The worker fell into the excavation breaking his pelvis, foot and coccyx resulting in him being in hospital for several weeks.

His company were fined £18,000 with £12,000 costs

The European Campaign for Safety and Health at Work for 2008-09

This two year campaign will focus on risk assessment and is aimed at employers, workers and safety representatives. It is intended to promote the benefits of completing and implementing a risk assessment as well as seeking to demystify the risk assessment process to show that risk assessment is not necessarily a complicated, process or a task only for experts.

The HSE and the European Agency for Health and Safety at Work are planning activities for the European Health and Safety Week, October 20-24, based on the campaign theme. They will be trying to raise awareness on the issue. In doing so they will provide information and practical advice, encourage activities that have a positive impact in the workplace and identify and recognise good practice.

Risk assessment is a very big part of our lives, both at work and at home, with the former being a more formal process. It is something we cannot escape or cloud over and, if used correctly, can have a very positive impact on the safety and health of your employees.

As a minimum, we should all be reviewing our existing risk assessments to ensure they are suitable, sufficient and still valid. Any assistance with this can be obtained by giving Kevin a call.

CUSTOMER'S SLOT

You may recall in our first edition we mentioned that we would like to have a regular slot in which one of our customers had the opportunity to advertise their services in our newsletter. The first customer to show an interest is Penlaw & Co Ltd, who have used Kevin's services as a consultant for the past four years, I hope you find their details of interest.



PENLAW & CO LIMITED

Penlaw & Co Ltd are a specialist Dry-Lining Company with over 30 years experience. We have built up an excellent reputation, having worked for some of the biggest house builders in the industry. We have the resources to handle projects ranging from £30,000 to £2,000,000.

Generally our company carries out works in the following sectors of our trade:

- Dry-lining packages including partitions
- Suspended ceiling
- Wet trades including plastering
- Screeding
- Renders
- Beam Encasement for Commercial Projects

Over the last 25 years we have also been a supplier of dry-lining projects to the construction industry. We have depots in Wickford, Greenwich, Enfield, Eye (in Suffolk) and Warrington.

If you are interested in our services please contact either Eric Gray (Contracting) on email address eric@penlaw.co.uk or Sean Boyle (Sales) on email address sean@penlaw.co.uk or call us on telephone 01268 730 436.

CHANGES TO FIRST AID REQUIREMENTS

The HSE (Health and Safety Executive) has recently carried out a consultation exercise for employers and first aid training providers on proposed new guidance to support changes to first aid training courses and the approval of training providers.

The main drivers for the changes to the training programme were to help employers

- access competent first aid,
- provide a more proportionate response to their first aid needs, and
- to minimise burdens on business.

Employers will be able to send prospective first aiders on either:

- a full three day course in FAW; or
- a one day course in emergency first aid at work (EFAW).

The new courses are likely to be introduced in October 2009. Selecting the appropriate course will depend on the circumstances of the workplace and will be decided by the findings of the employer's first aid needs assessment. HSE will issue revised guidance for employers to help them decide which course is suitable.

A three year certificate will be issued to those who successfully complete either the FAW or EFAW course. During any three year certification period, first aiders should undertake annual refresher



BRIEF HEADLINES

Construction Blitz

The HSE are continuing their blitz on refurbishment contracts and have taken enforcement action against 13 of the 15 sites they visited in Merseyside in early June. Later in June a blitz in Newcastle was carried out and served 4 prohibition and 2 improvement notices.

Falls from Vehicles

The HSE are warning employers that they must ensure the safety of drivers who load and load vehicles following a fatal accident to a driver who fell from his trailer. This latest incident follows the 4 fatalities and 2000 serious injuries last year.

Young Workers

MPs and peers gathered in June to discuss what can be done to better prepare young people for the workplace. The Liberal Democrats' Shadow Work and Pensions minister and former teacher, Paul Rowen, suggested that health and safety should be taught more in schools, partly as a result of moves to encourage teachers to undertake more outdoor excursions.

Machinery Safety & Maintenance

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) today highlighted the importance of companies conducting planned maintenance checks on machinery after inspectors discovered several faults which could have killed employees at a food processing plant.

HSE found that the company's maintenance regime was insufficient and failed to uncover obvious faults and, following an incident where an employee received an electric shock, the company failed to identify the cause.

Although this occurred in a food processing plant, it is important for all companies to develop suitable and sufficient maintenance and inspection regimes for their work equipment then monitor to ensure they are being implemented.

SITE SAFETY PLUS ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Many of you may know that earlier this year Akeva was accredited to run the Site Safety Plus suite of courses which includes SMSTS. Our very first course in April was assessed. By an external assessor and we received a glowing report (brag, brag) which means we must be doing something right.

Anyone wishing to check our ability to run the course, before they book, can have a copy of the report on request.

TRAINING COURSES

RISK ASSESSMENTS & METHOD STATEMENTS

Dates: 10th July 2008
Location: Epping, Essex
Cost: £150.00 (+ VAT) per person*
This includes: Lunch and refreshments

CITB SITE SUPERVISOR SAFETY TRAINING SCHEME (SSSTS) - 2 DAY

Dates: 10th & 11th September 2008
Location: Harlow, Essex
Cost: £350.00 (+ VAT) per person*
This includes CITB publications per student Registration with the CITB Lunch and refreshments

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

Dates: 16th, 23rd, 30th Sept, 7th & 14th Oct 2008
Location: Cecil House, Harlow Common
Cost: £640 (+ VAT) per person*
This includes CITB publications per student Registration with the CITB, Lunch and refreshments

HEALTH & SAFETY FOR DIRECTORS & SENIOR MANAGERS

(incorporating the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007)

Dates: 21st October 2008
Location: TBA (Possibly West London)
Cost: £150.00 (+ VAT) per person*
This includes: Lunch and refreshments

CONSTRUCTION (DESIGN & MANAGEMENT) 2007

Dates: 21st October 2008
Location: Harlow, Essex
Cost: £150.00 (+ VAT) per person*
This includes: Lunch and refreshments

*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).

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

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.

