Welcome to this edition of the
Occupational Health & Safety Information Service News Brief

This edition of our News Brief continues the inclusion of content from our partners at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) and Sheila Pantry Associates.

The CIEH is a registered charity and the professional voice for environmental health. They provide information, training, evidence and policy advice to public health, health and safety, environmental management regulators and practitioners in the public and private sectors. For more information about the CIEH please visit uk.ihs.com/about/cieh.html

From Sheila Pantry Associates we have the latest prosecutions, and training and conference events.

We are keen to hear your feedback on the content and if you have any suggestions for how we can further enhance the News Brief for you. To provide your feedback please email marketing@ihsmarkit.com and title your email 'OHSIS News Brief'.

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues and keep them up-to-date with the latest news.
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PROSECUTIONS

Company Sentenced After Death Of Employee
A metal recovery company was sentenced today for safety breaches after a worker suffered fatal crush injuries.

Sheffield Crown court heard how, on 4 March 2013, the employee was working with his son, dismantling a 3-core reactor vessel, when an unsupported metal section weighing approximately 1.3 ton fell and fatally crushed him between the fallen cylinder and a shipping container.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that adequate risk control measures had not been put into place to prevent parts of the reactor vessel from falling on employees.

R S Bruce (Metals & Machinery) Ltd of March Street, Sheffield pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1074 and was fined £60,000 and ordered to pay costs of £15,000.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Tim Johnson said: 'This was a tragic and wholly avoidable incident, caused by the failure of the company to put in place adequate risk control measures to prevent sections of the steel ring falling onto employees.

'A suitable and sufficient risk assessment would have clearly identified the risk of serious injury from falling sections and should have prompted the company to put in place adequate, properly designed support and devise a safe system of work for the employees to carry out the dismantling operation.'

Company Fined After Worker Seriously Injured When Carrying Out A Lifting Operation
A principal contractor has been fined £10,000 after an employee of a constituent company sustained severe injuries whilst carrying out a lifting operation.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court heard that on 11 April 2015 Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors (FCBC) leased a large area within Rosyth Dockyard where an employee was undertaking a lifting operation to move two large crane mats.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the work activities to move the crane mats was a complex and non-routine lifting operation which had not been planned by a competent person. It was not appropriately supervised or carried out in a safe manner. The chains being used were not suitable as their reach distances were too short for the distance between the lifting points on the crane mat.

FCBC, of , Buiyleon Road, South Queensferry pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 8 of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 and was fined £10,000.

Speaking after the hearing HSE principal inspector, Robert Hirst said: 'This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply implementing appropriate control measures and safe working practices.

'Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required health and safety standards.'
Car Parts Manufacturer Fined £134,000 After Worker Suffers A Serious Injury
A North East-based car parts manufacturer, SNOP UK Limited, has today been sentenced after a worker was seriously-injured.

Sunderland Magistrates’ Court heard that on 26 July 2017 the worker was injured when loading metal components into a robotic cell. To carry out the task the worker was required to stand in front of an automatic rise and fall safety door holding a component ready to load into the cell. The incident occurred when the component he was holding was struck by the rising door and it stabbed into his neck. As a result of his injuries, the worker had to have a throat operation.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had failed to ensure the control arrangements it had in place to protect workers, including supervision, were properly adhered to.

SNOP UK Limited of Rainhill Road, Stephenson Industrial Estate, Washington was found guilty of breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £134,000 and ordered to pay £2,264 costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Paul Wilson said: ‘This incident was entirely preventable. The company had control arrangements available which relied on supervision, but the supervision was not sufficient and safe working conditions were not ensured.’

Fulham Company Fined For Failing To Undertake Asbestos Assessment
A residential property development company has today been sentenced after failing to carry out an asbestos survey prior to undertaking extensive refurbishment works.

Westminster Magistrates’ Court heard how, on and before 6 December 2017, Pascal Huser Design & Build Ltd undertook construction work at a property in Fulham, London. The company failed to carry out an asbestos survey for the property which was uncovered during a routine Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspection.

The subsequent HSE investigation found the company removed a boarded asbestos ceiling without taking any precautions to prevent workers being exposed to the health risk. This happened because the company failed in its duty to carry out an asbestos survey for the property.

Pascal Huser Design & Build Ltd of Putney Bridge Road, London pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 5 of Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 and has been fined £16000 and ordered to pay costs of £4940.40.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Jenny Morris said: ‘The risk of exposure to asbestos could so easily have been avoided if the company had carried out a suitable and sufficient asbestos assessment to identify the presence of asbestos within the property prior to commencing refurbishment work’.

‘Companies should be aware HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.'
Logistics Company Fined £84,000 And Ordered To Pay Costs Of £5,633.69. After Driver Suffers Crush Injuries

A Newport-based logistics company has been fined after a driver was crushed by a full pallet when his lorry was being unloaded.

Newport Magistrates’ Court heard how on, 5 May 2017, an employee of Freight Movement Limited was seriously injured when a pallet loaded with 920kg of cardboard packaging toppled from a forklift and landed on him. The driver suffered multiple fractures and internal injuries.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found a lack of segregation between vehicles and pedestrians, inadequate safe waiting zones for drivers, lack of control over vehicle movements and an absence of safe walkways. The company failed to critically consider the main risks of its busy transport operation and ensure there was adequate control of transport risks at the site.

Freight Movement Limited of Wern Industrial Estate, Rogerstone, Newport pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and Regulation 3(1)(a) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and has been fined £84,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,633.69.

HSE inspector Siân Donne said after the hearing: ‘This incident could have easily been prevented by simply reviewing the risks from transport and keeping transport and people apart. This is a reminder to all companies to take suitable action to control the risks from transport in their workplaces. HSE will take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.’

Landlord Given Suspended Prison Sentence For Gas Safety Failures

A Torquay landlord has been sentenced after failing to ensure proper landlord’s gas safety checks were undertaken at his tenanted property.

Newton Abbot Magistrates’ Court heard how Mr Mehmet Sevim, a former Gas Safe Register gas engineer and current landlord of residential properties, had contracted a fitter who was not a member of Gas Safe Register to undertake a landlord’s gas safety check at one of his tenanted properties.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Mr Sevim repeatedly maintained throughout that he had used a person who he could not name to undertake the landlord’s gas safety check for him. He failed to make any checks on the individual, including checking if he was registered with Gas Safe Register. The investigation also found the landlord’s gas safety certificate used false Gas Safe Register engineer details which Mr Sevim later admitted to the court that he had produced the fraudulent certificate. It was also found that Mr Sevim had tried to bribe a prosecution witness before the trial by offering them £300 to change their evidence.

Mehmet Sevim of Ellacombe Church Road, Torquay was found guilty of breaching Regulations 36 (4) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations and has been sentenced to 26 weeks prison, suspended for two years and ordered to undertake 240 hours unpaid work. Mr Sevim was also ordered to pay costs of £5,330.76.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Simon Jones said: ‘Mr Sevim lied throughout this investigation and only at sentencing did finally tell the truth about how he falsified a landlord’s gas safety certificate.'
‘There can be no excuse for a landlord to ever falsify a gas safety certificate and this sentence should send a clear warning to all landlords’ that the courts take such matters very seriously.

‘Landlords must ensure that only Gas Safe Registered engineers work on gas appliances at their tenanted properties. A landlord can check that a person is registered on the Gas Safe Register website and these checks are free and quick.’

**Former Gas Engineer Sentenced For Illegal Gas Work**

A former gas engineer has been sentenced today after conducting gas work he was no longer registered or competent to do and leaving it in a dangerous condition.

Exeter Crown Court heard how Scott Lowry, who previously traded as S J Lowry Plumbing and Heating, undertook the installation of a new gas boiler at a property in Ivybridge during September 2017. A matter of hours after he had completed the installation, the boiler developed faults and the homeowners reported these faults to him. Mr Lowry attended the address on numerous occasions after the installation but was unable to resolve the issues. A Gas Safe Registered gas engineer later inspected the work and found it to be of poor standard, classing it as ‘At Risk’.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found Mr Lowry’s membership of Gas Safe Register had expired on 19 April 2017 and after this time, he was no longer registered to undertake gas work. Mr Lowry used his old Gas Safe Register number on the commissioning document supplied to the home owners and did so knowing that this was no longer valid. The investigation also found Scott Lowry had left the gas boiler flue that he fitted in a dangerous state that allowed the gas boiler fumes to leak into the property and could have caused carbon monoxide poisoning.

Scott Lowry of Broad Street, Modbury pleaded guilty to breaching Regulations 3(3), 3(7) and 26(1) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. He has been sentenced to eight months prison, suspended for 18 months for each offence, to run concurrently. In addition he was fined £500, and ordered to pay the homeowners £500 compensation and £1,000 for the prosecution costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Simon Jones said: ‘Mr Lowry undertook gas work which he knew he was not registered to do. He deliberately deceived a retired couple.

The gas work that Mr Lowry undertook put the lives of the homeowners and anyone visiting them at serious risk from carbon monoxide poisoning.’

‘All gas work must be done by a registered Gas Safe engineer to ensure the highest standards are met to prevent injury and loss of life.’

**Construction Company Fined For Fatal Fall Into Basement**

A construction company has today been fined after a chauffeur fell to his death at a concealed basement void in a domestic property undergoing construction work.

Luton Magistrates’ Court heard how, on Saturday 16 September 2017, Mr Bala Singh Koranga, a visitor to the house and not associated with the works, entered the construction area and stepped onto a blue tarpaulin that was placed to prevent rainwater entering the basement. Mr Koranga fell into the void and sustained a fatal laceration to the neck.
An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had failed to put in place adequate construction site fencing and the site had no warning signs and used ineffective barriers around the concealed void.

SM Builder Expert Limited of Alnwick Road, London pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 13(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and was fined £5,280 and ordered to pay costs of £3,204.

Speaking after the hearing, Mr Koranga’s son said: ‘My father was always very happy. He was always messing around and joking. It was what he was known for. He is greatly missed.’
HSE inspector Rauf Ahmed added: ‘This tragic incident could easily have been prevented. Builders need to take adequate measures to prevent unauthorised access into construction sites and prevent persons falling into open basements.’

Interserve Facilities Management Fined Fined £93,600 And Ordered To Pay £32,056 Costs For Safety Failings

A facilities management contractor has been fined after multiple safety failings at a laboratory site for the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Weybridge.

Hove Crown Court heard how, on Sunday 21 September 2014, mains power was lost at the site which includes high containment laboratory facilities required to safely handle high hazard pathogens that are a serious risk to human health and the environment.

Interserve Facilities Management Ltd was contracted to the site and was responsible for delivery of maintenance activities for many of the mechanical and electrical systems required for containment and control of high hazard biological agents in microbiological containment laboratories.

The court heard that when mains power was lost, of the twelve generators in place to supply emergency power to the site, two failed to operate and two started but subsequently failed in operation, one of which also caught fire.

The emergency escalation system was triggered, and the Fire and Rescue Service attended the site. Power was fully restored later that day.

As a result of the emergency generator failures, the court was told all power was lost to a number of high containment facilities for several hours, affecting the site’s safety systems.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found a number of failings of the contractor in relation to the maintenance activities undertaken on standby generators that could have resulted in employees being exposed to a risk of harm from biological agents.

Interserve (Facilities Management) Ltd of Capitol Tower, Waterloo Road, London, pleaded guilty to breaching section 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and have been fined £93,600 and ordered to pay £32,056 costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Intervention Programme Manager and lead investigator in the case, Dr Keith Stephenson said: ‘Interserve Facilities Management failed to effectively maintain the standby generators that were a key emergency control measure needed to work safely.'
Fortunately, the consequences of the multiple generator failures were significantly reduced by the timing of the incident, both in terms of the day of the week and the laboratory studies being undertaken at that time.'

'Had the incident happened on a different day or when different studies were being undertaken, staff and the nearby environment could have been exposed to high hazard biological agents with serious consequences.'

**Dyeing Company Causes Serious Injuries To Employees In Two Separate Incidents**

A dyeing company has been sentenced today for safety breaches after two separate incidents caused serious injuries to employees.

Leeds Crown Court heard how, on 27 August 2014, a worker was dyeing hanks of wool using a large tank and overhead crane when the hook block on the crane failed and the crane lid dropped into the tank. Boiling dye liquid spilled out splashing the employee and causing serious burns to his body.

Furthermore, on 15 January 2015, whilst clearing a blockage on a yarn scouring line, a worker’s clothing became caught on a rotating part. He became entangled in the machine and sustained serious chest and leg injuries.

Premier Hank Dyers Ltd of Bottoms Mill, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 for both incidents and was fined a £12,000 (£6000 for each offence) and ordered to pay £12,014.70 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Jacqueline Ferguson commented: ‘Employers must ensure that they properly assess the risks associated with dangerous moving parts of machinery and then apply effective control measures to minimise those risks. Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.’

**Construction Company Fined £80,000 After Worker Falls From Height**

A construction company has been fined after an employee fell through a plasterboard ceiling onto a staircase below at a site in Basingstoke.

Basingstoke Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 31 October 2016, an employee of Croudace Homes Limited was working in a loft space when he fell through a plasterboard ceiling onto the staircase below. He sustained a punctured lung, six fractured ribs, a fractured vertebra and a fractured shoulder.

An investigation by the Health & Safety Executive found that there was poor planning of the pre-plaster work and a lack of understanding of the risks associated with working at height in the loft without adequate fragile surface protection.

Croudace Homes Limited of, Croudace House, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6XQ, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulation 2005 and was fined £80,000 and ordered to pay full costs of £5355.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Sharron Cripps said: ‘Falls from height remain the most common cause of work-related fatalities and serious injuries in the construction industry and the risks associated with working at height are well-known.

Working on or near fragile materials at height can be particularly dangerous and it is very important that those in control of the work identify the risk, plan to eliminate it if possible, or where it is not
possible, take appropriate precautions to safeguard workers and others. Good management will also include regular monitoring that the controls in place are keeping people safe.

**Company Fined After Worker Injured During Diving Incident**

A company specialising in underwater civil engineering and commercial diving has been fined following an incident where a working diver was injured.

Beverley Magistrates’ Court heard how on 29 August 2017 a Northern Divers (Engineering) Ltd employee’s finger became trapped whilst fitting a cofferdam underwater at Immingham Port, causing the finger to be severed.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the work was not properly planned, managed or conducted in a manner which protected the health and safety of all persons taking part in the project, thereby exposing employees to serious risk of entrapment and injury.

Northern Divers (Engineering) Ltd of Humber Place, Hull, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 6 (1) of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 in relation to the incident and have been fined £12,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,369.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Chris Booker said: ‘This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices. Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.’

**CCTV Installer Fined After Worker Falls Through Roof Light**

A Manchester based CCTV Installation company has been sentenced after an employee fell through a fragile roof light.

Greater Manchester Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 30 March 2017, employees of Skycommsuk Ltd were installing several CCTV cameras at a property in Salford. In an attempt to free a cable snagged on a section of pitched roof, the worker who was located on a flat roof, inadvertently stepped through a fragile roof light falling two metres. Landing on an overhead crane structure in the disused warehouse below, he suffered a sprained ankle and was unable to work for six weeks.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the work carried out by Skycommsuk Lt, was not properly planned and no appropriate control measures were in place to ensure the employees safety when the incident occurred.

Skycommsuk Ltd of Jubilee Road, Middleton, Manchester pleaded guilty to breaching Section 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and has been fined £2600 and ordered to pay costs of £2000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Jennifer French said: ‘These risks could so easily have been avoided if the work at height had been properly planned with simple control measures in place to prevent a risk of workers being exposed to serious injury.

‘Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work related fatalities and injuries in this country and the risks associated with working at height are well known.’
Devon Farming Partnership Sentenced After Worker Killed

The farming partnership of MJ and CEH Arthur has been fined after a worker was crushed to death by a digger. Plymouth Magistrate’s Court heard how, on 15 May 2015, 63-year-old Richard Doble was working at Dipford Farm, Tiverton, when he was crushed between the rear bucket of the digger and a stone wall. He had been working alongside one of the Arthur family members to move an oil drum on the farm. There was an ongoing problem with the ignition on the digger and in order to start it the ignition had to be turned on in the cab, the bonnet opened, and the engine hotwired with a piece of wire.

The incident occurred when Mr Arthur was attempting to ‘hotwire’ the vehicle. Mr Doble had turned the ignition on from the cab then, unknown to his colleague, had got out and gone around the other side. The vehicle moved suddenly resulting in Mr Doble being crushed between the rear bucket of the vehicle and the wall. An ambulance was called and he was taken to hospital. He died from crush injuries the following day.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the digger had a number of serious defects but there was no evidence of planned maintenance or the regular repair of defects. It was also found there was no evidence of risk assessment or safe systems of work on the farm. Mr Doble had worked on the farm for 35 years and was regarded as the digger driver, although there is no evidence of formal training. A number of other vehicles and equipment on the farm were also found to have defects indicative of poor maintenance over a period of time.

MJ and CEH Arthur of Dipford Farm, Shillingford pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and has been fined £53,334 and ordered to pay costs of £13,871.50.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Emma O’Hara said: ’This case highlights the importance of regular, proactive maintenance and inspection of work equipment. In this case, MJ and CEH Arthur failed to effectively maintain their equipment and this led to the tragic death of Mr Doble. This incident could so easily have been avoided had the dutyholder simply carried out maintenance of the vehicles in use on the farm to ensure that it was safe to use.’

Fencing Company Fined After Worker Injured

A Sussex-based fencing company has been sentenced after a worker suffered serious injuries to his hand when installing a vehicle crash barrier.

Folkestone Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 15 September 2016, an employee of Littlewood Fencing Limited was using a post-driver to install a post as part of a crash barrier when an extension post came out of position and the hammer head fell, crushing his hand. The worker lost his index finger, broke his ring finger, and severed nerves and tendons in his little finger. The worker also suffered lacerations to his palm and thumb of his left hand.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company failed to implement a safe system of work for using the post-driver. This included a failure to ensure those using this particular post-driver had the necessary information, instruction and training to do so.

Littlewood Fencing Ltd of North Trade Road, Battle, East Sussex pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £53,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,010.72.
Speaking after the hearing, inspector Ross Carter said, ‘Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working’.

**HSE Investigation Into NHS Trust Continues**
A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation into how risks were managed in mental health wards at North Essex Partnership University Trust will continue.

HSE has worked alongside Essex Police, who have confirmed their investigation into a number of patient deaths at the Trust has concluded.

Since November 2016, HSE has been investigating how the Trust managed mental health ward environments in relation to potential ligature points between October 2004 and March 2015, at which time the Care Quality Commission took on the lead regulatory role for patient safety.

Since January 2017, Essex Police, with the support of HSE, has carried out its own parallel investigation into patient deaths and has now confirmed this inquiry has concluded.

A HSE spokesperson said: ‘Our thoughts remain with the families involved and we fully recognise the importance of their dialogue with Essex Police in light of these developments.

For two years, we have been fully investigating whether health and safety laws have been breached. At the conclusion of our investigation, we will consider whether any charges should be brought.

‘We want to be clear about our remit, which is different to that of the police, and it is unlikely our investigation will conclude in the next six months. We are working hard to keep the families informed, and will continue to update them as the investigation progresses.’

**Cast Iron Manufacturer Fined £100,000 And Ordered To Pay Costs Of £1,439.17 After Worker Struck By Forklift Truck**
A Chesterfield based company that manufactures cast iron bars has been fined after one of its employees suffered a fractured leg after being struck by a forklift truck.

Chesterfield Magistrates’ Court heard that on 17 January 2018 at United Cast Bar (UK) Ltd, Spital Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, the employee was working in an area called the holding bay to undertake checks on the cast iron bars that are produced in the factory. After speaking with a forklift truck driver, he moved away from the vehicle. As the forklift manoeuvred away it collided with him. As a result of the accident he suffered a fracture to his lower leg.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company failed to identify through risk assessment there was potential for vehicle and pedestrian collision in the holding bay area. The company did not implement any control measures in the holding bay area, the accident occurred as a result of these failings. The measures employed after the accident by the company demonstrated that there were reasonably practicable measures that could have prevented the accident.

United Cast Bar (UK) Ltd pleaded to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, and has been fined £100,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,439.17.
Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector David Keane said: ‘Companies can prevent accidents between pedestrians and fork lift trucks by identifying the potential risks and implementing simple safety measures to segregate vehicles and pedestrians’.

**Leeds Company Fined After Workers Health Put At Risk**

Furnace relining company, Calderys UK Ltd, has today been sentenced for failing to control exposure to both vibration and silica for its workers.

Leeds Crown Court heard the company reported two cases of employees suffering Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) in early 2017 and during the subsequent Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation it was found that no measures had been put in place to control exposure to vibration when using pneumatic tools. It was also found there was no health surveillance put in place to identify any early signs of effects on worker health. These failings had been going on from as early as 2006.

The investigation also found that between April 2004 and December 2017, no measures were implemented to control workers’ exposure to respirable crystalline silica while stripping and replacing furnace linings, and no health surveillance was put in place, despite previous advice from HSE indicating what was needed.

Calderys UK Ltd of Gildersome Spur, Morley, Leeds pleaded guilty to breaching Regulations 6(1) and 7(1) of the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005. The company also pleaded guilty to breaching Regulations 7(1) and 11(1) of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. The company has been fined £60,000 with £4,864 costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Julian Franklin commented: ‘Exposure to vibration can cause HAVS, a loss of nerve function, strength and dexterity in the fingers which is permanent and untreatable while exposure to silica can cause silicosis, leading to impaired lung function, lung cancer and death. It can also lead to chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD).

Companies should know HSE will not hesitate to take enforcement action against those failing to protect their workers.’

**Companies Fined After Worker Falls From Warehouse Racking**

Two companies, Ortec BV and Mechantech Limited, have been fined after a worker fell from a warehouse racking system, suffering serious head injuries.

Liverpool Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 1 February 2016, recommissioning work of a warehouse racking system was being carried out at premises on Stopgate Lane, Simonswood. While work was proceeding on this project, one of the workers fell 10 metres from the top of the racking system onto the concrete floor below, sustaining significant head injuries.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the main contractor Ortec BV had subcontracted the work to Mechantech Limited to undertake. There was no safe system of work in place as none of the workers had safety harnesses and there were no physical barriers to prevent anyone from falling. The investigation also found Mechantech Limited had failed in its duty to ensure the health and safety of its own employees as it had not undertaken any risk assessment for working at height (incorrectly assuming that main contractor Ortec BV had done so).
Ortec BV of Houtsingel 5, Zoetermeer, the Netherlands pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) and Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been ordered to pay fines of £300,000 and costs of £4,742.75.

Mechantech Limited of, Rossington, Doncaster pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) and Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and have been ordered to pay fines of £36,666 and costs of £4,742.75.

Speaking after the case, HSE inspector Jane Carroll said: ‘Those in control of work have a responsibility to develop safe working methods and to ensure that their workers have the necessary information, instruction and training in that safe way of working. ‘Had such a safe system of work been in place prior to the incident, the serious injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented’.

**Company Fined £54,270 And Ordered To Pay £8000 In Costs After Worker Crushed By Forklift Truck**

A scaffolding company has been sentenced today for safety breaches after a worker was crushed by a forklift truck.

Leeds Magistrates Court heard how in October 2016, an employee of Whiterose Scaffolding (Leeds) Ltd was using a forklift truck in the yard when the vehicle over-turned, trapping him underneath it for some time. The employee sustained serious life changing internal injuries. He now lives with constant chronic pain and has severe mobility issues.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company had failed to provide training to their employees on the safe operations of forklift trucks, which would have included the importance of wearing seat belts. The company also failed to provide adequate supervision and monitoring of the forklift truck operators to ensure they were only operated by trained drivers and that safe driving techniques were followed.

Whiterose Scaffolding (Leeds) Ltd of Holbeck Lane, Leeds pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and has been fined £54,270 and ordered to pay £8000 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Andrea Jones commented: ‘The employee’s injuries were life changing and could have been fatal. The impact has been devastating on him and his family. Other employees were put at risk as a result of the company allowing fork lift trucks to be used without the appropriate training and monitoring of drivers.

‘Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working’.

**London Construction Company Fined £250,000 And Ordered To Pay Costs Of £4,790.40 For Health And Safety Failings**

A construction company has been fined after failing to manage health and safety on-site.

Chelmsford Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 19 October 2017, MG Corporation Ltd received three prohibition notices after serious breaches of legislation were found on-site during construction work carried out at Barn Hall, Station Road in Wickford. The company was found in contravention of Work at Height Regulations 2005 and The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.
A follow-up inspection on 13 November 2017 found further working at height breaches. A further prohibition notice was served, although some of the work at height issues on site demonstrated a breach of the original notice. An additional inspection carried out on 5 January 2018 found further work at height breaches.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found MG Corporation Ltd had not taken steps to comply with the original prohibition notice and had failed to plan, manage and monitor construction work under their control.

MG Corporation Ltd of Sydney Road, London was found guilty of breaching Regulation 15(2) of The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and 33(1)(g) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The company has been fined £250,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,790.40.

After the hearing, HSE inspector David King said: ‘Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards, and especially when enforcement notices are breached.’

**Director Fined After Roof Collapse**

A Director of a construction company was sentenced today after the partial collapse of a building during roofing work.

Sheffield Magistrates’ Court heard that, on 24 February 2016, Jason Lycett, a Director of Brooke Ren Limited, the principle contractor, was responsible for constructing two, two storey blocks of flats at Church Street, Jump, Barnsley following the demolition of a former public house. Timber roof structures had been constructed for each block but had not been tiled in their entirety. Three roofers had been working on the roof of Block B, transferring tiles from ground level using a tile hoist and distributing the tiles over the surface of the roof, when the tile hoist broke down. Two roofers had alighted the roof and a third was descending a ladder from a scaffold when the roof structure collapsed, demolishing a small wall at eaves level and distorting the scaffold. There were no injuries, however, had it not been for the breakdown of the tile hoist, the workers would have been on the roof at the time of its collapse.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the company had been informed during the pre-construction phase that the roof structure needed to be designed by a specialist, but this did not happen until after the incident. At the time of the collapse, the structure was not able to withstand the loads which had been applied to it.

Jason Lycett (Director, Brook Ren Limited) of Manchester Road, Millhouse Green, Sheffield, has been found guilty of breaching Section 37 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and has been fined £30,000 with £7026.58 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Alan Sheldon said: ‘Principal contractors have an important role in managing health and safety risks during the construction phase, so they must have the skills, knowledge, experience and, where relevant, organisational capability to carry out this work.

‘Where Directors are found to be negligent in carrying out their roles, they too may face legal proceedings associated with the same health and safety management failings. Although there were no injuries, matters could have been very different had the workers still been on the roof at the time of its collapse.’
**Dairy Company Fined After Worker Seriously-Injured**
A dairy company has been fined after a worker's toe was crushed by unguarded part of a machine.

Chelmsford Magistrates' Court heard how, on 30 December 2016, a fixed guard on the front of a yoghurt filling machine had been removed. An employee stepped on the frame of machine at the same time as a moving part descended, crushing the employee's right foot.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found a few days before the incident, a cable had been replaced on the machine but it was the wrong size and protruded out of the machine so the guard could not be fully fixed into position. In addition, due to setting up problems, the guard was regularly being removed whilst the machine was in operation. Marybelle Pur Natur Limited was found to have failed to ensure that access to dangerous parts of the machine was prevented.

Marybelle Pur Natur Limited of Old Hall Farm, Walpole, near Halesworth pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11 of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and has been fined £32,000 and ordered to pay costs of £5,767.09.

Speaking after the case, HSE inspector Saffron Turnell said: ‘Employers should ensure that effective control measures are taken to prevent access to dangerous parts of machinery in all aspects of the use of that machine.

‘In this case particular attention was required following maintenance of the machine. Marybelle Pur Natur Limited failed to effectively maintain the guarding of the machine, despite being aware of the risks it presented, and as a result their employee has suffered a serious injury.

**Two Companies Fined After Worker Injured By Gas Leak Fire**
A major UK gas distribution company and a Kent based construction company have been fined after a gas main ignited whilst it was being repaired, injuring two workers.

Folkestone Magistrates Court heard how on 27 May 2016, Southern Gas Network Plc (SGN) employees were called to a gas escape at Thanet Way in Whitstable, Kent. The gas escape had been caused by employees of Cliffe Contractors Ltd damaging a medium pressure polyethylene gas main during construction work. During the repair by Southern Gas Networks the gas ignited causing the injuries to two SGN employees. One worker suffered severe burns while the other sustained cuts and bruises.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found Cliffe Contractors Ltd had not followed safe digging techniques when excavating around the pipeline resulting in the gas main being damaged by a mechanical excavator. This led to a significant amount of gas being released. Subsequently, SGN did not follow their own procedures or recognised safe systems of work when repairing the main.

Southern Gas Networks Plc of Station Approach in Horley who had pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 at an earlier hearing was fined £1.2million and ordered to pay costs of £18,975.43.

Cliffe Contractors Ltd of Anthony’s Way in Rochester who had pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 at an earlier hearing was fined £60,000 and ordered to pay costs of £12,689.13.
Speaking after the hearing HSE Principal Specialist Inspector Martin Wayland said:

‘This incident, in which a worker could have easily been killed, could have been avoided if safe excavation by Cliffe Contractors had been carried out and safe mains repair policies had been followed by SGN. Both companies were aware of the precautions that were required to be taken.

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

Bridgend County Borough Council fined £300,000 and ordered to pay costs of £29,228. following death of 15-year-old Ashley Talbot

Bridgend County Borough Council has today been fined following the death of one pupil and injury to another after the pair were involved in a collision with the school minibus.

Following its investigation into the death of 15-year-old Ashley Talbot, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has urged schools to review traffic arrangements within their grounds, and where possible design layouts so pupils are separated from moving traffic.

Cardiff Crown Court heard how, on 10 December 2014, Ashley was crossing the road in the grounds of Maesteg Comprehensive School to board his bus home when the collision took place. Ashley was pronounced dead at the scene. Another pupil was also injured.

An investigation by the HSE found the layby created before the school opened in September 2008 was never large enough to accommodate all school buses at home time. This had been identified by council officers, but Bridgend Council made no plans to enlarge the layby so that pupils could board safely from the pavement.

For three years before the collision, some school buses had been parking on the other side of the road, which had no pavement, leaving children to board in the middle of the road while other vehicles were able to travel in both directions between the waiting buses.

South Wales Police investigated the circumstances of the collision and no charges were brought against the driver of the minibus.

In the days following the accident HSE took enforcement action against Bridgend Council. This prohibited children from boarding school buses from the road, and required the Council to modify the bus layby to make it big enough for all children to board their bus from the pavement. The was completed by the Council within a few weeks.

Bridgend County Borough Council of Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £300,000 and ordered to pay costs of £29,228.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Helen Turner said: ‘Firstly, we send our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Ashley Talbot, whose life was tragically ended at just 15.

‘We believe Ashley’s death could have been prevented, and a series of missed opportunities meant this incident was waiting to happen. Although there had been previous near misses at Maesteg, there was no system for these to be reported and discussed. There are some clear lessons to be learned, particularly for other modern school sites.'
‘The need for children to cross the road to board their bus could have been taken away with proper planning and design, which should always seek to keep vehicles and pedestrians apart. HSE’s guidance clearly states that transport safety at every workplace should start with the creation of a ‘safe site.’

‘Planning and parking should take into account ‘desire lines’, which are the routes most people will choose to take. Children may not be risk aware, there will be a rush of children all leaving school at once, and they will race for the back seat. This predictable behaviour makes it all the more important that transport risk is properly managed, and regularly reviewed.

‘At HSE we stand by the principle of PLAN, DO, CHECK, ACT. This management approach is as pertinent for school grounds as it is any other workplace.

‘We hope this prosecution will serve as a reminder to those with a responsibility of care to address transport risk in schools and actively monitor that their arrangements are effective to keep children safe.’

Steel Fabricators Fined After Employee Received Multiple Fractures

A steel fabricating company has been fined after a worker was injured by steel falling on him.

Chelmsford Magistrates Court heard how in December 2016, an employee was struck by a bundle of steels that fell from a fork lift truck whilst they were being moved. As a result, he suffered multiple breaks in his leg.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company did not have a safe system of work in place to avoid this kind of incident. In particular, workstations were not separated from vehicles routes; lifting accessories were not provided to reduce the risk of the rebar slipping from the forks; and forklift truck drivers were not provided with site-specific and load-specific training.

Lemon Groundwork Solutions Limited of Russell Gardens, Wickford, pleaded Guilty to breaching Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and have been fined £100,000 and ordered to pay costs of £6253.14.

After the hearing HSE inspector Nikki Hughes said ‘This incident could easily have been avoided by the implementation of affordable control measures, such as a lifting accessory being used on the forklift truck. Handling and moving rebar is a well-recognised industry risk, which the company failed to identify and manage, despite the activity occurring frequently during a working day. Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards.’
**EVENTS**

**16 January 2019, Fire Risk Assessment To PAS 79**  
London, UK

PAS 79 is now virtually the industry standard for carrying out fire risk assessments, the latest revision was published in 2012, and gives more detailed guidance on assessing buildings that do not meet current benchmark standards.

This course reviews the PAS and considers the issue of competence of risk assessors.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtqTUAR

**16 January 2019, Practical Management Of Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) Controls**  
Buxton, UK

Poorly controlled exposure to dust and fumes causes a lot of work-related ill-health each year. Local exhaust ventilation (LEV) is the most common method of controlling workers’ exposure to such airborne contaminants. Unfortunately it is often not effective enough. Employers are regularly misled by suppliers and select and install LEV controls that don't work and/or cost too much. Once installed, LEV controls are often poorly checked, maintained and examined.

The course will demonstrate how to successfully manage LEV controls in order to get effective, efficient, and reliable control of airborne contaminants, at least cost.

Further details are available here:  

**17 January 2019, Building Services One Day Overview**  
London, UK

This one day course covers building services found in commercial buildings.

The course looks at heating and cooling systems, how to use them efficiently and how they fit within a building. Electrical and renewable systems are also covered allowing you to understand how they can have a considerable impact on the building's energy use.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtsOUAR

**17 January 2019, Dangerous Substances And Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR): Controlling Dust Explosion Risks**  
Buxton, UK

The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR) regulate the presence and use of flammable substances in the workplace. The list of potential dangerous substances includes gases, liquids and flammable solids in the form of a finely divided dust which, if dispersed in the air, could lead to a serious fire or an explosion.

However, flammable dusts pose their own unique risks that differ from those posed by flammable gases and liquids. This course provides advice on how to understand the hazards from flammable
dusts and how the risks from storing and using the dusts can be managed so as to comply with DSEAR.

Further details are available here:

17 January 2019, Future Of Environmental Principles And Governance Post-Brexit
London, UK

Following the Government’s recently closed consultation on Environmental Principles and Governance post-Brexit, this seminar will assess the future regulatory landscape for environmental standards and the role of a new independent environmental watchdog.

Delegates will consider how the environmental principles laid out in EU treaties might best be embedded into UK law, and the functions and powers the watchdog should have in overseeing environmental law and policy - including in air, waste, water and chemical regulation.

Further details are available here:
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/environmental-principles-19

17 January 2019, NEBOSH HSE Certificate In Health And Safety Leadership Excellence
Buxton, UK

This qualification is specifically aimed at individuals currently in a position of senior leadership, e.g. Board Director, H&S Director, Operations Director, HR Director, Finance Director, as well as others in senior leadership positions, or those who are aspiring to become a senior leader.

The course covers financial and legal reasons for good health and safety leadership and also focuses on how leaders can become better advocates and influencers in relation to health and safety.

Further details are available here:

17 January 2019, Priorities For Improving The Quality Of Apprenticeships In England
London, UK

This seminar will be an opportunity to assess the steps that can be taken by policymakers, training providers and employers to improve the quality of provision of apprenticeships.

Delegates will discuss the work being undertaken by the Institute for Apprenticeships to ensure new standards deliver employer needs - looking at the measures to quicken approval of standards, efforts to identify skill needs through the development of occupational maps and the future for end-point assessments following recent changes to external quality assurance.

Further details are available here:
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/apprenticeships-in-England-19
18 January 2019, Energy Efficiency Building Regulations: Part L
London, UK
This course will give a comprehensive overview of Part L2 of the Building Regulations (Conservation of fuel and power in buildings other than dwellings) and introduce the changes that came into force in 2014.

Further details are available here:
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001Yr23lUAB

21 January 2019, Machinery Series: Provision And Use Of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER)
Buxton, UK

Machinery is used in many sectors to fabricate, handle and package industrial and consumer products. Everyone who works with machinery, whether directly or indirectly, need to understand the basics of machinery safety but not everyone needs to know all the details relating to the design.

This course covers those activities regulated by the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) and provides delegates with a thorough knowledge of this legislation. The course will also give practical advice on how to evaluate the safety of existing machines and how to measure and evaluate noise and vibration risks. This course can be taken in combination with the machinery risk assessment essentials course that takes place on the following day.

Further details are available here:

22 January 2019, Machinery Series: Machinery Risk Assessment Essentials
Buxton, UK

This training course gives delegates practical hands-on experience of conducting a machinery risk assessment using structured techniques which demystify the process given in BS EN ISO 12100: 2010.

This course assumes a basic level of understanding of machinery safety such as that given in the machinery safety basics course that takes place on the previous day. Anyone who also needs a thorough understanding of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regs should take this course in combination with the Machinery Safety Basics course held on the previous day. Anyone who needs a thorough understanding of the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regs, should take this course in combination with the designing and selecting safe machinery course held on the following day.

Further details are available here:

22 January 2019, Managing Ageing Assets: Creeping Changes, Data Trending And Experience From Incidents
Buxton, UK

Managing ageing assets is becoming an ever more important issue as the UK’s industrial base ages; this has been highlighted by HSE’s inspection programmes of ageing plant both onshore and offshore.

This course addresses managing ageing assets in the high hazard industries, and any other industry that relies on equipment or technology.
Further details are available here:

22 January 2019, Next Steps For Intelligent Mobility And Developing A Smart Transport System
London, UK

This seminar will consider the next steps for intelligent mobility and developing a smart transport system in the UK.

Further sessions examine the priorities for supporting the electrification of road vehicles, following the National Infrastructure Commission highlighting the need for infrastructure upgrades to create roads suitable for autonomous and connected vehicles.

Further details are available here:
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/intelligent-mobility-2019

22 January 2019, Next Steps For The Renewable Energy Industry In The UK: Finance, Innovation And Policy Priorities
London, UK

This conference will bring together policymakers with key stakeholders to discuss the future of renewable energy in the UK - looking at the key issues for finance, innovation and policy.

Further details are available here:
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/renewable-energy-in-the-UK-19

22 January 2019, Pressure Systems Awareness
Buxton, UK

Pressure systems have been synonymous with industry since the age of steam. Today it is almost impossible to name an industry sector that does not make substantial use of pressure systems in some way or other. From tyre inflators through refrigerators to full blown industrial processes, pressure systems have become as indispensable to industry as the electricity that powers them.

This informative and experiential course is aimed at raising awareness of the hazards associated with pressure systems as well as the relevant regulatory framework. This course will offer delegates the unique opportunity to learn from real life case studies and forensic investigations into pressure systems failures, providing a first hand perspective of what can go wrong and why. Delegates will also benefit from a substantial afternoon session with the HSE Inspector responsible for the current revision of the Safety of Pressure Systems Regulations, during in which delegates will be able to discuss both general and specific issues directly with the regulator in an open forum setting.

Further details are available here:
www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-training-courses/pressure-systems-awareness

23 January 2019, Machinery Series: Machinery Directive
Buxton, UK

This course gives delegates a thorough understanding of this legislation, as revised, as well as the key current European and International safety standards that support the Regulations. Delegates are shown how to build a technical file and have the opportunity to practice assessing conformity to the
essential health and safety requirements. The purpose and content of a declaration of conformity and incorporation are explained along with when to use which.

The role and process of risk assessment are explained, however delegates who need a more detailed understanding of machinery risk assessment should attend the course on the previous day. An introduction to control system safety and some of the related standards is given. However those delegates who are directly involved in control system design, and need a more thorough understanding of the design of safety related control systems should also attend the course held on the following day.

Further details are available here:

23 January 2019, Management Of Hand Arm Vibration In The Workplace: An Introduction
Buxton, UK

The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 is designed to protect workers from injury resulting form exposure to hand-arm vibration. To manage the risks from hand-arm vibration exposure and to comply with the regulations you will need to assess, control and monitor exposures, you will also need to ensure that workers understand the risks and have any necessary training. If workers are at risk you will also need a health surveillance programme to monitor any progression of injury and to provide feedback on the effectiveness of your exposure controls. This course provides an overview of your duties under Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 and practical guidance on how you can control and manage hand-arm vibration risks in your workplace.

This course will review the risks from hand-arm vibration exposure and introduce you to the requirements of the current regulations. It will provide practical advice and examples of how to carry out assessments of vibration risks, how to develop vibration control action plans, providing information instruction and training and what to expect from health surveillance.

Further details are available here:

23 January 2019, Practical Controls For Heating, Ventilation And Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems
London, UK

This course will provide an insight into different systems and how these are required to work to meet performance requirements. The monitoring of these systems, through Buildings Energy Management systems, will also be covered in order for you to understand how your energy is used and allow fine-tuning and improvements within your own company.

Occupant wellbeing is increasingly being seen as an important component in the delivery of any high performing business with people at its heart. This course will demonstrate the controls that can deliver good internal environments that are fundamental in creating the modern workplace.

Further details are available here:
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtdgUAB
24 January 2019, Control Of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Compliance For Lower Tier Establishments
Buxton, UK

The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (COMAH) impose duties on establishments holding in storage or process quantities of hazardous materials above thresholds defined for each substance. Those establishments where the quantities exceed the lower of the thresholds are known as Lower Tier Establishments.

This course identifies the COMAH duties for Lower Tier establishments and what needs to be done to comply with them. It also explains the duties that fall to the Competent Authority (CA) and Local Government.

Further details are available here: www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-training-courses/comah-compliance-for-lower-tier-establishments

24 January 2019, Machinery Series: Designing And Specifying Safety Related Control Systems
Buxton, UK

Control systems for machinery, whether electrical, pneumatic, hydraulic or combinations there-of, are often required to perform safety-related functions. There are regulatory requirements for these control systems and established approaches for dealing with their design, which are laid out in European Standards.

This course will help delegates understand how to specify and design safety related control circuits which comply with the requirements of both the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 (Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC) and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations. It explains how these, and other regulations and standards are applied to real-life situations, through the use of examples of how to and how not to do it.


24 January 2019, Mentoring Skills Workshop
London, UK

This course introduces the concept of mentoring, and provides delegates with an increased awareness of mentoring duties in the context of a training and development scheme. The course will have a workshop format and is designed to suit the needs of both new and existing mentors, as well as other learning professionals.

This course provides an enhanced awareness of the mentoring role, together with an active approach to skills that can be applied in a range of scenarios to improve individual effectiveness in mentoring on a training and development scheme.

Further details are available here: https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001Yqx2KUAR

29 January 2019, Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) Refresher
Buxton, UK

This one day refresher course is designed for doctors and nurses who would like to update their knowledge and clinical skills to assess workers exposed to hand-transmitted vibration. HAVS is a
complex condition that requires practitioners to have a good understanding of the anatomy and neurology of the hands. Examination skills are difficult to maintain if they are not regularly practised. The implications of poor practice or misdiagnosis are significant for both the employer and the employee.

Further details are available here:  

29 January 2019, Next Steps For Heat Networks In The UK: Investment, Innovation, Consumer Protection And Growth Opportunities  
London, UK

This timely seminar will assess the future for heat networks in the UK and potential measures to support the growth of the sector - looking in particular at investment, policy and regulation, and next steps for innovation in technology and infrastructure.

The seminar will be an opportunity to consider the Government response to the Competition and Markets Authority heat networks market study and proposals for developing a market framework for heat networks - looking at investment, priorities for decarbonisation, consumer protection and integration with policy in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Further details are available here:  
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/heat-networks-19

29-31 January 2019, Noise At Work Training: Competent Persons Course  
Scarborough, UK

Any organisation where noise is an issue should have a competent person for Noise at Work Risk Assessments. This person may be a professional safety officer, a works manager or simply someone who has been given the responsibility for it. The course forms an ideal follow up to a NEBOSH diploma or can be simply stand-alone.

The course is designed to meet the requirements of the Noise at Work Regulations, giving you the knowledge and skills to be classed as ‘competent’ to carry out Noise at Work Risk Assessments. The subjects covered vary from the principles of acoustics to the identification and management of noise problems. Practical elements are included to help you with the task of reducing noise exposure in the workplace.

Further details are available here:  
www.castletrainingacademy.com/noise-at-work-training.php

29 January 2019, Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS): Health Surveillance And Exposure Control  
Buxton, UK

Exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS) can cause a range of health issues, including breathing problems. Whilst silicosis is the disease most commonly associated with exposure to RCS, other conditions including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) may also develop. RCS exposure occurs across a wide range of industries, including brickmaking, stone masonry, quarrying, foundries and construction.

This one-day course will deal with background issues, current practice and how things are changing in relation to health surveillance, particularly in light of the new HSE guidance. It will also provide information about controlling RCS exposures in the workplace.
30 January 2019, UK Climate Change Preparedness: Embedding A Holistic Approach To Climate Change Adaptation And Mitigation
London, UK

In light of the publication of Government’s 25 Year Plan and the latest National Adaptation Programme, delegates will engage with government’s existing approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Key national and local government actors, climate change groups and experts will benefit from the opportunity to consider new and existing measures to protect national eco-systems, and safeguard the health and economic well being of the UK population from climate change.

Further details are available here:
www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/JA30-PPE

31 January 2019, Dangerous Substances And Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR): Gases And Liquids
Buxton, UK

DSEAR places duties on employers and the self-employed to protect employees, contractors and others from the risks from fires and explosions related to dangerous substances stored and used in the workplace.

This course explains the duties that DSEAR places on employers and the actions needed to comply with them. It focuses particularly on the assessment of risks and the application of controls to both minimise and mitigate those risks.

Further details are available here:

31 January 2019, The Future For UK Ports: Infrastructure, Policy And Preparing For The Outcome Of Brexit
London, UK

This conference will be a timely opportunity to discuss priorities for the port sector as the UK prepares to leave the EU - examining issues for policy, technology and infrastructure, and the future of trade and competition.

Key stakeholders and policymakers will assess factors relating to Brexit affecting the position of UK ports, looking at the future of trade, customs arrangements and border controls - in the context of continuing political and diplomatic developments, the Government’s draft agreement for withdrawal and preparations for a potential no deal scenario continue.

Further details are available here:
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/UK-ports-19
4-5 February 2019, Future Of Gas II: Part Of The Safety Excellence In Energy Series
London, UK

The recently issued IPCC special report ‘Global Warming of 1.5 degrees’ calls the global community to arms to turn urgency into action in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. This urgency reinforces the importance of the projects underway in the UK to investigate decarbonising heat, and with this in mind, HSE is pleased to announce the second annual Future of Gas Event (Future of Gas II) as part of the Safety Excellence in Energy Series.

Following on from last year's event, this conference will bring together a high calibre of speakers presenting their views on how decarbonisation can really happen in the UK and the importance of future of the gas system to achieve this. We will have representation from industry, academia, policy and technology covering the full spectrum of opportunities and challenges. New projects will be discussed and updates, new learning and developments from current projects looking at partial and full decarbonisation of the gas supply will be showcased.


5-6 February 2019, Behaviour Change: Achieving Health And Safety Culture Excellence
Buxton, UK

Not all risks can be engineered out of the work environment. Even with the best plans, procedures and systems in place, individuals at work still take short cuts and make mistakes. Sometimes risk-taking behaviour is intentional, for whatever reason. In other cases, risks may be taken due to a lack of understanding about a particular hazard, associated controls or inadequate training. To individual workers, such risk-taking can result in injury, ill-health and fatalities. To the organisation, some of the many costs can include lost time, damage to machinery, litigation, and prosecution. If unchecked, these costs can escalate.

This course, delivered by HSL psychologists, will provide you with an understanding of the many factors that influence both workers’ and managers’ behaviour. It will also highlight the strengths and weaknesses of traditional behaviour modification strategies for correcting unsafe and unhealthy behaviour, highlighting why such approaches may have limited impact.

Further details are available here: www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-training-courses/behaviour-change-achieving-health-safety-culture-excellence

5-7 February 2019, Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) Training: Competent Persons Course
Scarborough, UK

This Hand Arm Vibration (HAVS) Vibration Training course covers Hand-Arm Vibration and Whole Body Vibration with a 3 day residential course. Covering the most up to date legislation and standards; practical use of vibration meters and vibration measurement theory, you will leave this training course (subject to successful completion of all three modules) as a Competent Person.

If your workforce operate hand held power tools or vibrating plant and machinery, then it's likely that vibration exposure is a potential issue within your organisation. This course is ideal for Health and Safety professionals, works managers, engineers or simply the individual(s) responsible for safety within your organisation.
Further details are available here:  
www.castletrainingacademy.com/havs-vibration-training.php

5 February 2019, HSE Inspectors’ Guide To Risk Assessment  
Manchester, UK

This workshop will be delivered by a senior HSE inspector with more than 25 years of experience, and is a rare opportunity to understand your regulator by seeing the world through an inspector’s eyes.

You will learn: how HSE examines and uses employers’ risk assessments; the common errors that HSE finds in the risk assessment process; and how to use this information to manage risks more effectively and avoid enforcement action.

Further details are available here:  

5-7 February 2019, Mechanical Services Explained  
Birmingham, UK

Engineering services in buildings are complex and often account for more than 40% of the capital cost of a building. Increasing demands to conserve energy and improve environmental performance mean that good design, efficient operation and reliable maintenance of services have never been more important.

This course looks at heating and cooling systems, how to use them efficiently, and how they fit within a building.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtcxUAB

5 February 2019, Occupational Noise Control Workshop  
Manchester, UK

The increasing burden of hearing damage on individuals and businesses through insurance claims shows that the current approach to noise management is failing. HSE research has shown that hearing protection is very often ineffective and we have developed this workshop to showcase more practical engineering solutions.

The workshop includes detailed, easily installed solutions to the top 10 most common noise problems that can actually enhance productivity and reduce operating costs.

Further details are available here:  
www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-training-courses/noise-control-workshop

5 February 2019, Priorities For UK Chemicals Sector: Challenges, Opportunities And The Future For Regulation Post-Brexit  
London, UK

This conference will focus on the priorities for policy on chemical regulation in the context of the UK’s withdrawal from the EU.
Delegates will discuss the future regulatory framework, including the challenges for incorporating key European legislation - such as Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) - into UK law, and the role of the regulator and potential for a separate UKREACH.

Further details are available here:  
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/UK-chemical-regulation-post-brexit-19

7 February 2019, Air Conditioning Inspection for Buildings  
London, UK

This one-day training course will provide you with the understanding of how to undertake required inspections of simple and complex air conditioning systems, according to the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2007.

This course will cover the requirements set out within CIBSE’s Technical Memorandum: Inspection of Air Conditioning Systems (TM44) and the National Occupational Standards for Air Conditioning.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqsEkUAJ

7 February 2019, Managing Asbestos In Domestic And Non-Domestic Premises  
Buxton, UK

This one-day course gives you the knowledge to manage asbestos in non-domestic premises to the standards required by Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations (CAR 2012). The course information is also applicable to the management of ‘domestic premises’, such as landlords' duties for rented accommodation.

Many people now dying from asbestos-related diseases are tradesmen - people who work on and maintain buildings. Also, building operators and their management systems are under increasing scrutiny from enforcing authorities, their own staff, and the public.

Further details are available here:  

11-15 February 2019, Ergonomics  
Buxton, UK

Every year, 35 million days are lost to British industry as a result of accidents and ill health caused by work activities. A large number of these accidents are due to a lack of thought and planning concerning the use of our everyday systems.

The course provides the ergonomics theory and techniques used to maximize the design of the tools, tasks and workplaces for improved comfort, safety and performance of the workforce. The techniques cover both the physical and psychosocial aspects of a workplace design, following relevant HSE guidance and approaches to assess and reduce risks.

Further details are available here:  
www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-training-courses/ergonomics
11 February 2019, Fire Sprinkler Systems: Design To BS EN 12845
London, UK

Properly installed and maintained automatic fire sprinkler systems help save lives. Because fire sprinkler systems react so quickly, they can dramatically reduce the heat, flames and smoke produced in a fire.

This course covers sprinkler system components; hazard classification; design requirements; water supplies; types of sprinkler; spacing & location of sprinkler heads; piping layout & sizing.

Further details are available here: https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtpVUAR

12 February 2019, Emergency Lighting To Comply With Fire Safety Requirements
London, UK

This course is based on the British Standard: BS 5266-1 2016, the code of practice for emergency lighting. It will explain the recommendations of the code and how it should be applied to assist compliance with Fire Safety legislation.

This intensive course is run over one day and will provide you with the knowledge to be able to advise on and design emergency lighting schemes. Throughout the course you will be able to assist the person responsible in ensuring that their emergency lighting meets the needs of the fire risk assessment and is fit for purpose in the event of an emergency.

Further details are available here: https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YptomUAB

12th - 13 February 2019, Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS)
Buxton, UK

Research commissioned by HSE suggests over 1 million people continue to be exposed to high levels of vibration in the workplace. The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations came into force in the UK in 2005. HSE's Guidance on the Regulations requires all occupational health professionals to undergo training in the recognition and management of workers with hand-arm vibration syndrome. The syllabus for the training and the quality of training is overseen by the Faculty of Occupational Medicine.

This comprehensive and highly rated course is designed for occupational health nurses, occupational physicians, GPs with an interest in occupational health and hand surgeons. It will set out the key areas of HAVS assessment and provide guidance on how to examine and manage cases of HAVS. Time has been set aside for question and answer sessions.

Further details are available here: www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-training-courses/hand-arm-vibration-syndrome-(havs)

12-13 February 2019, Human Factors In Accident And Incident Investigations
Buxton, UK

It is estimated that as much as 90% of incidents involve Human Factors causes. For those wishing to improve human performance, personal safety, management systems and loss control, effective A photo of a train on its side following an accident investigation of the Human Factors within accidents and incidents is an essential part of achieving this aim. The lessons to be learnt from investigating accidents provides the insights needed to make effective improvements. Effective accident investigation identifies critical issues using the minimum of resources possible, and results in changes
being implemented which reduce the risk of similar accidents happening again, for an appropriate cost. This is a big challenge, and this course aims to help delegates find ways of achieving effective accident investigation within their own organisational context.

This course is designed to give participants an impartial and pragmatic understanding (and experience) of some of the techniques that are available for investigating Human Factors issues.

Further details are available here:

12 February 2019, Next Steps For Low-Carbon Fuels: Emission Reduction, Innovation And UK Policy Priorities
London, UK

This conference will bring out latest thinking on the development and use of advanced low-carbon fuels across passenger vehicles, freight and aviation.

Delegates will consider how policymakers can mobilise activity in the low-carbon fuels sector and overcome key challenges around sector development.

Further details are available here:
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/low-carbon-fuels-19

12 February 2019, Slips And Trips: Falls Prevention
Buxton, UK

This course will help you understand the causes of slips, trips and falls, and highlight successful interventions that offer a great starting point for organisations looking to reduce falls. It is delivered by experts in accident investigation and has a practical focus on understanding the causes of slips, trips and falls and reducing the risk of future incidents.

Previous attendees of our slip, trip and fall training courses have reported a reduction in incidents of up to 50%.

Further details are available here:
www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-training-courses/slips-and-trips---falls-prevention-

12 February 2019, The Next Steps For Carbon Capture, Usage And Storage In The UK: Policy, Funding And Sector Confidence
London, UK

This seminar will be a timely opportunity to discuss the future of carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS) technologies in the UK - including funding, the direction of policy, and the way forward for making large-scale CCUS a reality in the future.

Delegates will discuss what is needed for the industry to secure investment and overcome regulatory uncertainty, following the Government reaffirming its commitment to develop CCUS technology in the Clean Growth Strategy, but cutting the budget to kick-start the industry from £1bn to £100m.

Further details are available here:
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/carbon-capture-UK-19
13 February 2019, Stair Assessment
Buxton, UK

Simple, cost-effective improvements to existing stairs can significantly reduce the risk of a serious fall. This course will help you understand the design features of stairs which can give rise to a risk of falling, and identify simple remedial improvements to reduce the likelihood of a fall.

By the end of the course, you will have the knowledge and skills to assess stairs in your own premises, and identify examples of good and bad practice. This will allow appropriate changes to working practices and the work environment to be considered and planned in proportion with the risks and costs involved.


13 February 2019, Tackling Food Waste: Protecting The Environment And Helping Society
London, UK

The UK currently wastes 10 million tonnes of food each year and this is expected to rise by a further 1.1 million by 2025 (Environment, Food and Rural Affair Committee 2017). 60% of this waste could be avoided. This waste of food has substantial economic, social and environmental repercussions. Despite this, 8.4 million Britons struggle to get regular meals on a daily basis (UNFAO 2018). WRAP estimate that the food industry alone wastes 1.9 million tonnes of food a year, 400,000 tonnes of which could be redistributed to those experiencing food poverty. Indeed, the value of wasted food in 2015 was estimated at £13 billion, which costs British families on average £470 annually (WRAP 2017). The environment also suffers significantly from the waste of food. UK food waste is associated with greenhouse gas emissions of over 20 million tonnes (WRAP 2017).

This timely symposium offers food waste organisations, local authorities, retailers and many other key stakeholders the opportunity to discuss current approaches to reducing food waste, and how these efforts can be improved in future.

Further details are available here: www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/JB13-PPE

14 February 2019, Creating A Flood Resilient Nation: Ensuring UK Flood Preparedness In A Changing Climate
London, UK

A reported 9 out of 17 record breaking rainfall months or seasons since 1910 have occurred after 2000 (Met Office, 2018). In recent years extreme rainfall and coastal flooding across the UK have caused untold human and financial cost. The most recent assessment by the Environment Agency claims that the cost of damages following floods in 2015/16 was roughly £1.6 billion. Currently, 520,000 properties in England, including 370,000 homes, are at risk of damage from coastal flooding whilst 2.7 million UK homes remain at risk of surface level flooding (CCC, 2018; Environment Agency, 2018).

As the Environment Agency prepares its new national strategy on flood defence, stakeholders from across central and local government, flood risk experts and advocacy groups will assess existing provisions to mitigate the effects of flooding and develop new strategies to manage future risk. As well as gaining a unique perspective on the macro policy challenges surrounding national flood resilience, delegates will also consider the challenges faced by local communities and the role of local authorities in building a cohesive national policy apparatus.
Further details are available here:  
www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/JB14-PPE

14 February 2019, NEBOSH HSE Certificate In Health And Safety Leadership Excellence  
Manchester, UK

This qualification is specifically aimed at individuals currently in a position of senior leadership, e.g. Board Director, H&S Director, Operations Director, HR Director, Finance Director, as well as others in senior leadership positions, or those who are aspiring to become a senior leader.

The course covers financial and legal reasons for good health and safety leadership and also focuses on how leaders can become better advocates and influencers in relation to health and safety.

Further details are available here:  

15 February 2019, Below Ground Building Drainage  
London, UK

This one-day course will give a well-rounded introduction to below ground drainage principles. Attendees will be able to identify the different types of foul and surface water systems, understand how they interact and see how manipulating falls can affect discharge capacities.

The course will also consider important ancillary equipment including petrol interceptors, grease traps, soakaways and septic tanks. It will cover when they need to be used and how to incorporate them into a design.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtmyUAB

15 February 2019, Fire Safety In Purpose-Built Blocks Of Flats  
London, UK

This course is a comprehensive one day fire safety training event by the authors of the sector-led guide, Fire safety in purpose-built blocks of flats.

In addition to covering the technical content of the guide, one of the authors will be able to give a unique insight into the background and thinking behind the approach taken in the guide.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtppUAB

15 February 2019, Next Steps For The UK Space Industry: Growth, Innovation And Priorities Post-Brexit  
London, UK

This conference focuses on the next steps for the UK space sector as the industry sets out its vision for growth, and in the context of a possible sector deal.

Delegates will assess the infrastructure, technology and investment that will be required to drive innovation, and support the development of commercial spaceflight, following the Space Industry Act which provides the regulatory framework to enable the UK’s launch capability.
Further details are available here:  
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/uk-space-industry-2019

18 February 2019, Mechanical Services One Day Overview  
London, UK

Engineering services in buildings are complex and often account for more than 40% of the capital cost of a building. Increasing demands to conserve energy and improve environmental performance mean that good design, efficient operation and reliable maintenance of services have never been more important.

This course looks at heating and cooling systems, how to use them efficiently, and how they fit within a building.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001Yr4NqUAJ

19 February 2019, Fire Safety Building Regulations: Part B  
London, UK

This one-day course will provide you with an understanding of the requirements of Part B (B1-B5) of the England and Wales Building Regulations and the methods that can be employed to demonstrate compliance.

While this will largely involve reference to Approved Document B, the use of alternative methods will be discussed. Recent changes to the Regulation & Approved Document will be highlighted.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtoXUAR

19 February 2019, Introduction To Heat Networks Code Of Practice  
London, UK

This is a one day course aimed at providing an introduction to Heat Networks and the Code of Practice (CP1) for those who are involved in developing Heat Networks and those using or specifying CP1.

The course provides a general introduction to heat networks and the specific issues associated with the various components including the common problems, and how these can be avoided, and the key requirements for delivering efficient heat networks. The course will also provide an overview of the content of the document, including a review of some of the key objectives and minimum requirements within each stage.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtnyUAB

20-21 February 2019, Heat Networks Code Of Practice Training  
London, UK

The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE), supported by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), has developed this training course to ensure that the skills necessary to implement the new CIBSE Heat Networks Code of Practice (CP1) are available across the building services sector. The Code has been written to cover all stages of the development cycle of a project from feasibility through design, construction, commissioning, and operation.
This is a two-day course aimed at practicing engineers looking for a detailed understanding of the themes and technical challenges dealt with by the Code.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqsUCUAZ

20 February 2019, Running Projects Effectively  
London, UK

Gain a better understanding of project management techniques and feel more confident running your next project.

Running a project efficiently avoids waste; waste of materials, energy, effort, money, and time in doing something, or in producing a desired result.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001Yr4wwUAB

25-27 February 2019, Building Services Explained  
London, UK

This three-day course covers building services found in commercial buildings. The course looks at heating and cooling systems, how to use them efficiently and how they fit within a building.

Electrical and renewable systems are also covered allowing the delegate to understand how they can have a considerable impact on the buildings energy use.

Further details are available here:  
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtcnUAB

26 February 2019, The Future For Regulation And Competition For UK Utilities: Infrastructure Investment, Innovation And Consumer Value In The Telecoms, Water And Energy Markets  
London, UK

This timely conference will focus on the future shape of regulation in the telecoms, water and energy sectors.

It is scheduled to take place at the time when the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) is considering submissions to its review of the regulatory regime for utilities.

Further details are available here:  
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/competition-in-the-utilities-sector-19

26 February 2019, Upholding UK Health And Safety Policy: Protecting Human Rights And Ensuring Healthy Work Environments  
London, UK

Health and Safety Executive statistics show that each year, over a million workers are injured or made ill by their work in the UK (2018). In 2017, the total costs of workplace injuries and ill health to the UK economy was £15 billion, and 15.4 million working days were lost due to work related stress, depression or anxiety (MHFA 2018). Not only are employees experiencing work-related ill health, but also many UK workers are subject to inadequate working conditions. A recent Unite the Union study
discovered that tens of thousands of workers across the UK are either not provided with proper toilets or have restrictions placed upon them in using facilities.

In view of these challenges, this symposium will offer health and safety practitioners, HR professionals, local authorities and other key stakeholders with a timely and invaluable opportunity to scrutinise current health and safety regulations and develop priorities for delivering enhanced protections in British workplaces.

Further details are available here: www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/JB26-PPE

27 February 2019, Manual Handling For Assessors
Buxton, UK

Prevention and control of work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) is a major priority and as such HSE have published a simple but effective risk assessment method called the MAC tool. This enables risk identification of key manual handling risk factors so that these can be eliminated or managed in the most cost effective way.

This course will equip you with the knowledge to help recognise, assess and reduce manual handling risks in your organisation. It is suited to employers and employee representatives who intend to begin the process of manual handling risk assessment and control within their companies. It will also benefit those already involved in manual handling risk reduction who require more formal or in-depth training in this subject, including training in the use of specific manual handling assessment tools.

Further details are available here: www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-training-courses/manual-handling-for-assessors

28 February 2019, Fire Detection And Alarm Systems For Buildings: BS 5839 Part 1
London, UK

BS 5839-1, Fire detection and fire alarm systems for buildings, is the code of practice for design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of systems in non-domestic premises.

This one day course will allow you to gain a thorough understanding of BS 5839-1 and the changes in the new 2017 version.

Further details are available here: https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtqnUAB

28 February 2019, Hazardous Area Classification For Gases And Liquids
Buxton, UK

The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR) require that areas where accidental releases of dangerous substances could occur are identified and classified according to the likelihood of the formation of a flammable atmosphere. Within classified areas sources of ignition should be controlled. This course is designed to provide delegates with the knowledge to carry out straightforward hazardous area classification in accordance with commonly used standards or to act as an intelligent customer when contracting others to deliver this role.

This course is suitable for all those who may be asked to carry out hazardous area classification as part of a DSEAR assessment including process safety and electrical engineers and health and safety practitioners.
Further details are available here:

28 February 2019, Site And Transport Safety
Buxton, UK

Vehicle movements and loading and unloading vehicles can be some of the most dangerous work activities organisations carry out.

This course will help you understand the legal requirements of both road traffic law and workplace safety law, how and why things go wrong, and how you can take practicable steps to reduce risk in your business.

Further details are available here:
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Sheila Pantry OBE
Strategic Editor - The Occupational Health & Safety Information Service

The Occupational Health & Safety Information Service
Health & Safety News Brief – Issue No. 309
Welcome to the second part of the Occupational Health & Safety Information Service News Brief

This part of the News Brief contains news articles and prosecution summaries in the field of environmental health and health & safety from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH).

Areas that they will be focusing on include; noise pollution, food safety, air quality, occupational health issues and relevant industry prosecutions.

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Glyphosate: Comparative Assessment and Available Alternatives

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EU Continues To Fall Short Of Environmental Objectives To 2020

According to the European Environment Agency’s (EEA) updated environmental indicator report published recently, the European Union is continuing to fall short of achieving a number of environmental objectives by 2020, especially in areas aimed at protecting biodiversity and natural capital.

Social Situation Of People Of Working Age With Disabilities

Published by Eurofound, this policy brief examines the social situation of people of working age with disabilities, using data from the 2011 and 2016 rounds of the European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS).

Stone Jetty Ltd Convicted Of Breaches Of Food Hygiene Regulations

A Morecambe cafe business has been fined £5,600 including a victim surcharge of £170 and £2,044.84 costs after pleading guilty at Lancaster Magistrates Court to breaching food hygiene regulations.

Healthcare Company Convicted For Death Of Vulnerable Patient

A healthcare company has been fined after a vulnerable patient sustained fatal injuries during a minibus journey.

Why Local Authorities Should Prepare Brexit Food Plans

The CIEH says there is wide agreement by local authorities that some level of preparation for food supply after Brexit is both possible and sensible. This advice notice, an initiative of the Centre for Food Policy Research, the CIEH and the University of Sussex, suggests local authority food resilience teams should:

Brexit: ECHA Publishes Advice For Companies Using Or Manufacturing Chemicals

The UK’s withdrawal from the EU in March 2019 will affect companies including those which manufacture or use chemicals in the UK as well as in the EU-27.

Call For US Government Intervention To Phase Out Organophosphates

US public health experts have found there is sufficient evidence that pre-natal exposure to widely used insecticides known as organophosphates puts children at risk for neuro-developmental disorders.

HSE Board Approves Removal of Adventure Activity Licensing Regulations

The HSE Board has approved the removal of the Adventure Activity Licensing Regulations, favouring a move to an industry-led; non-statutory; not-for-profit scheme underpinned by the Health and Safety at work etc. Act 1974, to provide assurance to users of outdoor activities.

Mental Health First Aid

The chair of Mental Health First Aid England and over 50 leading employers have written to the Prime Minister urging the Government to amend health and safety regulations so that workplaces are required to provide for mental as well as physical first aid.

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REACH Guidance In The Event Of A ‘No Deal’ Brexit

Published by the HSE, this guidance expands on and should be read in conjunction with, guidance published on 24 September 2018, to help businesses prepare for the possibility of a no deal Brexit.

In the event of no deal, the EU REACH Regulation will be brought into UK law by the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018. The Act replicates REACH in the UK whilst making the changes necessary to make it work outside of the EU. The UK will therefore retain the key principles of the EU REACH Regulation, including its fundamental principle of ‘no data, no market’, and its provision for Only Representatives (ORs). In this note, the EU REACH Regulation, as amended, is referred to as the UK REACH Regulation, and the regulatory system it creates is referred to as UK REACH.

Implications for businesses

The role a business currently undertakes within EU REACH may change, in some cases significantly. It is therefore important that business owners undertake a review of their role(s) within the EU and UK REACH regimes. To maintain or gain access to the EU/EEA and the UK markets, there may be a number of actions owners will need to take if there is no deal with the EU. For example:

For existing EU REACH registration holders

- In order to continue exporting substances or mixtures to the EU/EEA market, UK-based entities currently holding EU REACH registrations would need to transfer their registrations to an EU/EEA-based entity, or support their EU/EEA-based importers to become registrants. Further details are available on the ECHA website: https://echa.europa.eu
- Entities currently holding EU REACH registrations would also need a valid UK REACH registration to maintain access to the UK market.

For downstream users

- UK downstream users (who do not hold an EU REACH registration) currently purchasing chemicals from an EU/EEA country would need to ensure the substances they purchase are covered by a valid UK REACH registration. If purchasing over 1 tonne per year, they could either: encourage the EU/EEA supplier to appoint a UK-based, or;
- become the importer and take on the duty to register chemicals for the UK market; or o change source to a UK registered supplier.

UK downstream users using a substance subject to an EU REACH authorisation would need to provide information to the UK Agency (the HSE) to continue to benefit from the authorisation.

In a no-deal scenario, the UK and the EU regulatory agencies would operate independently from each other. If companies are supplying and purchasing substances, mixtures or articles to and from the EU/EEA and the UK, they will need to ensure that the substances, or substances within a mixture/article, are registered with both agencies (ECHA and the UK Agency, i.e. the HSE) separately in order to maintain or gain access to both markets.

The guidance note presents a number of scenarios, including required actions requiring further investigation in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

Safety Data Sheets

The format, content and conditions under which Safety Data Sheets are required, as specified in the EU REACH Regulation and the subsequent amendments, will remain the same. This means that Safety Data Sheets created under EU REACH will be valid under UK REACH.

Restrictions

If there’s no deal with the EU, the UK will make its own decisions on future restrictions.
The UK system would have a similar procedure to introduce new or amended restrictions. The UK Agency (the HSE) will make assessments on any future substances that may meet the requirement for restriction under the UK REACH Regulation.

www.hse.gov.uk/brexit/uk-reach-additional-guidance.pdf

Smoke Toxicity Of Building Cladding
The Fire Protection Association has published a report detailing initial research that could assist the Government’s decision on the future use of combustible materials in the construction of buildings.

The report investigated the effects of toxic fumes generated by certain cladding combinations in designs still permitted by current building regulations and the effect this has on building occupiers when fire breaks out.

Measuring smoke toxicity in building products is currently not a legal requirement. The results of the study show that current regulations may not adequately protect occupants from the potentially toxic fire gases from materials burning on the outside of buildings and some current common cladding material combinations were shown to present less of a threat than others.

A key feature of rain-screen cladding (as was used on Grenfell Tower) is a space formed between the insulation material and the back of the cladding panel which may also contain other materials such as vapour membranes (a sheet of material to keep out moisture). Strict rules govern how the internal walls of a building must contain fire to assist with safe evacuation, but the same is not true of the external walls where there are few requirements to prevent the spread of flame and heat from outside. In this location devices and features, such as bathroom or kitchen vents have the potential to transmit fire and smoke from the cladding system into internal spaces.

The report confirms a potential for serious harm to any human exposed to these toxic products in the case of a fire. The results looked at a typical living room in a building covered in a rain-screen type cladding. The findings suggest that for some compliant material combinations, once the fire breaks into the cladding section containing a vent connected to their apartment, people are predicted to lose consciousness within 10 minutes and, unless rescued would die within 30 minutes.

The Fire Protection Association’s testing involved a selection of cladding and insulation combinations legitimately used on buildings in the UK, including similar materials to those on Grenfell Tower. Four tests were conducted and compared the potential contribution from smoke toxicity that might be made by different cladding and insulation configurations.

The RISC Authority Interim Project Report: Occupant toxic exposure to fire in rain-screen cladding systems is available at: www.thefpa.co.uk/fpa-utilities/download.html?fid=56675DD2-03FE-4411-BCDAFA5B93782E17

Housing Health And Safety Rating System: Addendum To Guidance Includes Unsafe Cladding
Local authorities have powers under the Housing Act 2004 to take action where there is a ‘Housing Health and Safety Hazard’, including assessing the outside of buildings for fire hazards. Although the Act does not compel inspection or action, it is part of a regulatory framework under which local authorities have duties to inspect if they have reason to consider it would be appropriate to see if there are any category 1 or category 2 hazards.

The HHSRS Operating Guidance does not specifically cover assessment of cladding and predominantly focuses on assessing the risk of hazards within individual dwellings, rather than assessing the common parts of the building, including the exterior of building.

However, an addendum has been produced to provide guidance on the assessment of high-rise residential buildings with unsafe cladding. It supplements the Hazard Profile for Fire as given in the
The presence of aluminium composite material (ACM Category 2 or 3) cladding, or any other cladding and filler or core that is combustible, would be a deficiency that contributes to the Hazard. However, any judgment as to the increased Likelihood and the Spread of Harms (i.e. the severity of risk) will also need to take into account other deficiencies that are identified and that contribute to the Hazard.

The presence of unsafe cladding systems will influence the assessment of whether a fire causes harm. The main terms are defined in the HHSRS Operating Guidance, but, for clarity, occurrence is defined as ‘an event or period of time exposing an individual to a hazard’; and hazard is ‘any risk of harm to the health or safety of an actual or potential occupier that arises from a deficiency’.

Mental Health First Aid: Significant Issues With Potential Implications For Safety
A new study, published by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), sheds fresh light on widespread use by companies of employee training to address workplace mental health issues, such as depression, anxiety, self-harm and substance misuse.

Researchers investigated implementation, use and utility of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) in workplaces, by surveying people from 81 UK organisations, 89.9% of whom had taken part in MHFA training and also conducted interviews with key workplace representatives. The scoping review identified 25 mental health awareness courses and 14 suicide awareness courses in the UK. The researchers documented the findings and produced a summary comparison table. Some mental health course providers were more forthcoming than others with details of their courses.

The research found that, while MHFA appeared to be a useful tool for raising awareness of mental health issues, it is not known whether it is the best or only means of doing so or indeed whether it is cost-effective.

There were also wide variations in expectations of the responsibilities of the trained person within different workplaces. Where MHFA is used well in workplaces, the researchers identified several ‘active ingredients’ for success. These include:

- clear vision and rationale for introducing the course and managerial support
- enthusiastic coordinators who encourage support, champion the programme within the organisation and post-training, deal with issues and concerns, and lead a network
- mandatory recording of formal interactions
- a community or network of active trained members.

The researchers recommend further research and evaluation into the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of MHFA training, and a clear definition of the trained person’s role within the organisation, with guidelines for roles, boundaries and safeguarding procedures.

They further suggest MHFA training should incorporate more evaluation opportunities at different times after training has been given; a review of the standard adult MHFA two-day course, its length,
format and content; and the provision of refresher training to trained members, to give them the opportunity to refresh skills, knowledge and awareness.

MENTal health first aid in The wORkplace (MENTOR): A feasibility study:
www.iosh.co.uk/~media/Documents/Books%20and%20resources/Published%20research/Mental%20Health%20FULL%20report.pdf?la=en

Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders
Published by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) this summary report describes a tri-sector exploration of work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WRMSDs) in the construction, healthcare and transportation and storage sectors.

This study gathered information from both employers and workers on their understanding of WRMSDs; their attitudes and perceptions of WRMSDs; their approaches to prevention and management; and what barriers and opportunities existed from both employer and employee perspectives.

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WRMSDs) are widespread and have a significant impact on individuals, employers and the wider economy. This research focused on three sectors where incidence rates of WRMSDs are particularly high – transportation and storage, construction and healthcare. Workers in all three sectors often carry out repetitive and/or strenuous activities, placing them at a higher risk of MSDs.

The purpose of the research was to improve HSE’s understanding of employer and worker knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and needs regarding the prevention and management of WRMSDs.

The research aimed to:

- explore what employers and workers knew about WRMSDs and regulation. explore employers’ attitudes and perceptions of WRMSDs, their approaches to prevention and management and what was limiting engagement with health and safety issues
- explore the journeys of workers and how they have managed health challenges in relation to WRMSDs
- uncover the needs of ‘both sides’ to highlight barriers and opportunities regarding future intervention, communication and campaign strategies
- understand current workplace practice and inspire improvements in WRMSD prevention and management.

Main findings

- the terms ‘musculoskeletal disorder’ and ‘MSD’ were not consistently understood or applied by either employers or workers.
- MSD-related injuries were thought of as events that ‘happen’, and which often require immediate action.
- employers and workers across all three sectors generally perceived MSDs to be of relatively low importance compared with other work-related health and safety issues.
- employer interventions more often focused on the prevention of musculoskeletal injuries rather than the management of existing health conditions.
although available across all three sectors, equipment (eg, for lifting or moving patients, materials, merchandise, etc.) was more readily available in construction and transport and storage, but workers often felt it hindered productivity and prolonged the task

the tone, messages and content of posters about MSDs or health and safety were often confusing, abstract, or seen as ineffective

training content was widely felt to be uninspiring and lacking relevance to workers’ actual jobs or duties

employers’ approach to MSD policy in the workplace tended to be reactive as opposed to proactive

overall, employers appeared to lack ideas about how they might improve their approach to dealing with the challenge of MSDs.

The research suggests a number of opportunities to improve the support provided to employers and workers, which HSE could explore in partnership with industry and other key stakeholders:

- collaborating with industry to raise the profile and priority of MSDs, with solutions tailored or targeted to meet the needs of each sector.
- raising awareness of the link between MSDs and other associated - but ‘higher priority’ - occupational health conditions, for example stress.
- reviewing the language around MSDs, to ensure greater clarity and understanding between HSE, business, workers and other stakeholders.
- improving the relevance and quality of training and communications, and reinforcing the importance of messages through other means eg, role modelling.
- exploring how to reward the development and application of MSD prevention and management skills by workers – not just attendance at training.
- considering how to encourage or coerce workers to use the correct equipment, when it has been provided, for example through the use of behaviour change techniques.
- further consideration of the role of psychological and social factors in relation to MSDs, and how they can be effectively addressed.


New Guidance On Handling Fumigated Containers In Ports

Published by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), this report reviews the potential safety and health risks arising from handling containers in ports that have been fumigated with pesticides.

The authors review international legislation and literature including scientific publications, guidelines and articles, identify the Occupational Safety and Health risks and describe practical examples of preventive measures and strategies. They conclude that there are important gaps in our knowledge as well as in prevention practices. The problem is often also underestimated because of poor record-keeping of adverse health effects and because fumigated containers are rarely labelled correctly.

The authors recommend prioritising control measures such as risk assessment of containers before opening, routine screening of containers arriving in ports, and measures to enforce the regulations on labelling containers.
Prevalence Of *E.Coli* O157 In Cattle Uniform Across Great Britain

The Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland have published a report following research on *E.coli* O157 carried by cattle.

The research, undertaken by scientists led by the Roslin Institute, the Moredun Research Institute and Scotland’s Rural College shows that the overall prevalence of *E. coli* O157 in cattle is similar across Great Britain, and has remained relatively consistent in Scotland over the last decade. A significant part of the programme was based on surveys of the prevalence of *E. coli* O157 in faecal pats across 110 farms in Scotland and 160 in England and Wales which were completed between September 2014 and November 2015.

According to the report, cattle in Scotland were found to have a higher level of a certain subtype of *E. coli* O157 – PT21/28, which is associated with super-shedding in cattle (the passing of large volumes of the bacteria in faeces). As this subtype is also known to cause more severe human infection, it may be that local exposure to this particular subtype is a potential factor for the rates of human *E. coli* O157 infection in Scotland being around three times higher than in England and Wales.

The researchers also trialled a vaccine, developed to limit *E. coli* O157 excretion from and transmission between cattle. The results indicated that the vaccine may be effective in reducing human exposure and infection from *E. coli* O157. Whilst models show that annual vaccination and vaccination at the point of movement should both be effective, annual vaccination should have greater and more rapid impact.

However, before any vaccine can be marketed, further work is needed to assess if it is practical to be used on-farm and if it is an effective public health intervention.


**Glyphosate: Comparative Assessment and Available Alternatives**

Following the five-year re-approval at European level in December 2017, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) is reassessing marketing authorisations for products containing glyphosate. For products for which an application for authorisation or re-authorisation has been submitted, the Agency will carry out a comparative assessment with the available alternatives. For each glyphosate-based product, all uses for which there is an alternative that meets the substitution criteria will be prohibited. The Agency has also notified manufacturers of the expiration of marketing authorisations for 132 preparations for which no renewal applications have been submitted.

One hundred and ninety glyphosate-based products currently have marketing authorisation (MA) or a parallel trade permit in France. Following the re-approval of the active substance at European level in December 2017, 58 renewal applications and 11 new MA applications were submitted to ANSES.

The use of glyphosate-based products will be prohibited in France as of 1 January 2019 for all non-professional purposes, in particular for amateur gardeners, under Act no. 2014-110 of 6 February 2014 aimed at better regulating the use of plant protection products in France (known as the Labbé Act).
ANSES had already withdrawn from the market 126 preparations combining the active substance glyphosate with the co-formulant POE-tallowamine, which enhances the activity of glyphosate. Co-formulants are added to products to reduce their risks, improve performance or bring down costs.

Further information is available on the Anses website: www.anses.fr

**EU Continues To Fall Short Of Environmental Objectives To 2020**

According to the European Environment Agency's (EEA) updated environmental indicator report published recently, the European Union is continuing to fall short of achieving a number of environmental objectives by 2020, especially in areas aimed at protecting biodiversity and natural capital. When it comes to 'boosting sustainable, resource-efficient, low-carbon economy', trends and outlooks cause more concern compared to the assessment from last year, while progress in addressing environment-related threats to health remains rather mixed.

The annual EEA Environmental Indicator Report 2018 provides an updated scoreboard that monitors progress in 29 selected environmental objectives that are relevant to achieving the three key priority objectives under the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP) that address:

- natural capital (including biodiversity);
- sustainable, resource efficient, low-carbon economy; and
- people’s health and well-being. The scoreboard paints a bleak picture for progress in improving the EU’s natural capital. The overall progress is mixed for the other two priority objectives.

This year’s scoreboard has revised downwards the prospects of meeting three more objectives, important to the achievement of the 7th EAP priority objective that addresses sustainable, resource efficient low carbon growth. The outlooks for meeting the EU’s 2020 energy efficiency target and reducing the overall environmental impact of the housing sector by 2020 were revised from ‘likely’ to ‘uncertain’. Increases in the overall energy consumption and in the household sector were the main cause. The outlook for reducing the environmental impact of the mobility sector was also revised to ‘unlikely’ as greenhouse gas emissions from transport increased.

The report notes that for a number of indicators across the three 7th priority objectives the positive past trends seen in the scoreboard were mainly because of the low economic activity right after the 2008 financial crisis and that in several cases progress has slowed in recent years due to increased economic growth.

‘The ‘grow now, clean up later’ economic model that dominates our world and which does not account for climate change, pollution or the degradation of our natural capital is unsustainable. The report suggests that environment and climate policy implementation needs to be stepped up across the EU to meet the 2020 objectives. The results also highlight the need for mainstreaming environmental and climate objectives further into those policy domains that contribute most to the degradation of natural capital, human health impacts, inefficient use of natural resources and climate change. These policy domains include energy supply and demand, food production and consumption, transport and mobility and urban infrastructure development.

**Other key findings**

- Protect nature and strengthen ecological resilience: the outlook to 2020 remains bleak. There continues to be a considerable negative impact on the EU’s natural capital, to the point that the EU is not on track to reach almost all of the selected 2020 objectives. For example, common birds – a key indicator for biodiversity – continue to show a declining trend and overfishing continues to be a problem. Also there are still no policies in sight to promote the necessary reductions in the rate of land lost to artificial surfaces such as buildings and roads.
• Boost sustainable, resource-efficient, low carbon growth: the outlook to 2020 remains mixed. The EU is on track to meet climate and renewable energy related targets for 2020, but it's uncertain that the EU will meet its energy efficiency target. Waste generation has increased, while a reduction in environmental impact of production and consumption is uncertain for the housing sector and unlikely for the food and mobility sectors.

• Effectively address environment-related threats to health and well-being: the outlook to 2020 remains mixed. There have been substantial reductions in emissions of air and water pollutants in recent decades but key concerns persist around air quality and noise pollution in urban areas and ammonia emissions, which arise mainly from agricultural production and increased the past three years. Chronic exposure to chemicals is also a continuing concern.


Social Situation Of People Of Working Age With Disabilities
Published by Eurofound, this policy brief examines the social situation of people of working age with disabilities, using data from the 2011 and 2016 rounds of the European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS). The brief looks at changes over this period in employment, education and training, participation in society, social protection and healthcare, all priority areas of the European Disability Strategy. The brief also looks at the subjective well-being of this group and examines the factors that influence their well-being. Among its policy pointers, the brief highlights the work that must be done to improve the employment situation of people with disabilities.

Analysis of the 2011 European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) showed that people with disabilities consistently report lower living standards than those without disabilities and identified this population as one of the most disadvantaged groups in the EU. The latest round of the EQLS (2016) shows improvements in the quality of life of the EU population in general, with some dimensions having recovered to the pre-crisis levels of 2007. However, the survey also shows that this progress does not apply to all groups and points to persistent inequalities on some indicators. Analysis of the latest EQLS data identifies people with disabilities as one of the groups who score low on dimensions that contribute to social cohesion, such as perceived social exclusion and participation in society.

With the adoption of the European Disability Strategy 2010 - 2020, the European Union has been promoting the active inclusion and full participation of people with disabilities in society through action in eight priority areas: accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education and training, social protection, health and external action. While an evaluation of the first five years of the strategy shows some progress – particularly in the area of accessibility – people with disabilities on average remain at a disadvantage in many areas of life.

The European Pillar of Social Rights, established in 2017, is structured around three core themes, all of which are important for people with disabilities: equal opportunities and access to the labour market, fair working conditions, and social protection and inclusion. It provides further impetus to the active inclusion of people with disabilities through Principle 17, which states that ‘people with disabilities have the right to income support that ensures living in dignity, services that enable them to participate in the labour market and in society, and a work environment adapted to their needs’.

The Commission’s active inclusion strategy of 2008 aims to increase the participation of people with disabilities in the labour market and facilitate the integration into sustainable, quality employment of those who are able to work. Member States’ progress on achieving this goal is monitored through the Open Method of Coordination as part of the European Semester.

An ongoing framework is provided by the 2006 UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which has led to a paradigm shift on independent living and inclusion. The EU is unique in being the only international organisation that is a State Party to the UNCRPD, and all 28 Member States have ratified the convention. In a recent opinion, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) notes that the EU and its Member States ‘lack consistent and comparable data
and human rights indicators on women and girls with disabilities, as well as research on the situation of women and girls with disabilities in the EU’.

It calls on the European agencies, notably Eurofound, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, the Fundamental Rights Agency and the European Institute for Gender Equality, to ‘particularly take into account the situation of women and the fact that intersectionality can lead to multiple forms of discrimination’.

One of the recommendations of the EESC is that ‘all research on the rights of persons with disabilities should take a gender perspective into account, and research on women and girls should take the disability perspective into account’.

The report: Social and employment situation of people with disabilities is available to download at: www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef18023en.pdf

Stone Jetty Ltd Convicted Of Breaches Of Food Hygiene Regulations
A Morecambe cafe business has been fined £5,600 including a victim surcharge of £170 and £2,044.84 costs after pleading guilty at Lancaster Magistrates Court to breaching food hygiene regulations.

Janet Blades representing the business owner, Stone Jetty Ltd, appeared before magistrates on 3 December 2018, charged with six offences under the Food Safety and Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013.

The Stone Jetty Ltd pleaded guilty to all the charges, following unannounced routine visits by Lancaster City Council’s environmental health officers, who found that the premises and equipment were generally dirty, with examples of poor hygiene, and the lack of an appropriate food safety management system.

Further, the staff working at the premises had not been given appropriate training in food safety and hygiene and at the time of the inspection, the staff were uncooperative and obstructive.

The court heard that the business has recently made improvements to the way in which it operates and has invested in new equipment.

Prior to prosecution the business had failed to receive a food hygiene rating of above 1 despite having the opportunity to improve.


Healthcare Company Convicted For Death Of Vulnerable Patient
A healthcare company has been fined after a vulnerable patient sustained fatal injuries during a minibus journey.

Nottingham Crown Court heard how, on 16 March 2014, Samantha Barton was returning from an out of hours GP appointment at Nottingham Emergency Medical Centre in a minibus. Ms Barton died after opening a door and leaping from a minibus which was travelling at speed on the A52, just outside of Nottingham.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Elysium Healthcare (Farndon) Limited failed to have systems and procedures in place, including risk assessments, information, instruction and training which would have made sure the minibus doors were appropriately secured by the (fitted) child locks, so that passengers could not leave the vehicle until staff opened the doors from the outside.
Elysium Healthcare (Farndon) Limited, of Imperial Place, Maxwell Road, Borehamwood, previously pleaded guilty at Nottingham Magistrates’ Court to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act and was fined £500,000 together with costs of £67,500.

www.hse.gov.uk

Why Local Authorities Should Prepare Brexit Food Plans
The CIEH says there is wide agreement by local authorities that some level of preparation for food supply after Brexit is both possible and sensible. This advice notice, an initiative of the Centre for Food Policy Research, the CIEH and the University of Sussex, suggests local authority food resilience teams should:

- map existing food supply systems in their regions
- conduct early assessments of where risks and potential disruptions lie
- clarify the limits to stockpiling
- bring together relevant professionals and expertise
- be prepared to convey this information to the government and public.

The notice highlights local authorities’ responsibility for the enforcement of food safety and standards regulation, with a scope ranging from school meals to imported and exported products. Several food risks are highlighted, including: price changes, reduced food availability, lower standards and safety, supply disruption, border delays, freight logistics and public disorder.

It says the Government’s guidance notes for a no-deal Brexit are ‘welcome but inadequate’ and warns that local authorities have not been given enough advice. According to the notice, every form of Brexit will affect the food system in some way, particularly a no-deal scenario.

Food companies do not want to be blamed for disrupted supplies. Whether they set up FRTs or not, LAs should consult representatives of major and SME food companies in their areas to ascertain the strengths and vulnerabilities of local food supply chains.

The food resilience teams should combine expertise from both within the authority (such environmental health officers, trading standards officers, planners, food emergency planning bodies) and other experts, including NHS-based nutritionists and dietitians, and representatives from commercial bodies and chambers of commerce with knowledge of local food infrastructure, the note recommends.

The full text of the report can be seen here: https://foodresearch.org.uk/download/13982/

Brexit: ECHA Publishes Advice For Companies Using Or Manufacturing Chemicals
The UK’s withdrawal from the EU in March 2019 will affect companies including those which manufacture or use chemicals in the UK as well as in the EU-27.

How Brexit will affect companies depends on their role in the supply chain. The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published new web pages that guide companies through the consequences and give advice on how to prepare for the withdrawal.

For some companies the withdrawal can have significant consequences. For example, if a company based in the UK registered a substance under Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), the registration with ECHA will no longer exist after the withdrawal.
If a UK manufacturer of chemicals wants to continue doing business in the EU/EEA after the UK's withdrawal, they can:

- appoint an only representative within the EU-27 to manage registrations; or
- move operations related to the registered substance to a legal entity within the EU.

REACH, classification, labelling and packaging (CLP), biocidal products regulation (BPR) and prior informed consent (PIC) will no longer apply to UK companies that place chemical substances, mixtures or articles, biocidal products or active substances on the market only in the UK. This is also the case when companies export certain chemicals directly from the UK to non-EU/EEA countries.

The new web section also gives advice to EU-27 downstream users relying on REACH authorisations granted to UK suppliers and many more actors facing changes resulting from the UK withdrawal.

The EU and the UK are working towards a draft Withdrawal Agreement, which still needs to be concluded and ratified by both sides to take effect. This could take until early 2019. Once this occurs, companies may benefit from a transition period, which gives them more time to prepare for the effects of the UK's withdrawal. At the same time, ECHA will also update the support pages for companies.


Call For US Government Intervention To Phase Out Organophosphates

US public health experts have found there is sufficient evidence that pre-natal exposure to widely used insecticides known as organophosphates puts children at risk for neuro-developmental disorders.

In a scientific review and call to action published in PLOS Medicine, the researchers call for immediate government intervention to phase out all organophosphates.

According to lead author Irva Hertz-Picciotto, there is compelling evidence that exposure of pregnant women to very low levels of organophosphate pesticides is associated with lower IQs and difficulties with learning, memory or attention in their children.

Originally developed as nerve gases and weapons of war, organophosphates today are used to control pests and insects. They kill pests by blocking nerve signalling.

People can come into contact with these chemicals through the food they eat, the water they drink and the air they breathe. As a result, organophosphate pesticides are detected in the vast majority of U.S. residents, according to Hertz-Picciotto.

While existing limits on organophosphates have reduced exposures, the review authors claim this isn't enough. Based on more than 30 epidemiologic studies and scores of experimental studies in animals and cell cultures, they believe the evidence is clear: Exposure to organophosphates before birth, even at levels currently considered safe, is associated with poorer cognitive, behavioural and social development.

Despite growing evidence of harm and recommendations from scientific advisors to and scientists within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, many organophosphates remain in use. This may be in part because low-level, ongoing exposures typically don't cause visible, short-term clinical symptoms, leading to the incorrect assumption that these exposures are inconsequential, according to Hertz-Picciotto.

In addition to conducting the scientific review, the authors offered recommendations for substantially reducing organophosphate exposures, including:

- removing organophosphates from agricultural and non-agricultural uses and products
• proactively monitoring sources of drinking water for organophosphate levels
• establishing a system for reporting pesticide use and illnesses

Until a ban can be implemented, the reviewers recommend:
• greater medical and nursing education on organophosphates to improve treatment for and patient education on avoiding exposures
• training for agricultural workers in their languages on proper handling and application of organophosphate pesticides
• increased use of less-toxic alternatives and a transition toward sustainable pest-control measures

Irva Hertz-Picciotto, Jennifer B. Sass, Stephanie Engel, Deborah H. Bennett, Asa Bradman, Brenda Eskenazi, Bruce Lanphear, Robin Whyatt.

Organophosphate exposures during pregnancy and child neurodevelopment: Recommendations for essential policy reforms
PLOS Medicine, 2018; 15 (10): e1002671 DOI: http://10.1371/journal.pmed.1002671

HSE Board Approves Removal of Adventure Activity Licensing Regulations
The HSE Board has approved the removal of the Adventure Activity Licensing Regulations, favouring a move to an industry-led; non-statutory; not-for-profit scheme underpinned by the Health and Safety at work etc. Act 1974, to provide assurance to users of outdoor activities.

Background
In June 2018, the HSE Board considered a paper on the feedback from a recent Discussion Document on the future of the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) and the Adventure Activity Licensing Regulations (AALR).

The options in the Discussion Document were as follows:
1. retain the AALR regulations and current scheme underpinned by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and increase fees.
2. retain the AALR regulations and current scheme underpinned by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, but increase fees and extend the activities in-scope
3. remove the AALR regulations and move to an industry-led; non-statutory; not-for-profit scheme underpinned by the Health and Safety at work etc. Act 1974, to provide assurance to users of outdoor activities.

The Discussion Document did not ask respondents to state a preference for any of the options, but asked respondents to say which options they found acceptable or unacceptable and why.

Whilst the number of acceptable/unacceptable responses for each option was not significantly different, the feedback also provided insight into the perceived pros and cons of each option.

Board decision
The HSE Board requested additional information, and at a meeting in September 2018 and following discussion of the information provided, it approved Option 3. HSE will continue to engage with the Devolved Governments and stakeholders throughout this process.

The AALA team has issued a reminder that the final decision rests with Parliament and will take a number of years before a conclusion is reached.
**Next steps**
It’s important to note that there are no immediate changes to the licensing scheme. Licence holders should continue to engage with AALS and ensure they have a valid licence for activities in scope of the regulations. Stakeholders will be notified well in advance of any changes and if necessary any transition arrangements to ensure that things continue to run smoothly.

https://webcommunities.hse.gov.uk/connect.ti/adventureactivitiesnetwork/view?objectId=681669

**Mental Health First Aid**
The chair of Mental Health First Aid England and over 50 leading employers have written to the Prime Minister urging the Government to amend health and safety regulations so that workplaces are required to provide for mental as well as physical first aid.

The commitment to make mental health first aid mandatory is supported by both employers and the public. Since May 2018, more than 200,000 people have signed the Bauer Media change.org petition.

The full text of the letter can be seen here: www.wheresyourheadat.org/open-letter.pdf

**Sugar And Calorie Reduction In Foodstuff**
A report published by Public Health England (PHE) shows the majority of the public supports reductions in sugar and calorie content in everyday foods.

Carried out by Ipsos MORI, the survey found that 9 out of 10 people support the Government working with the food industry, including manufacturers, supermarkets, and restaurants, to make food and drink healthier.

The survey explored the public’s perception of obesity, and PHE’s reduction programmes which challenged the food industry to reduce sugar and calories by 20% in everyday foods such as breakfast cereals, yoghurts and pizzas, as well as ready meals.

Other findings from the survey include:

- over 9 in 10 respondents think obesity is a problem in the UK, with 79% believing it has a negative impact on the NHS
- only cancer and mental health are seen as bigger health concerns for the UK population than obesity
- people believe the greatest responsibility for tackling obesity lies with individuals and families, the food industry and the Government, underlining a belief in a collective responsibility
- there was overwhelming support from respondents for supermarkets to replace unhealthy products near tills and checkouts, with healthier ones

The survey also shows people expect the Government to tackle obesity, with 60% believing it could do more.

In May 2018, PHE reported on progress against the first year sugar reduction ambition of 5%. This showed an overall 2% reduction in foods contributing the most sugar to children’s diets, with up to 6% reduced in some product categories.

PHE will publish further progress towards reaching the 20% sugar reduction ambition by 2020, as well as guidelines for industry to achieve the 20% reduction in calories by 2024.
New TB Strategy Recommendations Aim to Control Spread of the Disease

Ministers are reviewing recommendations made in the Government's 25-year Bovine TB strategy to control the spread of the disease.

Culling of badgers to reduce infection in cattle is seen as unconscionable by some sections of society and currently the Labour Party has pledged that culling will not be part of its bovine TB control strategy.

Whilst the decision whether or not to cull badgers must be informed by evidence which provides important information on likely outcomes, final decisions should account the irreconcilable views of different stakeholders. This will inevitably require judgements to be made by ministers.

In his review of the Government’s 25-year Bovine TB strategy which outlined the prevalence of the disease in England and how it transfers from badgers to cattle, Sir Charles Godfray mentioned how badgers pose a threat to local cattle herds, but also that people’s views on not culling badgers need to be respected.

The report goes on to mention details on vaccinating cattle against TB and the disease in wildlife, and in non-bovine animals.

The report is now with Ministers, who will consider its recommendations before publishing a response, setting out the next steps for the TB Strategy.

Some details in the report include how:

- industry must take greater responsibility for on-farm controls, biosecurity and safe trading practices to stop the disease spreading
- more can be done to help farmers make purchasing decisions reflecting the risks of cattle being infected
- evidence shows that badgers do transmit bovine TB to cattle and contribute to the persistence of the disease
- disease reduction would benefit from greater flexibility and agility in adapting bovine TB control measures as new research findings emerge
- A new independent body on disease control would be helpful to take over disease control operations from APHA, Natural England and local authorities (this recommendation will be considered by the Government in light of the wider Dame Glenys Stacey review into farm inspections).


Not Finished At 50: Interventions In Support Of Redundant Older Workers

Published by Eurofound, the focus of this new report is to investigate job displacement of older workers in the form of layoffs, where the termination of the employment relationship is not due to reasons related to the individual worker, but caused by economic reasons. The report discusses public interventions supporting redundant older workers and gives some indications on 'what works, what does not'.
The paper gives a brief overview of the labour market situation of older workers in the EU, based on Eurostat data, supplemented by other data sources and literature. This is followed by a chapter summarising the main findings of previous research on what makes older workers ‘special’ on the labour market, notably discussing favouring and hindering factors for their (re-)integration in the labour market.

During the last decade, the activity and employment rates of older workers have been continuously increasing while unemployment and inactivity rates have been decreasing. However, there are considerable differences across EU Member States.

Whilst many young and middle-aged workers lost their jobs in the Great Recession, the older age group fared better. This favourable state of affairs means they receive less policy attention, which is unfortunate for older workers who suddenly find themselves without a job.

From a labour market perspective, demographic change resulting from population ageing means that the European labour force is shrinking and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, which entails significant challenges for the sustainability of the European economy and society. For this reason, retaining older workers in the labour force has been identified as the key to tackle the challenges caused by the demographic change in Europe.

It is common knowledge that unemployed workers over 50 find it harder to get work than their younger counterparts. Data shows that older workers tend to remain unemployed longer once they have been let go, for several reasons. On the one hand, employers often stereotype older workers, thinking them less productive, more expectant of higher salaries, or likely to have health problems. On the other hand, older workers can be less willing to change occupation or to look farther afield if job opportunities are scarce in their local area.

Such disadvantages are compounded when there is a collective dismissal. In a situation where a pool of workers is competing for the same jobs, especially in a region where employment opportunities are limited, older workers will often lose out to their younger colleagues.

This is an issue that merits specific attention - not only because long-term unemployment is as damaging for older workers as for any other age group, but also because of the consequences for our societies. In common with other countries around the globe, European countries have ageing populations. This poses a threat to the sustainability of social welfare systems, as lower numbers of workers will have to finance increasing numbers of pensioners. By way of response, governments across Europe are attempting to maintain the balance between the two by raising statutory retirement ages and introducing other measures to extend working life.

While such steps are having an impact, they are only part of the solution. Measures are also needed to prevent redundancy from resulting in long-term unemployment among older workers, but not many schemes exist at present.

Across the Member States, a relatively small number of measures specifically target redundant older workers, but there is a wide spectrum of initiatives either tackling redundancy (irrespective of the age of the target group) or addressing the integration of older workers into the labour market (irrespective of the reason for unemployment). They target either the workers themselves or prospective employers, and fall into two broad groups – those that anticipate potential future redundancy and prepare for it, and those that manage current redundancy situations.

Because older workers have difficulty getting back to work once they become unemployed, efforts must be made to prevent that from occurring in the first place. This means taking measures to ensure workers’ skills don’t become obsolete and tackling health problems at a younger age so that these issues do not compromise workers’ employability when they are ageing. In the specific situation of a redundancy, interventions need to kick in early, during the notice period after an announcement, thereby giving employment services and the affected workers more room to work on a smooth job-to-job transition without a spell of unemployment.
Measures that give just one type of support are less effective than comprehensive packages that combine, for example, advice, training and employment subsidies. Ideally, the advice component should be one-to-one, tailored and frequent, but it could also include group-oriented elements such as peer exchanges among older unemployed people. Training should extend beyond the classroom to take in on-the-job experiences. And while employment subsidies can help to overcome employer reticence, governments should take care that subsidised jobs do not substitute existing employment, and that the job continues after the subsidy ends.

Governments also need to look beyond labour market policy to social policy because that also plays a role. In many Member States, older workers have an alternative exit route through early retirement or social welfare schemes. If these are easy to access and generous, redundant older workers might not be motivated to look for a new job. This underlines that different policy areas need to be aligned – for example by offering financial incentives to remain in the labour market while imposing financial disincentives on alternative exit strategies.


**Sustainability Could Be Encouraged By Replacing VAT With A Damage And Value Added Tax**

Sustainability in the production of goods and services could be encouraged by replacing value-added tax (VAT) with ‘DaVAT,’ a damage and value-added tax, a new study suggests.

Environmental concerns are growing as climate change, chemical pollution, ocean acidification, atmospheric aerosol loading, and modern farming practices take their toll on global ecosystems.

Many scientists fear that thresholds will be crossed and uncontrollable effects triggered that will be hard to halt, highlighting the need for policies that are able to address multiple interacting environmental processes simultaneously. The principle of ‘the polluter pays’ - that those that create environmental damage should pay to manage and mitigate its effects - has been present in EU law for a long time, but has not yet been implemented in a cohesive manner due to a number of environmental, legal, and socio-economic sticking points.

In 2008, the EU was asked to examine the possibility of introducing differential VAT rates to promote green products, but this did not progress due to several concerns - including a lack of consistency in the definition of green criteria, and the risk of public loss of revenue.

The creators of DaVAT propose a proportionate, non-discriminatory taxation system based on objective criteria, by adapting the present VAT system for goods and services to include a cost based on life-cycle assessment (LCA) - if properly structured, this could reduce the leakage and displacement of pollution, comply with general taxation principles, prevent erosion of the taxation base, protect competitiveness, and meet the requirements of social justice and equity.

DaVAT relies on three essential elements:

- **uniform VAT (UVAT):** Implemented by applying VAT —or consumption taxes in general —to all goods and services and reducing multiple rates to a single low rate (e.g. 3%) called UVAT

- **global damage tax (GDT):** Implemented by adding to UVAT a per-unit tax, GDT, calculated on the basis of environmental impacts assessed by means of specific or generic LCAs. In the case of high-polluting products or industries, a specific LCA will be automatically imposed. High-polluting activities must already be assessed via environmental impact studies in many countries, but these impacts are not necessarily evaluated by LCA

- **specific damage tax (SDT):** In order to reflect environmental, social, or ethical concerns specific to a country, another damage tax (SDT) is proposed that extends beyond LCA.
The damage aspect of DaVAT is assessed over three areas of protection: human health, ecosystem diversity, and natural resources. A single score for the LCA is obtained by aggregating and weighting impacts in a variety of areas including climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion, human toxicity, ecotoxicity, ionising radiation, photochemical smog formation, acidification, eutrophication, land use and fossil-energy demand.

The researchers address how the DaVAT system would work in practice—for example, as LCA has not yet been developed for each individual product or service, a number of categories would be assigned a default environmental score. This category LCA score would be updated approximately every five years, based upon a combination of voluntary LCAs, along with classification of sectoral emission inventories by flows of goods and services between different lines of business, and the results of studies looking at category LCAs to fill a knowledge gap. The researchers also propose four steps towards implementing DaVAT: establishing an LCA database, refining the LCA method used, modelling implementation costs, and performing analysis after the database has been created.

The study asserts that DaVAT overcomes the shortcomings of the differential VAT for green products put forward in 2008 and rejected by the European Commission. It draws parallels between DaVAT and the original VAT system proposed in France in 1954 - now used in 161 countries - and suggests that DaVAT would encourage producers and consumers to focus on and take responsibility for the damage linked to their activities.

From value-added tax to a damage and value-added tax partially based on life cycle assessment: principles and feasibility.
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11367-018-1439-7

Benefits Of Restoring European Floodplains Closer To Their Natural State
Areas next to rivers hold potential for cost-effective flood protection and improving the health of an entire river ecosystem. According to a European Environment Agency (EEA) briefing published recently, restoring European floodplains closer to their natural state would contribute to the achievement of several European Union policies. Current estimates suggest that around 70-90% of Europe’s floodplain area is ecologically degraded.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) briefing: Why should we care about floodplains? analyses the potential benefits of restoring natural areas next to rivers that are covered by water during floods. According to the analysis, these areas can deliver valuable cultural and ecosystem services, including a cost-effective alternative to structural flood protection.

Floodplains are an important part of Europe’s natural capital, covering 3-5% of the continent’s area. As a result of regular flooding, floodplains are naturally highly fertile areas. This, combined with the use of rivers for transport, has historically made them ideal sites for human settlement and agriculture.

Today, many of Europe’s major cities are located on floodplains and agriculture is linked with around 60% of land use activities there. While they are home to multiple protected species and habitats, they are also now home to 15% of Europe’s population. However, climate change is expected to increase the number of both floods and droughts in different parts of Europe.

During heavy rainfall, floodplains allow more space for the water to spread, preventing high flood waves that travel fast down the river. During dry seasons, floodplains slowly release the water they have stored, mitigating the worst impacts of droughts.

Besides flood and drought protection, natural floodplains can prevent erosion, improve soil formation, purify water replenishing groundwater reservoirs and support the conservation of habitats and species,
including many birds. However, the vast majority of European floodplain habitats are in either inadequate or bad conservation status, according to the EEA briefing.

Key messages in the briefing:

- estimates suggest that today, 70-90% of Europe’s floodplain area is ecologically degraded because of human activities over the centuries, in particular those taking place since the 1950s.
- the protection and restoration of floodplains is encouraged by the Water Framework Directive, the Floods Directive, the Habitat and Birds Directives, the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, the Green Infrastructure initiative, and the EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, but is not an explicit requirement within the legislation.
- natural water retention measures are cost effective and viable alternatives to structural flood protection. In addition, they support multiple ecosystem functions and services needed to achieve the objectives of several EU policies.
- shifting the management focus towards natural retention measures represents a transition towards ecosystem based management and needs to be incorporated into river basin and flood risk management plans, conservation plans and climate change adaptation plans.
- restoration requires public support, investment and time. EU and national funding instruments are available to support restoration.
- once implemented, natural water retention measures deliver valuable regulating ecosystem services and high quality cultural services.

As most restoration projects involve using land differently, it is very important to secure citizen engagement in the planning process and to allow enough time to negotiate the best possible solutions. The results are, however, often greatly appreciated by the public because of the recreational qualities achieved.

Why should we care about floodplains?

**Consultation on Guidance on ‘Threshold of Toxicological Concern’ Approach**
The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has launched a public consultation on its proposed guidance for the use of the threshold of toxicological concern (TTC) approach in food safety assessment.

The Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) approach is a screening and prioritisation tool for the safety assessment of chemicals when hazard data is incomplete and human exposure can be estimated. The TTC approach is not applicable where substance-specific data exist or where they are required under EU legislation.

TTC values are numbers describing generic human chronic exposure thresholds that have been established by grouping experimental toxicity data from animal bioassays. TTC values are derived by applying a probabilistic methodology such that the chance of adverse effects at exposures below these threshold values are considered to be low.

This guidance has been developed to provide practical help in the appropriate use of the TTC approach taking into account updated scientific information, new methodologies and recommendations from the EFSA and WHO report.
The document takes into account the latest developments in the field. It will help guide EFSA’s scientific panels and staff in the use of the TTC approach as a screening and prioritisation tool for the safety assessment of chemicals, when hazard data are incomplete and human exposure can be estimated as low.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments by 8 January 2019.


**Call For Licensing Of Hand Car-Washes To Prevent Modern Slavery**

MPs on the Environmental Audit Committee are demanding that Hand Car Washes should require licences to operate to prevent exploitation of workers and water pollution.

In the last 15 years, thousands of cheap hand car washes have sprung up across the UK on car parks and disused forecourts, often using migrant labour. Faced with this competition the number of automatic car washes on petrol forecourts has dropped by over 1,100 in the decade up to 2016 and hand car washes now make up the bulk of the vehicle washing market. Hand car washes compete predominantly on costs and convenience of access and this has led to widespread practices of undercutting labour standards and other regulation. MPs were told that the majority of hand car washes may have some illegality around them, and the regulatory system is not currently fit for purpose.

In the last 3 years the HSE has taken enforcement action against 103 hand car washes with 45 businesses served with notices requiring an immediate stop to work activity, and 27 served notices stating improvements to be made within a specified time period. However, the HSE has not yet prosecuted any car wash employers.

There are also concerns that some hand car washes are allowing their waste water to flow directly into surface water drains or seep into the ground. While this is not the most prevalent source of water pollution, where drains discharge wash water directly into water courses on a concentrated basis, it can damage water quality and kill animals and plants in large numbers in streams and rivers. There are a range of potentially toxic substances within wash water, including acids, oils and phosphates which can suffocate water courses by encouraging the growth of algae. If the UK is to meet its water quality targets in the 25 Year Environment Plan, there needs to be efforts to deal with urban and agricultural sources of water pollution.

In some cases, hand car washes are charging less than £5 per vehicle, despite employing large numbers of workers. Such low prices indicate that labour abuses, such as non-payment of the minimum wage, are occurring.

Research suggests that hand car washes are linked to trafficking into and within the UK for labour exploitation. Over the last three years the growth of the hand car wash industry has resulted in increasing numbers of HSE and immigration inspections, focusing on serious health and safety risks and the possibility of labour exploitation.

In October, the Responsible Car Wash Scheme was launched to enable consumers to identify compliant operators. This was developed by the Downstream Fuel Association in conjunction with the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), five major supermarkets, the police, the Health and Safety Executive, Environment Agency, HMRC, anti-slavery charity Unseen, and national car wash operator Waves. However, there remains exploitation and flagrant rule breaking taking place at potentially thousands of hand car washes in plain sight. The failures to enforce employment, planning and environmental regulations at some hand car washes must thus be rectified.

Key recommendations include:
• Government should trial a licensing scheme for hand car washes that brings together all of the major compliance requirements, including on environmental pollution, into a single, more easily enforceable, legal requirement

• Government should review whether the Modern Slavery Act 2015 could be updated to cover businesses as small as hand car washes

• The Environment Agency should work with immigration, tax recovery and GLAA enforcement to ensure that unannounced inspections of hand car washes are comprehensively investigated for a full range of potential regulatory breaches

Hand car washes:
https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmenvaud/981/98102.htm

Abattoir Convicted Of Food Hygiene Failings
A red meat slaughterhouse based in Osset, Yorkshire has been handed fines and costs totalling more than £34,400 after being found guilty of food hygiene contraventions.

Yorkshire Abattoir Services Limited pleaded not guilty to a series of charges identified by Food Standards Agency inspectors and veterinarians between November 2016 and January 2017. However, following a trial at Leeds Magistrates Court, District Judge Bouch found the business guilty on all 12 charges.

The charges brought against the business included failures to:

• prevent contact between the outside of the skin and the carcase of sheep during the removal of fleece (‘in-rolling’);

• remove faecal contamination from sheep carcases without delay;

• comply with a Remedial Action Notice related to ‘in-rolling’. (These notices can prohibit the use of equipment, limit or prohibit certain processes being carried out or reduce or stop operations).

The initial incidents in early November 2016 led to a Remedial Action Notice being served which was breached in late December and again in early January 2017. The company was fined £24,000 along with costs of £10,234.50 and a victim surcharge of £170.

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