Welcome to this edition of the
Occupational Health and 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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EVENTS

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The Occupational Health & Safety Information Service
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PROSECUTIONS

DB Cargo Fined £2.7 Million After Children Seriously Injured At Rail Depot
DB Cargo (UK) Ltd has been fined £2.7 million, with £188,873.89 costs, after being convicted of one
offence under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Sentence was passed by His Honour Judge Earl sitting at Newcastle Crown Court where DB Cargo
was found guilty on 5 October 2018 following a prosecution by the Office of Rail and Road (ORR).

The court had heard that a 13-year-old boy suffered life-changing injuries after receiving an electric
shock from 25,000-volt overhead line equipment at Tyne Yard in Gateshead.

On 14 June 2014 two boys, aged 11 and 13, and two 13-year-old girls entered Tyne Yard. The two
boys climbed on top of a stationary wagon, part of a 22-wagon train due to leave the yard later that
day. While on the wagon one of the boys made contact with the live current and suffered serious life
changing injuries as a result, the other boy received minor burns.

The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) investigation revealed that trespassers often visited a disused
signal box at the yard, known as the ‘haunted house’, as DB Cargo failed to ensure that non-
employees were not exposed to risks to their health and safety through its activities.

DB Cargo (UK) Ltd also pleaded guilty at the conclusion of the trial to a single count of contravention
of a requirement to produce information under s.20 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. A
request was made for documentation from the defendant by one of ORR’s Inspectors and that
request was refused. DB Cargo was fined £33,500 for that offence.

Ian Prosser, HM Chief Inspector of Railways, said:

‘Our thoughts remain with the victim who suffered such awful injuries, the other children injured and
traumatised, and also their families and friends who will have been deeply affected by this harrowing
incident.

‘We welcome the sentence which clearly indicates the seriousness with which this offence is viewed
and we expect DB Cargo and the rail industry as a
whole to look very hard at their sites and make sure they are doing everything possible to ensure they
are secure.

‘This incident is a reminder to adults and children that railway sites can have many dangers, often not
obvious, and that trespass on railway premises can lead to serious injuries.’

DB Cargo (UK) Ltd Limited was found guilty of failing to discharge its duty under Section 3(1) of the
Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was therefore guilty of an offence contrary to Section
33(1)((a) of the Act.

Tadcaster Company Fined After Worker Struck By Telehandler Load
A potato processing company has been sentenced for safety breaches after a worker, Colin Smith,
was struck by a telehandler load.

Leeds Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 5 January 2018, Mr Smith, aged 62, was walking across the
middle yard to the maintenance workshop when he was struck by three potato boxes loaded on the
tines of a telehandler being operated by another employee. The impact knocked him to the ground and caused a fracture to his left leg.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had insufficient measures in place to prevent people being struck by a vehicle and that a protected walkway was provided to only two sides of the yard, but not to the right side between the production sheds and the engineers workshop, a well-used pedestrian route. The investigation also found a large number of boxes had been stored in the yard which meant there was less room resulting in pedestrians, including Mr. Smith, having to take a route further into the transport area than was necessary.

The company also failed to ensure forklift truck and telehandler operators were clear what the site rules were around the transportation of potato boxes and to effectively enforce these.

Braegate Produce Ltd of Mill Hill, Braegate Lane, Colton, Tadcaster pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Workplace (Health and Safety Welfare) Regulations 1991. The company has been fined £50,000 and ordered to pay £962 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Kate Dixon commented: 'Companies need to organise transport operations to reduce the risk it poses to pedestrians. This should include consideration of the site, driver and vehicles. There are some quick, easy and inexpensive steps that can be implemented.

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

Company Fined £160,000 And Ordered To Pay £22,310 In Costs After Boy Falls From Scaffolding

Westdale Services Limited has been sentenced after a 12-year-old boy slipped off a scaffold ladder, falling approximately 10 metres.

Cardiff Magistrates' Court heard how, on 6 May 2017, two boys were able to climb the rungs of a ladder within scaffolding erected by Westdale Services Limited at Southville Flats, St David's Road, Cwmbran, by placing their feet either side of a ladder guard that did not cover the rungs of the ladder. One boy climbed to the top platform of the scaffold and climbed the uppermost ladder to a height of approximately 10 metres. The ladder slipped, causing the boy to lose his balance and fall to the ground, causing life-changing injuries requiring multiple operations. The boy now has no bladder or bowel control and is only able to walk short distances due to being unstable on his feet.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the security arrangements for preventing access to the scaffolding, especially by children from a nearby school, were inadequate.

Westdale Services Limited of Doncaster Road, Askern, Doncaster pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £160,000 and ordered to pay £22,310 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Michael Batt commented: 'The death or injury of a child is particularly tragic and a lot of thought must go into securing construction sites. Children do not perceive danger as adults do. The potential for unauthorised access to construction sites must be carefully risk assessed and effective controls put in place.'
‘This incident could have been prevented by removal of the ladder completely or installing an appropriately sized ladder guard to cover the full width of the rungs.’

**Construction Company Fined After Two Workers Injured In Fall From Height**

A construction company has been fined after two workers were injured after falling through a ceiling at a site in Watford.

Luton Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 6 December 2017, four bricklayers were working on a new build of three terraced houses, when they gained unrestricted access to a timber joisted floor. The floor collapsed. Two of the four workers managed to jump off during the collapse whilst the other two fell and suffered serious injuries.

Both of the employees are still unable to return to full time work. One spent two days in hospital after the incident and the other is still recovering from his injuries; it is not clear whether or not his injury will be life changing.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that the Principal Contractor, S McMurray Ltd, had failed to safely install joist hangers correctly. There was no other structural support arrangement in place, such as propping the first floor from underneath. The floor was also overloaded with blockwork.

S McMurray Ltd, of Sacombe Road, Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 13 (1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The Company has been fined £16,500 and ordered to pay costs of £1236.60.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Rauf Ahmed said: ‘Structural stability of floors under construction must be carefully risk assessed to ensure the appropriate control measures are in place to prevent collapse.

‘This incident could have been prevented had there been a sufficient risk assessment in place and the appropriate controls implemented.’

**Company Fined After Agency Worker Suffers Arm Injuries**

A company has been fined after a farm worker’s arm was pulled into potato grading machine.

Chelmsford Magistrates’ Court heard how on 24 October 2017 a 34 year-old agency worker was seriously injured when he fell onto the cleaning rollers of a potato grading machine at a farm in West Tilbury, Essex. He had been clearing potatoes off the rollers but the machine had not been isolated from its power source, and was restarted while the worker was still in a dangerous area. He fell on the rotating rollers and his arm was drawn in up to the shoulder before the machine could be stopped.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that C H Cole and Sons (Mill House) did not employ safe systems of work to prevent an inadvertent start-up of the potato grading machines during the routine cleaning task. In addition, farm workers were not provided with adequate training and information about the use of the machine and any available worker would carry out the clearing of potatoes by following the unsafe system of work.
C H Cole and Sons (Mill House), a farming partnership based at Mill House Farm, West Tilbury pleaded guilty to breaching Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and have been fined £30,000 and ordered to pay costs of £6,000.

Speaking after the case, HSE inspector Saffron Turnell said ‘The worker involved in this incident sustained a serious and potentially life-changing injury, but the outcome could have been much worse. This investigation highlights and consolidates the important and consistent guidance HSE provides to the agricultural industry about the safe stop of machinery and plant, and companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate action against those that fall below the required standards.

‘As farms start to plan for the holiday season, this case is also a timely reminder of ensuring casual workers are adequately shown how to operate in a safe system of working and the importance of safe stop procedures.’

West Sussex Company Fined After Worker Suffers Serious Injuries
Concrete wall blocks company Thakeham Tiles Ltd has been sentenced after a worker’s hand was crushed in an unguarded machine.

Brighton Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 25 April 2018, an experienced worker was making concrete screen wall blocks at their site on Rock Road, West Sussex, when his hand became trapped and was crushed by the machine he was using. The worker suffered three broken fingers and thumb and had to undergo surgery to stabilise his hand.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had failed to ensure that the machine was properly guarded. The machine had been not been properly guarded for a number of years.

Thakeham Tiles Ltd of Rock Road, Storrington, West Sussex pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 11(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and has been fined £26,667 with £3,560 costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Russell Beckett commented: ‘This case highlights the importance of ensuring that dangerous moving parts of machinery are guarded.

‘This incident could so easily have been avoided by having suitable guarding on the machine and systems in place to periodically check machine safety.’

Boat Owner Sentenced After Death Of Diver
A boat owner has been sentenced after he failed to plan, manage and conduct diving projects.

Kirkwall Sheriff Court heard how, on 15 March 2012, Roderick MacLean, who had been diving for scallops from a fishing boat, the MV Hildona, did not surface at London Bay, Orkney. Despite extensive searches, his remains were not located until November of that year.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found various safety issues in connection with diving operations conducted from the vessel. There was a failure to ensure that a diving project plan based on a risk assessment was prepared, that people involved in the diving projects were briefed on arrangements. The defendant also failed to ensure that divers taking part in these projects
were the holders of an approved qualification valid for such activity and a valid certificate of medical fitness to dive.

Shaun Geddes, of Orkney, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4 of the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 and was sentenced to 200 hours community service.

Speaking after sentencing, HSE inspector Bill Chilton said ‘Today’s outcome will highlight the need for all parties involved in commercial diving projects to keep the health and safety of divers to the fore.

‘We hope this sentence, which follows a detailed investigation into Roderick MacLean’s death, will send a strong message to the shellfish diving industry that all individuals have a duty to plan and carry out work properly in order to protect workers’.

All diving at work is regulated by the Health and Safety Executive under the Diving at Work Regulations 1997.

Pallet Manufacturer Sentenced After Worker Struck By Fork Lift Truck
A Cheshire-based woodworking company has been sentenced after a worker was struck by a fork lift truck (FLT) at Woodford Park Industrial Estate, Winsford.

Manchester and Salford Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 27 March 2017, an employee of Mid Cheshire Pallets Ltd was carrying a pallet across the workshop when he was struck by an FLT being driven by another employee. The worker suffered serious fractures to his leg and ankle in the incident and was off work for several months.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found there was inadequate segregation of fork lift trucks and pedestrians within the workspace. A risk assessment had been carried out but had not highlighted the importance of marking segregation areas.

Mid Cheshire Pallets Ltd of Leslie Road, Woodford Park Industrial Estate, Winsford pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) and Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and has been fined £6,500 and ordered to pay costs of £7,362.58.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Jane Carroll said: ‘Those in control of work have a responsibility to provide safe methods of working and a safe working environment. If a suitable system of work had been in place the injuries sustained by this employee could have been prevented.’

Company Director Sentenced For Unregistered Gas Work
An unregistered gas fitter operating as a director of Master Plumbing Contractors Limited has today been sentenced for carrying out gas work without being registered with Gas Safe.

Aylesbury Crown Court heard how Andrew Stevens purported to be Gas Safe registered when he undertook gas work at two properties in Milton Keynes between 2015 and 2016. He brandished a t-shirt with the Gas Safe logo, which was also on the company van. Mr Stevens was reported to Gas Safe Register after defects were found in the installation of a gas boiler.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Mr Stevens was not Gas Safe registered at the time he conducted this work.
Andrew Stevens of Reynolds Place, Grange Farm, Milton Keynes, was found guilty of four offences under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. Mr Stevens received four 18-month sentences, all suspended for two years. He was also ordered to do 300 hours of community service and pay costs of £15,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Andrew McGill said: ‘Mr Stevens undertook gas work which he knew he was not registered to do’.

‘HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate action against rogue gas fitters who disregard the law and place lives at risk. Working with gas appliances is difficult, specialised and potentially very dangerous, so it is vital that this is only undertaken by trained and competent engineers who are registered with Gas Safe.’

**West Yorkshire Company Fined £1.4m After Worker Suffers Serious Crush Injuries**

A food processing company, 2 Sisters Food Group, has been sentenced after a worker was injured while unblocking a machine on the poultry slaughter line.

Doncaster Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 6 September 2012, an employee of 2 Sisters Food Group Limited was attempting to clear a blockage on a conveying system at its Foxhills Industrial Estate site in Scunthorpe, when he was struck by a large metal stillage. As a result, his body was crushed at chest height against the end of the unit, and he sustained multiple injuries including several fractured ribs, fractures to his back and a punctured lung.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the company had failed to identify deficiencies in the guarding on the machine, and the clearing of blockages was usually carried out while the machine was still in operation.

2 Sisters Food Group Limited of Trinity Park House, Fox Way, Wakefield pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £1.4 million with £38,000 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Kirsty Storer said: ‘The employee’s life-threatening injuries could easily have been prevented had the company identified the guarding deficiencies and put in place simple measures to prevent access to dangerous parts of machinery.

‘This should serve as a lesson to others in the food processing industry about the importance of effectively guarding their machinery to stop others being similarly injured.’

**Gas Fitter Prosecuted For Illegal Gas Work**

A gas fitter has been fined after carrying out gas work whilst no longer being Gas Safe registered.

Liverpool Magistrates’ Court heard how Kevin Shephard carried out work on gas fittings and issued Landlord Gas Safety Certificates over a period from April 2016 to July 2017 at various domestic properties. Mr Shephard was also the landlord of one of the properties however he did not hold the necessary registration to complete this work.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Mr Shephard had previously been registered with Gas Safe during several periods between 27 November 2013 and 15 June 2016. The registration had lapsed on 15 June 2016 coinciding with the expiry of Mr Shephard’s gas
competence qualifications. Multiple correspondence was sent to Mr Shephard by the Gas Safe Register regarding the expiry of his registration. The registration was not renewed resulting in him illegally carrying out the gas work.

Mr Kevin Shephard of is Edinburgh Drive, Huyton, Liverpool, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 3(3), 36(3)a and 36(3)c of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. He has been fined £2,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,000.

HSE inspector Jane Carroll said after the hearing: ‘Kevin Shephard undertook gas work which he knew he was not registered to do.

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

Roofing Company Fined After Worker Falls From Height

A roofing company has been sentenced for safety breaches after a worker fell about three metres through a roof light and suffered a fractured pelvis and spinal injuries.

Leeds Magistrates court heard how, on 17 March 2016, a self-employed roofer, working for PNR Roofing and Building Services Limited (PNR), was on a roof laying wooden ‘lats’ and roofing felt, when he fell through a sky light that was covered with felt. PNR was subcontracted to carry out roof work at Globe Mills in Slaithwaite.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that whilst PNR initially provided air bags as a means of mitigating any falls by employees, the air bags had been moved to remove debris and the worker hit the floor instead.

PNR Roofing and Building Services Ltd of Park View, Shafton, Barnsley pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and has been fined £20,000 and ordered to pay £1,100 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Chris Tilley commented: ‘Falls from height through fragile surfaces and skylights remain one of the most common causes of work related fatalities in this country and the risks associated with working at height are well known.

‘This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply adopting reasonably practicable safe working practices such as using netting instead of relying on fall bags.’

Two Companies Fined After Worker Seriously Injured By Fall

Two companies have fined after a landscape gardener suffered serious injuries following a fall.

Southwark Crown Court heard how, on 24 July 2013, a team of landscape gardeners were working on a traffic island at the Mayfair Car Park, Park Lane, London, when a member of the team, who was aged 29, stood on an unstable grille. The grille, which was not fixed into position, gave way and he fell 11 metres into the ventilation shaft underneath, suffering serious injuries to his back and ankle.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident, found the ventilation grilles should have been inspected and maintained in order to identify any movement of the grilles.
Bouwfonds European Real Estate Parking, of L-2346 Luxembourg, 20 rue de la Poste, Luxembourg, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 4(2) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and has been fined £16,000 and ordered to pay costs of £18,000.

Saba Infra UK, of Oak House, Reeds Crescent, Watford, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 4(2) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and has been fined £45,000 and ordered to pay costs of £40,000.

After the hearing, HSE Inspector Kevin Shorten said: ‘This traumatic incident could have been prevented by simple building maintenance inspections.’

**Hoteliers Fined £80,000 And Ordered To Pay Costs Of £14,999.60 After Failing To Assess The Presence Of Asbestos During Refurbishment**

A Devon based hoteliers has been sentenced after materials containing asbestos were disturbed during a major refurbishment at The Park Hotel in Barnstaple.

Newton Abbot Magistrates’ Court heard that between October 2016 and May 2017 construction work was undertaken to refurbish the hotel on Taw Vale. Parts of the hotel were originally constructed during the 1960’s and 1970’s when asbestos was a popular building material. The project aimed to refit and refurbish bathrooms and bedrooms.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found that, at an early stage of the work, an employee raised concerns about the potential presence of asbestos containing materials (ACM) within the rooms under refurbishment. Enquiries were made but no physical testing of the materials being disturbed was undertaken. Work continued for several more months and concerns about the materials within the bedrooms and bathrooms were raised again by external contractors. Testing of the material being disturbed was eventually conducted in February 2017 and the presence of ACMs was confirmed.

Whilst the HSE investigation was in progress the defendant had a further incident in May 2017 where ACMs were disturbed during bathroom refurbishment works being undertaken. The planning undertaken for this work, which had included an assessment as to the presence of ACMs, was inadequate as it failed to identify the full scope of the work proposed and the materials that would be disturbed during pipework installation works.

The investigation also found that refurbishment work was undertaken at the hotel without the appropriate assessment as to the presence of asbestos containing materials. Once identified the hotel took remedial action which included sampling of common parts for asbestos fibres, which came back as negative.

Percy R Brend and Sons (Hoteliers) Ltd of Taw Vale, Barnstaple pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. They have been fined £80,000 and ordered to pay costs of £14,999.60.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Jo-Anne Michael said: ‘The dangers associated with asbestos are well known and a wealth of advice and guidance is freely available from HSE and other organisations.

‘Identification of the hazard is key. Duty holders should not undertake any work which either exposes or is liable to expose their employees to asbestos unless they have carried out a suitable and
sufficient assessment as to the presence, location and condition of asbestos in the premises. Those persons tasked with undertaking the assessment should have the necessary skills.'

**Builder Sentenced After Putting Workers At Risk With Unsafe Work Practices**

A Salford building contractor has been sentenced after exposing workers to danger of falls from height and exposure to silica dust.

Manchester Magistrates' Court heard how, in July 2018, whilst carrying out repointing work at a house in Altrincham, Kenneth Morris allowed his employees to work on unguarded platforms six metres in height. The workers were also not provided with adequate protection from silica dust during the removal of mortar.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) began investigating after receiving information from members of the public. During the investigation, it was found that Kenneth Morris had made a deliberate decision not to provide the correct scaffolding or means of dust capture in order to save money. Mr Morris had also failed to insure his employees against any injury or ill health sustained during the course of their work.

Kenneth Morris, trading as K and M Pointing of Basten Close, Salford pleaded guilty to breaches of Section 3 (1) And Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Section 1 (1) of the Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and has received a 26 week prison sentence suspended for two years, 180 hours community service and ordered to pay £2,000 in costs.

After the hearing HSE inspector Matt Greenly said: 'HSE receives thousands of concerns from members of the public each year and we investigate those which show serious risk. Corners must not be cut when dealing with employees’ safety, such as working at height.'

**Salford Company Fined After Worker Falls Through Collapsed Stairs**

A construction company has been sentenced after an employee sustained serious injuries to his back after falling through stairs that had been partly installed.

Greater Manchester Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 17 February 2017, Mr Emir Slattford, a bricklayer working for ASA Property Management Limited, was working on the top floor of a building at the company’s construction site in Worsley. Mr Slattford began walking down a set of stairs which collapsed from the second floor of the building, resulting in a fall to the ground floor stairs below. Part of the collapsed stairs fell on top of the worker and he suffered serious back injuries as a result. Mr Slattford has been unable to work for over two years since the incident.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that on the day before the incident, the joiner on site had advised the site manager that the stairs were not fully installed, and that expected completion was on 18 February 2017 – the day after. Poor communication between the joiner and site manager, and the absence of a formal handover procedure, led to a failure in understanding the risks involved in using the incomplete stairs.

ASA Property Management Limited of Linnyshaw Industrial Estate, Walkden, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 13(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The company has been fined £9,400 and ordered to pay costs of £3,138.50.
HSE inspector David Norton said after the hearing: ‘This injury could have easily been prevented and the risk should have been identified.

‘If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, the life changing injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented.’

**Staffordshire Company Fined After Exposing Worker To HAVS**
A train refurbishment company has been sentenced after exposing workers to hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS).

Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court heard how Faiveley Transport Tamworth Limited exposed its workers to uncontrolled and unrestrained exposure to vibrating tools from 2005 to 2015 at their Amington site in Tamworth. Company employees used a number of vibrating tools including sanders and air-fed cutting equipment to refurbish train doors.

In 2015, one of the members of staff raised concerns regarding symptoms similar to HAVS as a result of exposure to the air-fed cutting tool used to remove rubber seals from train doors. Despite the company being made aware of this, it failed to take prompt action to manage the risk of exposure to HAVS. Later, another member of staff reported that he used grinders up to eight hours a day often until his hands hurt.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found Faiveley Transport Tamworth Ltd failed to consider the risk to both its employees and agency workers of exposure to hand transmitted vibration (HTV) tools over a prolonged period of time. The investigation found that there was little or no oversight by management to control exposure to vibrating equipment and there was an absence of a safe system of work including control, monitoring and maintenance measures.

The investigation also found measures to conduct a suitable and sufficient risk assessment of that exposure were not taken, instruction and training on tool use was not provided and the company did not have health surveillance in place.

Faiveley Transport Tamworth Ltd of Graycar Business Park, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and has been fined £90,000 and ordered to pay costs of £45,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Theresa Hewkin said: ‘This was a case of the company completely failing to grasp the importance of HAVS health surveillance.

‘If the company had understood why health surveillance was necessary, it would not only have ensured that it had the right systems in place to monitor workers’ health but would have identified from the outset that one of their employees has primary Raynaud’s phenomenon and should not have been made to work with vibrating tools because of his likely heightened susceptibility.’

**Timber Buildings Company Fined After Worker Seriously Injured**
A timber buildings company has been sentenced after a worker suffered serious injuries to his back.

Folkestone Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 26 January 2018, an employee of Ashford Timber Limited was injured while erecting a carriage barn. He was about to complete the final end strip to the roof when he slipped, sliding down the roof and falling approximately 2.5m to the ground below. As a
result of this, he sustained a compression injury to his spine. There was no safety equipment provided by the company at the domestic property site on Morlais Ridge, Winchelsea Beach, East Sussex.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that there was no risk assessment or method statement produced by the company, no detailed safe system of work for employees to follow, and insufficient training was offered.

Ashford Timber Limited, of Bounds Gate Corner, Ashford Road, Badlesmere, Faversham, Kent, pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4 (1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005, and has been fined £23,333 and ordered to pay costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Ross Carter said: ‘Those in control of work at height have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers.’

**Leicestershire Company Fined For Health And Safety Failings After Worker Seriously Injured**

Sign-fitting contractor, AR Signs Limited, has been sentenced for safety breaches after a worker suffered multiple, serious burn injuries.

Sheffield Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 14th September 2017, the 22-year-old employee of AR Signs Limited was using a breaker tool to dig a hole for the posts of a new sign at the Hellaby Hall Hotel in Bramley, near Rotherham, when he struck a mains electricity cable, causing a large flash. The worker suffered burn injuries to the inside of his right arm, the top of his right hand, the inside of his left arm, and the right-hand side of his face. He also had burns to his hair, eyelashes, eyebrows and beard.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that no cable diagram or ground scanner was used to determine the presence of the mains cable, and no training had been given in the use of the breaker tool.

AR Signs Ltd of Leicester Street, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire was found guilty of breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and has been fined £35,000 and ordered to pay £2,475 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Sarah Robinson commented: ‘This wholly avoidable incident was caused by the failure of the company to appropriately plan and execute a safe system of work whilst fitting the signs.

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

**Yorkshire Company Fined Over £1.8m After Two Workers Injured In Fall From Height**

Food manufacturing company, Karro Foods Ltd, has been sentenced after two workers suffered serious injuries when they fell over 4 metres through a rooflight.

Leeds Magistrates’ Court heard how, on 13 April 2016, the two workers were investigating a leak from the roof at the Malton site of Karro Foods Ltd, which the workers did not realise contained several
rooflights. The workers were walking closely together and both stood on the same roof light which consequently fell through due to the weight.

One worker suffered four fractured ribs, a punctured lung, and muscular contusions to his outer right thigh. The other suffered a fractured skull, muscular injuries to his right leg and injuries inside his ear which cause ongoing problems with his balance, memory and mental health.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the roof was made of asbestos cement and had several rooflights situated along it but they were not visible due to the build-up of moss and dirt which had accumulated over the years. Employees had also not been made aware of them.

Karro Foods Ltd of Hugden Way, Norton Grove Industrial Estate, Malton, Yorkshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company has been fined £1,866,000 and ordered to pay £8,019 in costs.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Mark Slater commented: ‘This was a wholly avoidable incident, caused by the failure of the company to provide adequate controls against the risks arising from working at height.

‘Consideration of roof fragility and rooflights, visible or not, should be made, especially on older buildings.’

M And D’s Motherwell Theme Park Fined £65,000 For Poor Maintenance That Led To ‘Catastrophic Failure’

Theme park operator M and D (Leisure) Limited has been fined after nine passengers were injured and taken to hospital when a train on one of their roller coasters derailed and crashed to the ground.

Hamilton Sheriff Court heard how, on 26 June 2016, at M and D’s Theme Park in Motherwell, a train on the Tsunami roller coaster derailed as it was descending through a curve immediately after the lift ramp, at a height of five metres. It crashed to the ground in an area occupied by mini self-drive cars and bikes.

There were nine passengers on board, including William Murray and Katie McArdle, both 19, and seven younger children, who were all injured ‘to the danger of their lives’.

The HSE’s investigation found the Tsunami roller coaster was not maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order nor was it in good repair, and that in particular, weld repairs carried out on the axels of the Tsunami were inadequate and unsound.

M and D (Leisure) Limited, Strathclyde Country Park, Hamilton Road, Motherwell pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 5(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 was fined £65,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Martin McMahon said: ‘This was a serious incident that resulted in members of the public being badly injured while they were supposed to be enjoying themselves. Our investigation found the company failed to ensure the Tsunami roller coaster was properly maintained and the result of these poor maintenance procedures led directly to its catastrophic failure on 26 June 2016.'
‘It is imperative that all controllers of fairground rides have thorough maintenance procedures in place to ensure that the public are safe when they are enjoying the thrills at a fair or theme park.’

**Sellafield Investigation: £380k Fine After Safety Breach**

Sellafield Ltd has been fined £380,000 for safety breaches relating to equipment used for the processing of plutonium.

On 2 April 2019, Carlisle Crown Court was told how, on 5 February 2017, a worker at the West Cumbria plant received a puncture wound to one of his hands while working in a glovebox used to process radioactive materials.

The incident resulted in the worker receiving an intake of plutonium equal to approximately eight times the maximum legal annual exposure limit for workers in the nuclear industry.

The investigation by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) found that the worker was following his employer’s system of work while cleaning a probe used as part of an alarm system. This was a difficult operation and the contaminated probe, which had corroded and become sharp, punctured his hand through a protective glove.

Sellafield Ltd pleaded guilty to offences under Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, was fined and was also ordered to pay costs of £96,753.22.

Speaking after the hearing, ONR Superintending Inspector Paul Smith, said: ‘This was a case where Sellafield Limited failed to properly assess the risk to workers arising from sharp objects when working in a glovebox.

‘The accident could have been avoided had the corroded probe been routinely replaced – a change that was put in place by the company immediately after the event.’

Dr Mina Golshan, Deputy Chief Inspector and Director of ONR’s Sellafield, Decommissioning, Fuel and Waste Division, said: ‘We note the conclusion of this case and the recognition by Sellafield Ltd that, for this particular incident, the company fell short in its legal duty to protect the safety of one of its employees.

‘This case does not point to any broader concern about the control of risks and hazards across the Sellafield site and was instead related to a specific event and the outcome of our subsequent investigation. Sellafield Ltd has already learned lessons from this event, implementing improvements to help prevent a recurrence, and we expect it to continue to seek reasonably practicable improvements in all areas of its work affecting safety.

‘This will not affect our regulatory strategy for Sellafield which encourages the safe and timely reduction of the hazards and risks, while ensuring the site continues to meet its legal obligations.

‘Sellafield Ltd has made significant progress in key decommissioning projects in recent years and we will continue to work constructively with the site and relevant stakeholders, to ensure Sellafield Ltd maintains this momentum while taking advantage of technological advantages.’
EVENTS

1 May 2019, 2019 ROSPA Scotland Conference
Edinburgh, UK

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) conference is the annual event for the health and safety community in Scotland. It's a unique opportunity to discuss key issues facing professionals, through a range of updates case studies and interactive sessions.

The conference attracts a range of stakeholders, including company directors, senior managers, health and safety advisers and HR professionals, not just from Scotland but other parts of the UK as well. It is relevant to anyone with an interest in or with responsibility for occupational health and safety.

Further details are available here:
www.rospa.com/events/scotland-conference

1 May 2019, Effective Communications To Improve Health And Safety On Farms
Leamington Spa, UK

With agriculture continuing to have the highest incidence of fatalities in major industries across the UK and worldwide, the IOSH Rural Industries Group has organised this one-day event on behalf of England's Farm Safety Partnership to highlight ways in which we can improve our communications to be more effective in influencing health and safety on farms.

The programme includes industry professional speakers sharing good practice techniques on the latest research and findings, including effective procedures on how to communicate important key safety messages to farmers, farm workers and their families, ultimately enabling us all to become more effective 'influencers' - both individually and collectively.

Further details are available here:

2 May 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 (ÇA) and Local Government.

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

6-8 May 2019, International Aviation Fire Safety And Protection Conference
Linz, Austria

The Airport Fire Officers Association (AFOA) is a technical body, dedicated to promoting and maintaining the professional image and status of Airport Fire Services within the United Kingdom and
Ireland, ensuring continued communications between them, through an on-going dialogue of information and knowledge on all relevant technical and operational matters.

The classroom portion of this program will take place at the Courtyard by Marriott, Linz, Austria. Equipped with all modern facilities and an ideal place for an International ARFF conference. Day 2 will be a tour and lunch of the Rosenbauer Austria Plant.

Further details are available here: https://arffwg.org/conferences/intl-aviation-fire-safety-protection-conference

8 May 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/l-event?id=a1E0O00001YqwONUAZ

8 May 2019, Embedding Biodiversity Net Gain In The Planning System
Manchester, UK

The Government is planning to tighten safety standards for rented accommodation. This is evident in the passing of the homes (fit for human habitation) act, the planned reforms to the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS), extended mandatory licensing for HMOs, as well as councils being given stronger powers to enforce standards. With the number of tenants in the private rented sector growing substantially each year, local authorities have a growing duty to enforce standards for rented accommodation within their local areas.

Join Westminster Briefing on the 25th of April to review your organisation’s internal procedures and practices to enforce higher standards in the private rented sector. Get an up to date brief on the latest developments in policy and learn good practice from leading organisations enforcing these tighter measures.

Further details are available here: www.westminster-briefing.com/Biodiversity_net_gain_Manchester

13-15 May 2019, Designing, Implementing And Evaluating Organizational Interventions
Copenhagen, Denmark

This course will focus on how we can develop, implement and evaluate organizational interventions using realist evaluation. Organizational interventions aim to improve working conditions and employee health and well-being through changing the way work is organized, designed and managed.

Realist evaluation focuses on what works for whom in which circumstances and the course will focus on how we can develop the tools and methods to ensure the most important issues experienced by participant are addressed, ensure interventions are implemented according to plan, and ensure interventions bring about the intended outcomes.
Further details are available here: https://niva.org/course/designing-implementing-and-evaluating-organizational-interventions

14 May 2019, Building A Safer Future: The Next Steps For Building Regulations And Fire Safety
London, UK

In December 2018, the Government set out an implementation plan to fundamentally reform the building and fire safety regulatory system. They announced they want a step change: from a passive system of regulatory compliance to a proactive system where developers, building owners and local authorities take responsibility for ensuring that residents are safe, with stronger assurance provided by a tougher regulatory framework.

With consultations opening in spring, what are the next steps for building regulations and fire safety and what outcomes will there be for you?

Join Westminster Briefing on the 14th May to hear from Dame Judith Hackitt and senior officials on the government's implementation plan for building regulations and fire safety and how this affects your organisation. Learn lessons from the Early Adopters Group and good practice examples to bring back to your own setting.

Further details are available here: www.westminster-briefing.com/Building_Regulations_Fire_Safety

14-15 May 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)

14 May 2019, Improving UK Occupational Health And Safety: 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/JE14-PPE

14-16 May 2019, Practical Air Sampling For Control Of Substances Hazardous To Health (COSHH) Competent Course
Scarborough, UK

The Personal Air Sampling and COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Competent Person Course covers detailed information about current COSHH Regulations and the basics of air sampling and monitoring for dust, gas and vapours in the workplace.

The COSHH Regulations (which apply to all EU companies) includes a requirement for employers to carry out an assessment of the risks presented to their employees through exposure to hazardous substances. Clearly some companies will have more an issue than others and will need to take measurements of the exposure levels in order to complete this assessment. This course is for any company that may have such a need. Health and Safety personnel, manufacturing staff or engineers are all potential attendees although no previous experience is required so the course will suit anyone who can fulfil the role of a competent person.

Further details are available here: www.castletrainingacademy.com/air-sampling-and-gas-detection.php

Leeds, UK

The Industrial Emissions Directive is one of the most important, far reaching and potentially costly pieces of environmental regulation to come out of the EU in recent years. The Chemicals Industry Association (CIA) and the Environment Agency (EA) are joining up for the third time to hold this 1-day workshop to keep industry and environmental regulators up to date. EA Inspectors will be attending as part of their training requirement.

Amongst other presentations, delegates will hear from Defra and regulators: Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Natural Resources Wales. Topics will include guidance on how to implement the Directive; the latest on the most relevant Best Available Techniques (BAT) reference documents (the so-called BREFs); and updates on the UK policy landscape as well as developments in permit reviews and Article 15(4) derogation.

Don’t miss this rare opportunity to network and seek advice from a range of regulators, industry and policy experts. The relationship between the UK and the EU will also be considered in terms of future industrial emissions regulation.

Further details are available here: www.cia.org.uk/Training-and-events/Training-courses/Event-Details/eventDateId/2232

15 May 2019, NASHiCS Forum For Safety And Health In Care Services
Chester, UK

The theme for this National Association for Safety and Health in Care Services (NASHiCS) Forum is ‘Let’s Be Crystal Clear’. It includes leading speakers sharing safety and health solutions, as well as discussions of regulation, legal cases, policy topics, best practice, and monitoring.
16 May 2019, Biodiversity 2020 And Beyond: Developing UK Strategy And Embedding Conservation At The National And Local Levels
London, UK

At the current scale we are witnessing, global biodiversity loss represents a grave threat to human populations. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) warns that without sufficient biodiversity, global food production will becoming increasingly volatile, consequently threatening global food security (FAO, 2019). Pollution, changes in land-use and climate change continue to ravage local habitats.

This symposium therefore represents a unique and timely opportunity for national government, local authorities, environmental organisations, developers, third sector organisations and other key stakeholders to examine progress towards biodiversity targets. Delegates will also contribute to the development of innovative future strategies to promote and safeguard national biodiversity.

Further details are available here: www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/JE16-PPE

16 May 2019, HSE Inspectors’ Guide To Electrical Safety
Buxton, UK

This workshop will be delivered by current and former Specialist Electrical Inspectors with extensive industry experience including giving guidance to duty holders, experience with serious incident investigations and enforcement action. The workshop is based on HSE's practical enforcement experience which arises out of the businesses it inspects, generally those in the higher risk industries but also those where although the hazards can be high, the risks are thought to be well-controlled.

The workshop will give you a practical understanding of what HSE inspectors are looking for in the control of general electrical safety risks, including the risk and appropriate controls. You will review known high risk electrical safety issues together with the appropriate controls based on HSE's investigation experiences and understand the practical application of HSE's Enforcement Management Model.

Further details are available here: www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-training-courses/hse-inspectors%E2%80%99-guide-to-electrical-safety-

16 May 2019, SDS Awareness For Small Companies: Writing Safety Data Sheets
Leeds, UK

Anyone handling or supplying hazardous chemicals will already be familiar with the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

In view of the strict requirements of REACH Annex II, and increasing demands from customers, those who supply substances and mixtures within the EU need to ensure that their SDS meet the high standards required for regulatory compliance and supply chain acceptance.

Further details are available here: www.cia.org.uk/reachready/Events/Event-Details/eventDateId/2234
16 May 2019, Shake, Rattle And Roll! Managing Noise And Vibration In Practice
Biggleswade, UK

The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) Rural Industries Group is working in collaboration with the IOSH Chiltern Branch to help delegates fully understand and apply the legal requirements on noise and vibration (both hand-arm and whole-body vibration) and the information provided by manufacturers. This is in line with HSE’s expectations for effective and practical control measures, including frequency and extent of measurements while machinery is in use.

These objectives will be achieved through a series of lectures and demonstrations to be presented by HSE specialist inspectors, leading industry managers, trainers and OHS practitioners, describing good practice and practical control and measurement of noise and vibration, using a range of typical grounds maintenance and construction machinery.

Further details are available here: http://bit.ly/2UII4zm

16 May 2019, Understanding Smoke Control
London, UK

Maintaining smoke control systems is a legal requirement under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. It is important to understand how smoke control performance criteria is determined.

This one-day course will allow you to understand the basic principles of smoke; guiding you through how fires develop and the production of smoke. It also provides clear guidance on the differences between the types of smoke control systems and where each is used.

Further details are available here: https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001Yqto8UAB

20-22 May 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=a1E0O00001YqwADUAZ

21-22 May 2019, Good Occupational Health Cooperation In Small Enterprises
Helsinki, Finland

Participants will learn new ways of promoting and supporting work ability in SEs through occupational health cooperation (OHC).

The course is based on collaborative learning utilizing real-life cases from different SE settings and industries, workshops, exercises and discussions. During the course each participant generates her/his own tool kit of effective OHC to be utilized in their work.

Further details are available here: https://niva.org/course/good-occupational-health-cooperation-ohc-practices-of-work-ability-promotion-in-ses
21 May 2019, Next Steps For Addressing Air Quality In The UK: Reducing Transport Emissions, The Clean Air Strategy, And The Role Of Local Government
London, UK

This conference will discuss next steps for improving air quality in the UK, with sessions focusing on the implementation of and response to the Clean Air Strategy, reducing transport emissions and the impact of local initiatives.

The seminar follows the publication of the Clean Air Strategy - which outlines government priorities for reducing public exposure to particulate matter across all sources of air pollution - including transport, homes, industry and farming.

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

21 May 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

21 May 2019, Root Cause Analysis Training Course
Altrincham, UK

This two day course examines the common pitfalls encountered in problem solving and shows how to avoid them. Building on this knowledge delegates will learn how to define any event-based problem and use a simple five step process to develop a causal understanding and identify solutions.

The course is aimed at individuals who are required to solve organisational problems on their own or facilitate a team.

Further details are available here: www.cia.org.uk/Training-and-events/Training-courses/Event-Details/eventDateId/2211

London, UK

With the publication of the Resources and waste strategy the government has outlined its key objectives in eliminating all avoidable waste by 2050.

Join colleagues and peers from across the public sector to discuss and debate the practical challenges in delivering a waste free environment. Discover the opportunities for innovation and collaboration; explore strategies to secure organisational change and techniques to tackle waste crime all on a public sector budget.
Further details are available here: www.westminster-briefing.com/event/waste-strategy-summit

22-23 May 2019, Control Of Substances Hazardous To Health (COSHH) Training: Practical Assessment And Control
Buxton, UK

Many people tasked with COSHH assessments are unsure what is required or where to get information. Once the initial assessment is complete, they are often uncertain on how to approach control, and how to judge when control is adequate. This course aims to give that knowledge and those skills.

Day one covers assessing exposure and risk and includes case studies and the chance to work through examples. Day two moves on to implementing exposure controls that are effective and reliable, and includes practical demonstrations. The focus for both days is on practicality and effectiveness.

Further details are available here: www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-training-courses/coshh-training---practical-assessment-and-control

22 May 2019, Responsible Energy 2019
Leeds, UK

With energy concerns continuing to grow in importance for most companies, this conference is designed to help you become more energy efficient, reduce your energy bills, reduce carbon footprint and keep up to speed with regulatory developments.

Whether you are responsible for energy management, a process engineer trying to improve efficiency and reduce the cost of your process or a manager with overall budgetary responsibility this is a must attend event for you.

Further details are available here: www.cia.org.uk/Training-and-events/Training-courses/Event-Details/eventDateId/2235

22-23 May 2019, The Third SFPE Europe Conference On Fire Safety Engineering
Málaga, Spain

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) conference is being hosted by the SFPE Spanish Chapter with support from our SFPE European Chapters.

SFPE’s conferences have established a reputation globally as the premier events for keeping abreast of advancements in fire safety engineering. Fire safety engineering is growing rapidly in many European countries, SFPE Europe has been addressing the regional needs to facilitate greater networking, collaboration, and exchange among fire safety engineering professionals as well as a pursuit of technical knowledge and education.

The Conference Keynote address is ‘Lessons from the Devastating Fires of 2017 in Portugal’ by Professor Domingos Viegas, University of Coimbra.

Further details are available here: www.sfpe.org/mpage/2019Europe
22-24 May 2019, Wellbeing At Work In A Changing World: Challenges And Opportunities
Paris, France

In a context of rapid technological developments and organisational evolutions, the very nature of work is changing. The aims of this conference are to share state-of-the-art knowledge, best practices and innovations, from very specific and specialised pieces of research to very pragmatic industrial practices, in order to provide a coherent research agenda on wellbeing at work.

A broad range of disciplines will explore wellbeing at work approaches, methods and cultural contexts.

Further details are available here:

23 May 2019, Hospital Food Standards: Revitalising Your Food And Drink Strategy
London, UK

The food that is served in hospitals is a key element of patient care and experience. Over the past five years, hospitals have witnessed dramatic improvements in efforts to provide both patients and staff with freshly prepared, healthy and ethically sourced catering. However, the NHS has discovered that a large number of hospitals still did not meet Government food standards in 2018. With the NHS 10-year plan has committed to ambitious hospital food standards, how can hospitals continue to deliver healthy, sustainable catering?

Join us at this Westminster Briefing event to gain a deeper understanding of how to exceed hospital food standards in a time of financial constraint and budgetary pressure. This conference will utilise both current policy and inspiring case studies to provide you with a full toolkit for revitalising your Food and Drink Strategy.

Further details are available here:
www.westminster-briefing.com/Hospital_Food_Standards

23 May 2019, The ‘A’ Of REACH: An Introduction To Authorisation
London, UK

In the last few years, the ‘A’ of REACH has become a reality for many companies that manufacture, import or use one of 43 substances already on Annex XIV of REACH. This list is set to grow drawing from those substances currently on the Candidate List as well as others as they are added to the Candidate List. More than 180 authorisation decisions have been taken per use and per applicant by the European Commission so far. Join us to gain a better understanding of the implications of Authorisation, the practicalities of making an application and the proactive work that can be done upfront to manage the business risk.

Delivered in conjunction with REACHReady Approved Service Provider, Caleb Management Services Limited, and Apeiron-Team, who will contribute to the delivery of the technical content of this event. During the day, we will also be covering the impact on authorisation of the UK’s withdrawal from the EU.

Further details are available here:
www.cia.org.uk/reachready/Events/Event-Details/eventDateld/2244
29 May 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:

30 May 2019, Fire Sprinkler Systems: Design
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 and location of sprinkler heads; piping layout and sizing.

Further details are available here:
https://cibse.force.com/s/Ilt-event?id=a1E0O00001Yqua9UAB

4 June 2019, Next Steps For Food Regulation In The UK: Adapting To The New Regulatory Framework And Priorities Post-Brexit
London, UK

Delegates will assess the ongoing implementation of the Food Standards Agency’s (FSA) Regulating Our Future (ROF) programme - which aims to modernise the regulatory system for food to improve flexibility and the ability to respond to technological change, and cater for an evolving and increasingly diverse sector.

Further discussion focuses on the future relationship with food regulation in Europe and beyond, looking at the potential impact of Brexit on food regulatory systems, and the supply chain, as well as the outlook for new markets - the impact of any future trade deals on food standards, and next steps for policy.

Further details are available here:
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/food-regulation-19

5 June 2019, Mechanical Services Explained
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.
5 June 2019, Protecting UK Water Quality: Improving Water Management And Tackling Pollution
London, UK

To promote national water quality, the Government revised its ‘River Basement Management Plans’ (RBMPs) in 2015, prioritising cross-sector collaboration and promoting stakeholders to take collective responsibility for the protection of our water environment. The Government's long-awaited '25 Year Environment Plan' has built on the existing framework, pledging to reduce water contamination and deliver, ‘clean and plentiful water by improving at least three quarters of our waters to be close to their natural state as soon as is practicable’ (DEFRA, 2018). The plan complements existing RBMPs, stipulating that by 2021 the amount of water bodies with sufficient water to uphold environmental standards will reach 82% to 90% for surface water bodies and from 72% to 77% for groundwater bodies.

Despite commitments by successive governments, key stakeholders including the water industry, agriculture and rural land managers, urban and transport bodies have substantial roles to play in safeguarding national water bodies. With major components of the Government's strategic framework in place, delegates will scrutinise existing measures to maximise water quality at the national and local level. They will also determine cost-effective methods of tackling pollution and improving our water environment.

Further details are available here:
www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/JF05-PPE

7 June 2019, Fire Risk Management System: PAS 7 2013
London, UK

A strategic fire risk management approach can be adopted by any organisation wanting to implement a formal procedure to reduce the risks to life (of employees, customers and the general public), property, assets and the environment that are associated with fire in the working environment.

This course will present organisational fire risk management system (FRMS) requirements. The system can be applied in organisation's that operate on multiple sites, separate management divisions within an organisation, or individual premises within a single entity.

Further details are available here:
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqtoSUAR

10-14 June 2019, NEBOSH HSE Certificate In Process Safety Management
Buxton, UK

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) have collaborated to develop a new specialist Occupational Safety and Health Qualification specifically for process industries. The qualification combines the advanced technical 'high hazard' expertise of HSE with NEBOSH's ability to deliver strong vocational OSH qualifications.

The course focuses on the prevention of catastrophic accidents and near misses associated with loss of containment of energy or dangerous substances such as chemicals and hydrocarbons.

Further details are available here:
11-13 June 2019, Building Services Explained
Manchester, 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=a1E0O00001YqwANUAZ

11-13 June 2019, Diversity And Inclusion In The Workplace
Malmö, Sweden

Diversity, equality and inclusion are becoming more and more relevant for companies and other organizations. The society is changing demographically which reflects in the workplaces. Companies are facing harsher competition to attracted talented workforce.

Customers are becoming more aware of and sensible to social responsibility and sustainability. All these matters can be addressed through diversity, equality and inclusion work in organizations.

Further details are available here: https://niva.org/course/diversity-and-inclusion-in-the-workplace

11 June 2019, Supporting Staff Wellbeing In The Workplace
London, UK

Poor workplace wellbeing has been found to cause a decrease in productivity for 63% of employees in the UK, whilst 21% of workers leave their jobs because they feel that the company culture does not align with their personal values.

With only 10% of UK organisations having a stand-alone wellbeing strategy, and just 17% of these evaluating their impact effectively, organisations must take greater responsibility for the wellbeing of their staff.

Further details are available here: www.westminster-briefing.com/event/supporting-staff-wellbeing-workplace

12 June 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=a1E0O00001Yqx09UAB
12 June 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:

13 June 2019, Identifying, Referring And Supporting Victims Of Human Trafficking And Modern Slavery
London, UK

The Home Office recently appointed a new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to help spearhead the UK’s response to the devastating crime. The new commissioner will be driving new initiatives to prevent offences, identify and protect victims of modern slavery, and to ensure the right support is provided for victims and survivors.

Join us in June to hear the latest guidance and good practice from leading experts and practitioners in the field on how to identify, refer and support victims of trafficking and modern slavery. This is an important event for local authorities, the police, health officials and other key stakeholders.

Further details are available here:
www.westminster-briefing.com/Modern_Slavery_Victims

13 June 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:
**13 June 2019, National Safety And Health Conference 2019**
Sheffield, UK

The National Safety and Health Conference (NSHC) is proud to run its 44th year in 2019, which is a key event for safety and health professionals primarily in the public, healthcare, education, environmental and waste management sectors, plus the wider safety and health community.

This year, the conference is titled, ‘Looking after the worker’ and will provide you with tools for every step of the journey from workplace best practise to facing major incidents. Enhance your knowledge and learn from practical examples with a panel of inspiring speakers.

Further details are available here:  

**14 June 2019, Air Conditioning And Cooling Systems**
London, UK

This course introduces the fundamental principles of refrigeration systems and considers the optimisation of these systems for the purpose of energy efficiency.

Frequently encountered problems and their associated solutions are examined and explained with illustrated examples.

Further details are available here:  
[https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001Yqtr7UAB](https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001Yqtr7UAB)

**14 June 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=a1E0O00001Yqw6UAB](https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001Yqw6UAB)

**18 June 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=a1E0O00001YqwnUAB](https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqwnUAB)
18 June 2019, Display Screen Equipment (DSE) Risk Management
Buxton, UK

This course, delivered by experienced HSL ergonomists, will provide you with an understanding of DSE risks and approach to risk management and with the documentation to provide your employer with risk assessments.

The course covers the key elements for office DSE risk assessment and management and provides the information and techniques required to enable anyone to become a DSE assessor. We also discuss risk management for less common DSE issues such as hot-desking and dual screens, and mobile technology such as tablet pcs, smartphones and laptops. Guidance on how to set up a computer workstation in the office is mirrored for home activity or when you are on the move with DSE.

Further details are available here:
www.hsl.gov.uk/health-and-safety-training-courses/display-screen-equipment-(dse)-risk-management

18-20 June 2019, Electrical Services Explained
Manchester, UK

Gain a better appreciation of many of the issues associated with design, installation and maintenance of electrical systems.

This course will allow you to develop your own engineering judgments and confidence when dealing with electrical issues.

Further details are available here:
https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001Yqx17UAB

18-20 June 2019, Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) Regulations Training: Competent Persons Course
Scarborough, UK

With the implementation of The Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations in 2016 it is important for any organisation to understand if EMF may impact on its employees or visitors. This may include the effect of work equipment on medical implants as well as direct effect on the human body.

The course is designed to meet the requirements of the Electromagnetic Fields Regulations, giving you the knowledge and skills to be classed as ‘competent’ to carry out risk assessments and control measures. The subjects covered vary from the principles of fields and waves, to the identification and management of EMF problems. Practical elements are included to help you with the task of reducing exposure in the workplace and to assist in getting to grips with measuring instrumentation.

Further details are available here:
www.castletrainingacademy.com/emf-regulations-training.php

18-20 June 2019, Firex International 2019
London, UK

Enhance your knowledge, stay on-top of critical developments and discover the products, solutions and ideas transforming the fire protection and life safety profession with FIREX International 2019’s comprehensive new seminar programme.

Hear from industry influencers on everything from the aftermath of the government’s Hackitt report to smoke and carbon monoxide alarm regulations, and stay in touch with the thought leadership at the forefront of the rapidly-changing fire safety landscape.
Further details are available here:
www.firex.co.uk

18-20 June 2019, Safety And Health Expo
London, UK

Join 14,000 professionals at Safety and Health Expo, Europe’s leading health and safety event, taking place on 18-20 June 2019 at ExCeL London.

Source solutions across occupational health, wellbeing, PPE, site safety and more and meet thousands of health and safety professionals from around the world at Safety and Health Expo. Register today for free to discover the largest range of health, safety and wellbeing solutions and inform your strategy for the year ahead.

Further details are available here:
www.safety-health-expo.co.uk

18 June 2019, UK Farming Productivity: Land Use, Innovation And The Impact Of Policy Developments
London, UK

This seminar will discuss the next steps for improving farming productivity in the UK - with discussion on priorities for land management, innovation, skills and the impact of policy developments.

At a time of considerable change for farming in the UK with Brexit potentially having an impact on market access, welfare standards and future subsidy arrangements - delegates will discuss how best to promote and improve productivity on farm both through policy and through innovative technology and practice.

Further details are available here:
www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/The-future-for-UK-farming-19

19-20 June 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:
Layers Of Protection Analysis (LOPA) is a risk assessment method used to determine and hence demonstrate the ability of existing and proposed safeguards to protect against identified hazard scenarios and to meet predetermined risk based criteria.

The Process Safety Leadership Group (PSLG) prepared specific guidance for the applications of LOPA to determine the required safety integrity level (SIL) for overfill protection of highly flammable fuel storage tanks at sites similar to Buncefield. The course presenter was a member of the PSLG LOPA working group that developed the LOPA guidance. This course will draw on that guidance, its relevance to LOPA assessment in general, and pitfalls identified during the assessment of a large number of LOPA studies from the petrochemical industry.


This conference will discuss next steps for energy storage in the UK. It will be an opportunity to discuss the opportunities and possible barriers for increasing energy storage in the UK - including discussion of what form this storage should take, balancing large and small scale projects, and what more can be done to drive investment in the sector in order to support the greater use of renewables and low carbon energy sources.

Further details are available here: [www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/energy-storage-sector-UK-19](http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/conference/energy-storage-sector-UK-19)

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=a1E0O00001YqwOmUAJ](https://cibse.force.com/s/lt-event?id=a1E0O00001YqwOmUAJ)

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:

**25-26 June 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:

**25-27 June 2019, Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) Training: Competent Persons Course**
Peterborough, 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

**25 June 2019, HSE Inspectors’ Guide To Risk Assessment**
Manchester, UK

An alternative date is listed below.

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.


**25 June 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.


**25 June 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.


**25 June 2019, Managing Workplace Stress**  
Newcastle, UK

This programme is structured around the 6 HSE standards for the control of stress in the workplace. These are universal requirements for the stress management compliance.

Macnaughton McGregor programmes furnish you not only with the knowledge and tools to effectively manage stress in the workplace but most importantly through the use of our unique Living Case Study process allow you to build the practical skills necessary apply this knowledge back in your workplace.

Further details are available here: www.cia.org.uk/Training-and-events/Training-courses/Event-Details/eventDateId/2236
26 June 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=a1E0O00001Yqx3DUAR

26 June 2019, HSE Inspectors’ Guide To Risk Assessment  
Manchester, UK

An alternative date is listed above.

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:  

26 June 2019, Machinery Series: Machinery Directive  
Buxton, UK

The design, supply and incorporation of machinery into assemblies within the European Economic area is governed by the European Machinery Directive that was significantly amended in 2006. In the UK this directive has been transposed into the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations that came into force at the end of December 2009. 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.

This course is intended primarily for people who design and supply machines and create assemblies of machines. It is also relevant for people who specify and install new machines or assemblies or make significant modifications to existing machines. The course will also be helpful to anyone who is interested in a detailed understanding of the safety of industrial machinery, the supply of machinery safety regulations as amended.

Further details are available here:  

26 June 2019, Navigating Conservation Covenants: Safeguarding England’s Wildlife And Natural Environment  
London, UK

Legislation on ‘Conservation Covenants’ is being considered for the Government’s forthcoming Environment Bill in order to improve the environment through land management. Conservation Covenants are private, legally binding agreements that deliver lasting conservation benefits for public good. A recent consultation sought views on (1) the potential and suitability of the statutory

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IHS Markit  
The Occupational Health & Safety Information Service  
Health & Safety News Brief – Issue No. 313
mechanism to introduce conservation covenants, (2) the safeguards that need to be included and (3) possible unintended consequences.

Join Westminster Briefing on the 26th of June for an overview of conservation covenants proposals. We will examine current Government plans and Law Commission proposals in this area, future developments and how conservation covenants could work in practice.

Further details are available here:
www.westminster-briefing.com/Navigating_Conservation_Covenants

27 June 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.

Further details are available here:

27 June 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:

27 June 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.


**27-29 August 2019, From Age Management To Life Course Management**
Skodsborg, Denmark

*Registration deadline: 16 June 2019*

This course will focus on life course management concept and practices in work organizations comprising not only organizational level activities, such as top management, HR-policy and line-management practices, but also individual level activities, such as peer-support groups, self-help tools and work ability coaching.

The purpose of the course is to provide participants clear insights of current empirical evidence of effectiveness of organizational and individual level activities in supporting longer and better working careers among employees with all ages. Participants will gain understanding of theoretical background concepts and their practical application in form of concrete tools for work organizations as part of life course management practices.

Further details are available here: [https://niva.org/course/from-age-management-to-life-course-management](https://niva.org/course/from-age-management-to-life-course-management)

**11-12 September 2019, Thirteenth Carbon Dioxide Utilization Summit**
Calgary, Canada

Active Communications International Inc.’s 13th Carbon Dioxide Utilization Summit will follow on from the successful series of conferences focusing on the re-use of greenhouse gas CO2 and converting this into profitable sustainable and commercial materials. It will be taking place in Calgary, Canada on the 11th and 12th of September 2019, and it’s a one-time special edition of this event.

The two day event will bring together senior experts from various CO2 emitting industries discussing sustainable, technological and commercial aspects of CO2 Utilization in Canada and across the globe. With technology comparisons focusing on economic, environmental, and social indicators, our panel of speakers will highlight knowledgeable insights into commercial application and development of technology and products.

Further details are available here: [www.wplgroup.com/aci/event/co2-canada](www.wplgroup.com/aci/event/co2-canada)

**24-26 September 2019, Occupational Health And Safety In Agriculture And Horticulture**
Malmö, Sweden

*Registration deadline: 1 July 2019*

This course addresses health and safety challenges and injury prevention among farmers, their employees and farm family members including youth, children, elders and migrant workers, specific for primarily the Nordic but also European countries. The purpose of the course is to give the participants a profound knowledge and understanding based on the newest research-based
information, and training based on the best practices in the field of agricultural and horticultural health and safety issues related to Nordic (European) agriculture and horticulture.

Furthermore, the purpose is also to highlight the need to give attention to healthy and safe behavior resilient to work processes and work environment and to help understand what health and safety in agriculture and horticulture can mean in this wider context. An additional important goal of the course is to help participants to network and exchange experiences and knowledge.

Further details are available here:
## EVENTS TIMETABLE: May 2019 – June 2019

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<td>8th</td>
<td>Air Conditioning Inspection for Buildings</td>
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<td>14th</td>
<td>Improving UK Occupational Health And Safety: Protecting Human Rights And Ensuring Healthy Work Environments</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/JE14-PPE">www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/JE14-PPE</a></td>
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<td>NASHiCS Forum For Safety And Health In Care Services</td>
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<td>Biodiversity 2020 And Beyond: Developing UK Strategy And Embedding Conservation At The National And Local Levels</td>
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<td>SDS Awareness For Small Companies: Writing Safety Data Sheets</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td>Understanding Smoke Control</td>
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<td>20th - 22nd</td>
<td>Building Services Explained</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
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<td>21st</td>
<td>Root Cause Analysis Training Course</td>
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<td>23rd</td>
<td>Hospital Food Standards: Revitalising Your Food And Drink Strategy</td>
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<td>23rd</td>
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Welcome to the second part of the Occupational Health and 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 and 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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Energy Storage To Meet Energy Targets And Achieve Climate Objectives

The EU needs better energy storage to meet its energy targets and achieve its climate objectives, according to a new briefing paper published by the European Court of Auditors.

EFSA Launches Consultation On Draft Dietary Reference Values For Sodium And Chloride

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has launched a consultation on draft dietary reference values (DRV s) for sodium and chloride, the final two nutrients in its review of scientific advice on nutrient intakes for the EU population.

Health Claims On Product Packaging Marketed To Children

The health claims made on the product packaging for a large proportion of foods marketed to children in the UK are confusing and could be contributing to rising rates of childhood obesity, suggests new research.

Call For Evidence On Violence And Abuse Towards Shop Staff

The Home Office is calling for evidence to enable the Government to understand the true scale of the issue of violence and abuse toward retail staff, including measures which may help prevent these incidents and the extent to which existing legislation is being used to tackle them, in order to identify examples of best practice.

All But Three Car Manufacturers Met Specific Emission Targets In 2017

All but three car manufacturers met their specific emission targets in 2017, based on current European vehicle test rules.

Supplements For Joint Problems Should Be Avoided By Certain Populations

In France, the use of dietary supplements containing glucosamine and/or chondroitin sulphate, presented as being able to contribute to joint comfort, has increased significantly.

EU Court Of Justice Advocate Rules On Glyphosate

Eleanor Sharpston, Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) has concluded that the European system of authorisation for plant protection products is sound and pays due consideration to protection against the risks to health and the environment.

New Discussion Paper Examines Sustainable Food Systems

The Faculty of Public Health’s (FPH’s) Food Special Interest Group has published a discussion paper in collaboration with The Soil Association, examining sustainable food systems.

Latest Tuberculosis (Tb) Epidemiological Situation

During the last five years, in the WHO European Region, TB mortality rates have fallen on average by 10% per year, which is the fastest decline observed in the world. European Region has also documented the fastest decline in TB incidence among all WHO Regions.

Implications Of Resources And Waste Strategy For England On Local Authorities

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has launched a new inquiry into the implications of the Resources and Waste Strategy for England on local authorities.

Precautionary Approach On Cancer Risk Of Diesel Engine Exhaust Emissions

Diesel engine exhaust emissions (DEEE) from new engines may well pose less cancer risk than DEEEE from older engines, but the lack of evidence and the fact that a mix of older and new equipment is currently in use means a conservative and precautionary approach on the risk.

Ball Pits May Contribute To Pathogen Transmission

The popularity of ball pits has increased since mainstream commercial restaurants installed them throughout the USA in the 1980s, and they are often found to be contaminated with visible dirt, vomit, faeces, or urine, providing a permissive environment for contamination.

Trafficking And Modern Slavery Rises By More Than 80% In Two Years

The number of potential victims of trafficking and modern slavery reported to the authorities has risen by more than 80% in two years, according to figures released by the National Crime Agency.
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EU countries that decide to keep their summer time will make their final clock change on the last Sunday in March 2021. Those that prefer to keep their standard (winter) time, can adjust their clocks for the final time on the last Sunday in October 2021, says the draft law approved by MEPs with 410 in favour, 192 against, 51 abstentions ........................................................................................................................................... 68

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Severn Trent Water has been fined £500,000 for discharging a substantial amount of raw sewage from its sewer network onto land at Sutton Park, West Midlands. ........................................................................................................................................... 68
Air Quality In London Leads To Hospital Admissions

Poor air quality in the UK’s capital leads to around 1,000 London hospital admissions for asthma and serious lung conditions every year. This is according to new research carried out by King’s College London and Imperial College, which has found on average four Londoners, including one child, are hospitalised every day due to asthma caused by air pollution.

The report was commissioned by the Mayor of London and estimates that between 2014 – 2016 more than 4,000 Londoners were hospitalised because air pollution worsened their asthma or, in the elderly, serious lung conditions. It is estimated 600,000 people in London suffer from asthma, 240,000 of whom are children. Around 1,000 of those hospital admissions were of children under the age of 14. Asthma is the most common reason for urgent admissions to hospital in children in England. The total number of asthma admissions for children in London over the period of this study was 11,000 – meaning almost 10% of children’s asthma admissions are due to London’s air pollution.

Two thirds of people with asthma say air pollution leaves them fighting for breath. While hospitalisation due to asthma can be a relatively rare occurrence, it is still extremely serious. However, many more people with the condition who do not go to hospital are still affected by high levels of air pollution and have to use their medication, such as inhalers, more frequently.

Older people were also badly affected, with a high number of over-65s also suffering from the serious lung condition chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, COPD, which is made worse by air pollution. On average, over the period of the study, two Londoners over the age of 65 were hospitalised every day due asthma or COPD exacerbated by air pollution.

The cost of air pollution on London’s health system has been calculated as billions of pounds a year.

As part of effort to curb toxic air the Mayor of London launched an Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in central London on 8 April 2019. Operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, most vehicles including cars and vans will need to meet new, tighter emissions standards or be liable for a daily charge to drive in the zone. The central London ULEZ aims to reduce toxic emissions from road transport by around 45%.

Health Impact Assessment of Air Pollution on Asthma in London:  

New Study Assesses Sampling Points For Air Quality

Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (AAQD) lays down limit and target values for certain air pollutants. Compliance with these thresholds is checked by air quality monitoring sites, which are required to be installed by Member States at specific locations. There are two main types of monitoring site locations, those measuring the highest concentration with risk of general population exposure during a certain period, and locations measuring a more general exposure. To ensure comparability across Europe, the AAQD defines criteria for the location and number of monitoring sites, which should be representative, as their number is limited due to financial restrictions.

This new study aims at supporting the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament (ENVI) in their efforts to assess the adequacy of the criteria for air quality monitoring for a harmonised and consistent implementation of the provisions of the AAQD. To this end, a representative selection of monitoring stations in zones in Austria, Germany, France, Italy, and Poland was examined. The study also explores the differences in exposure and exposure trends in selected Member States and further provides an overview of measures implemented to not only improve air quality, but also of information provided to the public.

The AAQD requires a minimum number of monitoring sites per zone, depending on air pollution levels and population density. In most of the analysed zones, the legal provisions for the minimum number of monitoring sites are fulfilled. However, in some zones PM2.5 monitoring sites were missing.
Provisions of the AAQD for macroscale and microscale siting criteria for air quality monitoring sites should ensure representative and consistent monitoring strategies for air pollutants for all zones in Europe and most of the analysed monitoring stations comply with the siting criteria.

However, with the exception of Germany, no documentation is available showing if the traffic-orientated monitoring stations cover the areas with the highest concentration per zone. Furthermore, it was found that none of the analysed Member States have prepared documentation showing if monitoring sites reflect the general population exposure.

The broad siting specifications and criteria of the Directive can be interpreted differently by Member States. This study thus assesses how Member States transposed the AAQD into national legislation and analyses the ambiguities in its provisions and guidance documents, as well as their possible impact on the assessment of the general population exposure. In most of the analysed Member States, the AAQD was directly transposed into national law without further amendments regarding the number and criteria for monitoring stations.

The following main ambiguities in the provisions were identified:

- According to the AAQD, microscale criteria apply only 'in so far as practicable', and the macroscale criteria only 'where feasible'. This leaves room for interpretation and requires the network operator to only document cases related to deviations from the microscale criteria.
- There is no definition for the general population exposure.
- There is a number of unspecific provisions, such as those regarding the distance to buildings, the air flow to the inlet sampling and the vicinity of sources.
- There are some ambiguities concerning the distribution of monitoring stations between an 'urban background' and 'traffic'.

Of all analysed zones at urban background sites, which are the most relevant station type regarding general exposure, the highest NO2 levels occur in Italy. PM10 and PM2.5 levels are highest in the Po Valley (Lombardy) and Poland, while ozone levels are highest in the Po Valley. In general, air pollutant levels have declined in recent years. However, an exception is ozone, which shows a more stagnant tendency. In case of exceedances of an air quality limit or target value, the AAQD requires the Member States to develop and implement an Air Quality Plan, which should ensure compliance with the limit value in the shortest time possible. Such a plan has been implemented in all analysed zones and agglomerations. Most of these plans include a number of traffic-related measures and general traffic strategies, e.g. to improve public transport and reduce private car use.

An estimation of the measure's and the plan's impact on the exposure to air pollutants is available only for a few zones and agglomerations.

Based on the analysis of monitoring sites, air quality data and air quality plans, a number of conclusions can be drawn:

- Member States have directly transposed the provisions of the AAQD. The ambiguities of the provision are also reflected in the national legislation.
- Most of the requirements of the AAQD were fulfilled in all analysed Member States and the number of monitoring stations is clearly sufficient in each case. However, it is not clear from the available documentation if the location with the highest concentration is covered by a fixed monitoring site in all Member States. In addition, air flow at some monitoring sites might be obstructed by trees.
- The analysis revealed a number of ambiguities in the current provisions, which should be clarified when revising the AAQD. This refers in particular to the methods for the identification of the highest concentration and the general population exposure, to a number of imprecise or
ambiguous provisions in the siting criteria, and to certain definitions in the current guidance document. These ambiguities could lead to differing assessments of maximum concentrations and general population exposures, thereby potentially compromising the protection of human health against the negative impact of air pollution. In addition, documentation of site selection is not readily available for most zones. This documentation would allow to fully assess if a monitoring site fulfils the criteria and whether the highest concentrations are covered by the monitoring network.

A number of recommendations are outlined and could be addressed during the review process of the AAQD:

• There is a need for further development of provisions for the identification of highest concentrations, including regular updates, modelling and / or passive sampling campaigns

• Further clarification of the ambiguities in the provisions regarding the microscale and macroscale siting criteria, as well as the number and distribution of monitoring stations is required

• Provision for the delivery of documentation (and regular update) of monitoring site selection should be made, comprising requirements for a complete, thorough assessment, including modelling

• There should be development of definitions for imprecise but crucial concepts, such as the ‘general population exposure’ and provisions for the representativeness of monitoring sites

• The impact of suggested changes to the provisions regarding monitoring locations should be substantiated by modelling or monitoring exercises

• The number of PM2.5 sites is considerably lower compared to PM10, which does not reflect the potential impact on human health. Their required minimum number should therefore be increased

• Regarding air quality plans, requirements for diesel vehicles could be tightened in some zones, and a general reduction of the overall amount of traffic could be considered.

Sampling Points for Air Quality: Representativeness and comparability of measurement in accordance with Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe: 

**New HSE COSHH Guidance For Woodworking**

This information will help employers, the self-employed and franchisees to comply with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH), as amended, to control exposure to wood dusts and protect workers’ health.

The following updated direct advice sheets are now available:

• WD0: Advice for managers

• WD1: Bandsaws

• WD2: Circular bench saws

• WD3: Cross cut saws

• WD4: Vertical spindle moulders

• WD5: Overhead and CNC routers
• WD7: Hand-held sanding machines
• WD10: Wall saw
• WD11: Surface planer
• WD12: Fixed sanding machines – narrow belt
• WD13: Fixed sanding machines – disc
• WD14: Fixed sanding machines – drum/bobbin
• WD15: Chop saw
• WD17: Suction hose attachment for cleaning

The direct advice sheets may be downloaded from:
www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/essentials/direct-advice/woodworking.htm

Further Improved Quality And Access To Drinking Water
On 28 March 2019, the European Parliament voted in favour of an update of the rules to increase consumer confidence and encourage the drinking of tap water.

According to a report by the European Environment Agency (2016), more than 98.5% of tests carried out on drinking water samples between 2011 and 2013, met EU standards.

The new legislation aims to further increase tap water quality by tightening the maximum limits for certain pollutants such as lead (to be reduced by half), or harmful bacteria and introduces new caps for the most polluting substances found in tap water. Levels of microplastics will also be monitored. The new rules would also increase transparency and provide consumers better access to information.

Drinking tap water is cheap and environmentally friendly. MEPs want measures such as installing free fountains in public places - including shopping centres and airports - where feasible, and encourage the provision of tap water in restaurants.

According to the European Commission, access to better quality water could reduce bottled water consumption by 17%. This, in turn, would help people save money and also have a positive impact on the environment, by reducing CO2 emissions and plastic waste.

The rules will now have to be negotiated and agreed with the Council in the next parliamentary term.

www.europarl.europa.eu

Bayer Releases Safety Study Reports As Part Of Transparency Initiative
Following a court order to disclose safety information about the cancer risks associated with the application of Roundup, Bayer has released a number of glyphosate studies used by its Monsanto unit to convince European regulators to declare that the controversial weed killer is safe.

As a consequence, all 107 Bayer-owned glyphosate safety study reports which were submitted to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) as part of the substance authorisation process in the EU are now accessible on Bayer’s dedicated transparency platform.

The data was released after a European Union court ordered the release of the information to the public amid rising concerns about undue influence Monsanto has exerted on regulators in recent years.
Bayer purchased Monsanto in 2018 and now owns the Roundup brand. Despite growing concerns and scientific evidence suggesting that glyphosate and other ingredients may be carcinogenic, Bayer and Monsanto have continued to claim that their product is safe and do not provide consumers with any warnings or instructions that may reduce the risks associated with exposure.

Bayer’s Transparency Platform may be found here: www.cropscience-transparency.bayer.com

**European Commission Publishes Environmental Implementation Review**

The European Commission has published the second Environmental Implementation Review, part of an initiative launched in 2016 to improve the implementation of European environmental policy and commonly agreed rules in all EU Member States.

Implementing EU environmental policy and law is not only essential for a healthy environment, but also opens up new opportunities for sustainable economic growth, innovation and jobs. Full implementation of EU environmental legislation could save around €55 billion every year in health costs and direct costs to the environment.

The Review maps out the situation of environmental policies and rules implementation in each EU country and identifies the causes of implementation gaps. It helps to find solutions before problems become urgent and aims to assist national decision-makers by outlining the priorities requiring their attention.

The package includes twenty-eight country reports showing the current state of play in the implementation of EU environmental law, as well as opportunities for improvement in each Member State and a Communication drawing conclusions and defining common trends at EU level. It also outlines recommendations for improvements to all Member States with key priority actions.

The Review shows that eighteen Member States continue to struggle with high levels of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions and fifteen countries need to further reduce emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10).

The UK is tasked with a number of priority actions on better environmental implementation in a number of areas, including:

**Waste Management**

- Introduce new policies, including economic instruments, to implement further the waste hierarchy, i.e. promote prevention, and make reuse and recycling more economically attractive; and/or implement the policies which are already in place.

- Improve the functioning of Extended Producer Responsibility Systems, in line with the general minimum requirements established in the Waste Framework Directive.

- Introduce and/or gradually increase landfill taxes to phase out landfilling of recyclable and recoverable waste. Harmonise regional landfill taxes. Channel the revenue towards measures to improve waste management in line with the waste hierarchy.

- Focus on implementation of the separate collection obligation to increase recycling rates, including collection of bio-waste. Develop and implement minimum service standards and/or support programmes for municipalities.

**Nature and Biodiversity**

- Complete the Natura 2000 site designation process, including in the marine part, and/or put in place clearly defined conservation objectives and the necessary conservation measures for
all Natura 2000 sites, ideally in the framework of site management plans or equivalent instruments.

- Continue to support the ongoing work on a sustainable partnership for biodiversity protection, sustainable development and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in some of the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories.

**Invasive Alien Species**

- Adopt national legislation to comply with obligations required by the IAS Regulation and notify the Commission in this regard. Provide adequate data.

**Marine Protection**

- Define good environmental status (GES) and/or determine the timelines for achieving GES. Targets should be set when these do not exist.

- Provide more information about measures to achieve GES, establish more measures with a direct impact on pressures and quantify the result in terms of expected reduction of pressure.

- Ensure regional co-operation with Member States sharing the same marine (sub)region to address predominant pressures.

- Ensure that the Member State’s monitoring programme is implemented without delay and is reported by the set deadline.

**Air Quality**

- In developing adequate national air pollution control programmes (NAPCP), take actions towards reducing the main emission sources; and meet all air quality standards.

- Speed up reductions in emissions of nitrogen oxide (NOx) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) concentrations by further reducing transport emissions, in particular in urban areas. This may also require proportionate and targeted restrictions on vehicle access to urban areas and/or fiscal incentives.

**Industrial Emissions**

- Review permits and strengthen control and/or enforcement to comply with newly adopted BAT conclusions.

- Address air and/or water pollution linked to emissions from installations in one or more of the following sectors: power, intensive rearing of poultry and pigs, waste treatment activities, iron and steel plants.

**Water Quality and Management**

- Improve monitoring and assessment of all relevant quality elements in all water categories in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.

- Ensure that water pollution from agriculture, among other sectors, is effectively addressed under the Nitrates and/or Water Framework Directives.

- Take steps to reinforce the aspect of public participation and the active involvement of stakeholders (river basin management plans/flood risk management plans).
Environmental Funding and Investments

- Ensure adequate funding, including by mobilising investments and using EU funds, to tackle the main environmental challenges affecting the country.

Compliance Assurance

- Better inform the public about compliance promotion, monitoring and enforcement
- Ensure more information on how professionals dealing with environmental crime work together
- Improve financial security for Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) liabilities and/or ELD guidance, and/or the collection and publication of information on environmental damage.
- Publish information on the outcome of enforcement action and on the follow-up to detected cross-compliance breaches on nitrates and nature

Given the impact of air pollution on health, the European Commission has engaged in clean air dialogues with several EU countries, in addition to more targeted enforcement actions.

While overall the policy framework for the circular economy has been strengthened, waste prevention remains an important challenge for all Member States. On waste management, nine countries are on track and five have already reached the recycling targets, but fourteen are at risk of missing the 2020 municipal waste recycling target.

Where water is concerned, much remains to be done to fully achieve the objectives of the respective water directives - in particular good status for our water bodies until 2027. Urban wastewater is still not treated properly in two thirds of Member States. Increased investments are essential to meet these objectives and EU funds will continue to back up implementation efforts.

When it comes to the protection of nature and biodiversity, the Natura 2000 network has continued to expand on land and at sea. The EU has already surpassed the target of defining 10% of its coastal and marine areas as Marine Protected Areas by 2020 as set by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Nevertheless, most Member States need to speed up their efforts for the completion and management of the Natura 2000 network.

Regarding climate change, Member States have made good progress in implementing EU climate legislation and the 2020 targets are likely to be met. Nevertheless, efforts in each Member State and at EU level need to be intensified to comply with our international commitments under the Paris Agreement and prevent the worst consequences of climate change.

The Environmental Implementation Review put in place a new tool – the Peer-to-Peer programme - to stimulate environmental authorities from different Member States to learn from each other's experiences across borders. Since its launch, all Member States were involved in at least one event covering circular economy, air quality, timber regulation, nature and biodiversity and water quality topics.

The Review also assesses some enabling factors that could drastically improve implementation, such as environmental governance. The Commission is calling upon Member States to improve the integration of environmental objectives with other policy goals, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public administration and to be more transparent with environmentally relevant information. There is also scope to further engage regional and local authorities and other stakeholders in tackling the main implementation challenges.

Further information on The Environmental Implementation Review is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eir/index_en.htm
Energy Storage To Meet Energy Targets And Achieve Climate Objectives

The EU needs better energy storage to meet its energy targets and achieve its climate objectives, according to a new briefing paper published by the European Court of Auditors. The auditors identify challenges to energy storage technologies in the EU, both for the grid and transport. They warn that EU battery manufacturing capacity lags behind international competitors and might remain below the European Battery Alliance’s 2025 target.

Energy storage can help to achieve EU energy and climate goals. Energy storage technologies provide a flexible response to the imbalances caused by an increased share of variable renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, in the power grid. Fuels produced from renewable sources, such as renewable electricity or hydrogen, can help to reduce transport emissions, whilst improved energy storage technology can support the expansion of the fleet of vehicles using such fuels.

The briefing paper outlines the main challenges to EU support for the development and deployment of energy storage, which the auditors found to be threefold: designing an EU strategy for energy storage, using research and innovation effectively, and establishing a supportive legislative framework.

According to the auditors, whilst the EU has taken steps to develop a strategic framework for energy storage, there is a risk that the measures taken so far will not be sufficient to achieve the EU strategic objectives for clean energy.

The auditors warn that the current EU strategy might not meet energy transition challenges. They say the EU is developing the manufacturing capacity for lithium-ion batteries (as used in electric vehicles) later than other leading global regions. As such, it may have difficulties gaining a competitive advantage.

At the same time, the European Battery Alliance - established with the aim of creating competitive, sustainable battery-manufacturing in Europe - is largely focused on existing rather than breakthrough technologies, and risks not achieving its ambitious objectives.

With regard to electric mobility, the auditors warn that late and inconsistent deployment of charging infrastructure could delay the widespread take-up of electric vehicles.

The audit identified the following main challenges to EU support for the development and deployment of energy storage technologies:

- Lack of a coherent strategy
- Need for increased stakeholder support
- The complexity of EU research funding should be simplified
- Need to support research and innovation in energy storage technologies
- Storage technologies should be deployed
- Remove obstacles encountered by investors; and
- Develop alternative fuels infrastructure

EFSA Launches Consultation On Draft Dietary Reference Values For Sodium And Chloride

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has launched a consultation on draft dietary reference values (DRVs) for sodium and chloride, the final two nutrients in its review of scientific advice on nutrient intakes for the EU population.

Sodium and chloride are the two elements in salt, commonly used in the diet as an ingredient, condiment or preservative.

The Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens provisionally considers for the general adult population (including pregnant and lactating women):

- An intake of 2g sodium per day to be safe and adequate, considering evidence on the risk of cardiovascular disease on the one hand and nutrition adequacy on the other;
- An intake of 3.1g chloride per day to be safe and adequate, taking account that the main source of chloride in EU diets is sodium chloride.

The panel also proposes age-specific values of both nutrients for children, adjusting for differences in energy requirement and including growth factors. Adequate intakes for infants above 6 months of age were derived from the intakes of breastfed infants below 6 months of age.

EFSA’s provisional reference values are not nutrient goals nor recommendations for populations or individuals, but are meant to serve policy makers in the EU and its Member States to inform nutrition policies and issue dietary guidelines to help consumers make healthy dietary choices.

Interested parties should submit comments by 22 May 2019.


Public consultation on the draft scientific opinion on dietary reference values for chloride: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/190403-0

Health Claims On Product Packaging Marketed To Children

The health claims made on the product packaging for a large proportion of foods marketed to children in the UK are confusing and could be contributing to rising rates of childhood obesity, suggests new research.

Stricter regulations are needed for food labelling and product content to lessen this risk, urge the researchers.

Child-focused marketing techniques, using cartoon characters, toys, games and promotions (cards and vouchers), have long been used in advertising. However, the use of health and nutrition claims for particular foodstuffs is a more recent trend. Evidence suggests that when such claims are made, they create a positive impression, a phenomenon known as the ‘health halo effect’.

While steps have been taken to control the advertising to children of products high in fat and sugar, such as sweets, chocolates and sugar sweetened drinks, rather less attention has been paid to other foods carrying product packaging claims suggesting that they contribute to good health/nutrition, say the researchers. By way of addressing this, they scrutinised the energy, fat, sugar, and salt content of foods marketed to children above the age of 1. Such foods are widely available in various large food retail outlets in the UK.

The researchers focused on products with child-focused imagery and health and nutrition claims on the product packaging, including terms such as ‘one of 5 a day,’ in reference to the UK government's push to get everyone to eat five portions of fruit/vegetables every day.
A total of 332 different products, including breakfast cereals, fruit snacks, fruit-based drinks, dairy products, such as yogurts, and ready meals were assessed, using the broadcast regulator's tool (Ofcom NPM) to identify so-called 'healthy' food. This uses a scoring system, made up of seven elements: energy; total sugars; saturated fat; salt; fruit/vegetables/nuts; fibre; protein from the product labelling information, to classify the nutritional quality of foods.

The calculations showed that a large proportion of the products, including those commonly perceived as 'healthy' (41%), were classified as 'less healthy,' by the tool scoring system.

Cereal bars had the highest energy and saturated fat content, while cereals had the highest salt content.

Fruit snacks had the highest sugar content, averaging 48 g/100 g, but still made the 5-a day claim, in many cases, which is likely to confuse parents, suggest the researchers.

One in three products contained concentrated fruit juice as an added ingredient while one in four used pureed fruit. Nearly a quarter of the products made 'no added sugars' claims, but half had concentrated juice or fruit puree as the added ingredients.

According to the researchers, processed fruits are perceived by the public as a healthy natural alternative to added sugars, but because of the breakdown of the cellular structure they potentially have the same negative effect on weight gain as other forms of sugar, which is why they have recently been classified as free sugars in the UK.

Many products (over 41%) made 5-a day claims, most of which were fruit drinks, ready meals, and fruit snacks. Processed fruit, concentrated fruit juice, or puree appeared as ingredients in nearly half (just over 44%) of these products.

Despite most (82%) of them claiming to contain one portion of fruit or vegetables, three out of four didn't contain the recommended 80g portion size and half of the products making 5-a day claims failed to specify whether these were adult or child size portions.

The serving size for most (nearly 95%) fruit-based drinks exceeded the recommended 150ml limit for fruit juice, yet the fruit and vegetable portions for most products were below the recommended portion size.

The researchers caution that while they tried to include as representative a sample of products as possible, some may have been missed, and they were obliged to estimate the content of some products in the absence of adequate ingredient information on the packaging.

Ada L García, Gabriela Morillo-Santander, Alison Parrett, Antonina N Mutoro.

Confused health and nutrition claims in food marketing to children could adversely affect food choice and increase risk of obesity

Archives of Disease in Childhood, 2019; archdischild-2018-315870
DOI: 10.1136/archdischild-2018-315870

Call For Evidence On Violence And Abuse Towards Shop Staff
The Home Office is calling for evidence is to enable the Government to understand the true scale of the issue of violence and abuse toward retail staff, including measures which may help prevent these incidents and the extent to which existing legislation is being used to tackle them, in order to identify examples of best practice.

This call for evidence covers violence and abuse toward all staff working within a retail setting (including, for example those working in retail outlets at train stations, town centres and shopping centres) perpetrated by members of the public. It is recognised that this issue extends beyond shop
staff and can affect a range of people providing a service to the public, for example, those working on transport networks and in the hospitality industry.

However, in analysing the responses how the findings may be relevant to other sectors will be taken into consideration.

Comments should be received by 28 June 2019.

Call for Evidence – Violence and Abuse Toward Shop Staff:

All But Three Car Manufacturers Met Specific Emission Targets In 2017
All but three car manufacturers met their specific emission targets in 2017, based on current European vehicle test rules.

The European Environment Agency (EEA) report: Monitoring CO2 emissions from new passenger cars and new vans in 2017 confirms provisional data published by the EEA in April 2018. The final data show that average CO2 emissions of a new car sold in the EU rose by 0.4 g CO2/km in 2017 to 118.5 g CO2/km, from 118.1 g CO2/km in 2016. Although this level remains below the current target level of 130 g CO2/km, it is well above the target of 95 g CO2/km to be achieved by 2021.

Since 2010, when monitoring started under current EU legislation, official emissions from new cars have decreased by 15.5% (almost 22 g CO2/km). However, between 2015 and 2016, emissions decreased by only 1.5 g CO2/km, which was less than half of the average annual reduction needed to reach the 2021 target. The increase in 2017 is confirmation that car makers need to achieve further and faster improvements in manufacturing and promoting more efficient cars.

Average CO2 emissions of new light commercial vehicles (vans) dropped by 7.5 g CO2/km from 2016. The average new van registered in 2017 emitted 156.1 g CO2/km. This reduction brings the EU average emissions 11 % below the 2017 target of 175 g CO2/km and 6% above the 2020 target.

While all van manufacturers respected their specific emission targets in 2017, three car manufacturers (Automobili Lamborghini, Mazda Motor Corporation and Société des Automobiles Alpine), representing together 1.4 % of all new car sales in 2017, exceeded their specific emission targets for 2017. While certain other manufacturers, if considered individually, would have exceeded their specific emission target, they met their obligations as members of pools or thanks to derogations.

Other key findings include:

- For the first year since 2009, petrol cars constituted the majority of new registrations in 2017 (almost 53%). The proportion of electric vehicles (plug-in hybrid and battery electric cars) increased from 1.0% in 2016 to 1.5% in 2017.

- New diesel cars, which were on average around 300 kilograms (kg) heavier than new petrol cars, emitted on average 117.9 g CO2/km, which is 3.7 g CO2/km less than the average petrol car. The average fuel efficiency of new petrol cars has been constant in 2016 and 2017, whereas the fuel-efficiency of new diesel cars has worsened compared to 2016 (116.8 g CO2/km).

- If similar petrol and diesel segments are compared, new conventional petrol cars emitted 10-40 % more than new conventional diesel cars. For diesel cars, only the large sized segment managed to achieve a small reduction (0.5 g CO2/km) in 2017 compared with 2016. For conventional petrol cars, large-sized cars saw a significant reduction in CO2 emissions of around 6 g CO2/km, and medium/small-sized cars remained rather stable.
Amongst the largest automakers, Toyota Motor Europe had the lowest average CO2 emissions for new passenger cars registered in 2017 (with 103 g CO2/km). Automobiles Peugeot and Automobiles Citroen followed with (105 g CO2/km) and (106 g CO2/km), respectively. As in every year since vans monitoring commenced, Automobile Dacia SA was the lowest-emitting vans manufacturer (118 g CO2/km in 2017).

BMW AG, Renault, Daimler AG, Volkswagen together sell more than 50 % of the new electric vehicles in the market.

In December 2018, EU lawmakers reached an agreement on emission targets for the average fleet emissions of new passenger cars and light-commercial vehicles for 2025 and 2030. These targets aim to reduce the average CO2 emissions from new cars by 15 % in 2025 and by 37.5% in 2030, compared with 2021 baseline levels. For light-commercial vehicles, the targets consist of reductions by 15% in 2025 and 31% in 2030, relative to 2021. In February 2019, EU lawmakers also reached an informal agreement setting a 30% reduction target for the average fleet emissions of new trucks by 2030.

Supplements For Joint Problems Should Be Avoided By Certain Populations

In France, the use of dietary supplements containing glucosamine and/or chondroitin sulphate, presented as being able to contribute to joint comfort, has increased significantly. Glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate are molecules naturally present in the connective and cartilage tissues of the body and ensure, among other things, the structure and elasticity of cartilage, tendons and skin. In France, many food supplements containing glucosamine and/or chondroitin sulphate claiming to contribute to joint comfort are available on the market. Indeed, these two compounds are marketed in most European countries as medications and food supplements.

However, adverse reactions potentially associated with the consumption of these food supplements have been identified by the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) nutrivigilance scheme. Adverse reactions related to the consumption of these food supplements have been reported to ANSES in the form of digestive disorders, abdominal pain, skin rashes, itching, hepatitis or purpura (lesions caused by bleeding beneath the skin).

The Agency has thus conducted an assessment to identify the potential risks associated with taking these products and is advising certain populations to avoid consuming food supplements based on glucosamine and/or chondroitin sulphate.

As part of that assessment, ANSES also reviewed reports filed in other countries (Europe, Canada and the United States) and carried out an in-depth analysis of the scientific literature.

Their assessment identified specific populations for whom the consumption of food supplements containing glucosamine or chondroitin sulphate presents a risk:

- Diabetic or pre-diabetic individuals, as well as those who are asthmatic or are treated with vitamin K antagonists (VKA).
- People with a food allergy to crustaceans or insects (glucosamine-based food supplements only).
- People on sodium, potassium or calcium-restricted diets, as these supplements can be an important source of these elements.
- Pregnant or breastfeeding women, as well as children, due to insufficient data on the safety of these products.
ANSES recommends that measures be taken by manufacturers to better inform consumers about the risks associated with the consumption of these food supplements by these specific populations.

The Agency also considers it necessary that the maximum authorised daily doses of glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate in food supplements be standardised at European level based on safety data from robust safety studies - currently lacking - for these two compounds.

www.anses.fr/en

EU Court Of Justice Advocate Rules On Glyphosate
Eleanor Sharpston, Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) has concluded that the European system of authorisation for plant protection products is sound and pays due consideration to protection against the risks to health and the environment. The re-approval of the active substance glyphosate is not an example of supposed flaws in the system.

The background of Sharpston's considerations is criminal proceedings against French environmental activists who damaged shops in several cities in which plant protection products containing glyphosate were sold. The responsible court referred the case to the ECJ because it doubted that the European plant protection product regulation paid sufficient heed to the precautionary principle, i.e. the protection of health and the environment. The conclusions of the Advocates General at the ECJ are recommendations for a ruling, but they are not binding for the court of justice and the verdict is still pending.

In Sharpston's view, the plant protection product regulation is a precautionary measure in itself, as it introduces a system of prior approval for a product group (plant protection products). In response to the question raised by the French court as to whether or not the regulation pays sufficient consideration to the 'cocktail effect', the fact that a marketed end product can contain several active substances, Sharpston replied that there are 'safety nets' which permit the correction of possible assessment errors in cases of this kind. The German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) has been involved for many years in comprehensive research work in this particular field. It works in cooperation with a pan-European network so that 'cocktail effects' of this kind can also be better assessed in regulatory processes.

A French court also questioned the regulation by which the companies can conduct the tests required for approval themselves. Sharpston countered that applicants must present complete dossiers with data, thus ruling out partiality and bias.

If there are indications of damage caused by the long-term use of an active substance, another possible problem mentioned by the court, the plant protection product regulation does not prevent the responsible authorities from refusing approval. To demand an analysis of long-term toxicity prior to putting a plant protection product onto the market, however, delays the point in time from which the product is available to farmers. A balance has to be found here between appropriate protection for humans, animals and the environment and the assurance of agricultural productivity.

Press Release: Advocate General Sharpston: there is no factor affecting the validity of the Regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market:

New Discussion Paper Examines Sustainable Food Systems
The Faculty of Public Health’s (FPH’s) Food Special Interest Group has published a discussion paper in collaboration with The Soil Association, examining sustainable food systems.

The paper discusses the relevance and importance of food systems to population health within the UK, and provides related recommendations that support public health through healthy and sustainable food systems.
In particular, the paper discusses links between the food system, environmental sustainability and population health. It asks the public health community to take a broad focus on food within policy, advocacy, research, programmes and interventions and to consider the sustainability of food systems from an ecological model perspective of public health, for populations now and in the future.

The 2011 Foresight Report: The Future of Food and Farming, warned that many systems of food production are unsustainable and that if the status quo does not change, the current food system will continue to degrade the environment and compromise the world’s capacity to produce food in the future. However, public health has not traditionally addressed issues related to the wider food system and its impact on environmental sustainability.

The food system, environmental sustainability and population health overlap in key areas: climate change; wider environmental damage (air pollution, water pollution, reduction in soil health, loss of biodiversity, land use/deforestation); and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Through the mechanisms that lead to these issues the food system has a negative impact on both environmental sustainability and on population health.

Actions associated with prevention of climate change, environmental damage and AMR can be identified that also improve environmental sustainability and improve population health. Examples include: prioritising plant proteins, reducing intensive livestock farming methods, reducing food waste, increasing organic and agro-ecological agriculture, and increasing local and urban food production schemes.

The report makes a series of recommendations for public health professionals to consider in support of a healthy and sustainable food system for a healthier UK. In summary:

- Promote diets that prioritise plant-based proteins and a ‘less and better’ approach to animal-based foods
- Advocate for a British agricultural policy that accounts for human health
- Advocate for all agricultural trade agreements to support public health and environmental sustainability, particularly in the post-Brexit environment
- Advocate for a reduction in antibiotic use in the livestock sector
- Take a global view on food systems and align public health policies with key international agreements
- Support regulation for labelling related to food production methods
- Stimulate demand for sustainable food including British and local vegetables, pulses and fruits through public procurement
- Commission food programmes that support sustainable food systems
- Promote and support community-based agriculture schemes that bring farming and green spaces into the urban and peri-urban environments and provide open access and exposure to these green spaces for members of the local community
- Develop and support local policies and contracts that aim to reduce wasted food within public sector food provision and wider large-scale catering.

www.fph.org.uk/media/2420/sustainable-food-systems-for-a-healthier-uk-final2.pdf
**Latest Tuberculosis (Tb) Epidemiological Situation**

During the last five years, in the WHO European Region, TB mortality rates have fallen on average by 10% per year, which is the fastest decline observed in the world. European Region has also documented the fastest decline in TB incidence among all WHO Regions.

Despite the notable progress achieved in the fight against TB and the subsequent constant trend of decline in incidence, TB and Multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB still poses a public health threat in most countries and areas within the Region and should not be underestimated. While in some countries, including Eastern European countries, the MDR-TB rates are decreasing in absolute numbers, European Region still carries about 23% of the global MDR-TB burden.

Despite universal treatment coverage for TB and MDR-TB patients, the treatment success rate in the Region is still below the 85% and 75% Regional targets respectively. Nevertheless, comparing data collected in 2016 to 2018, a slow but sustainable increase is documented in both, incident TB and MDR-TB cohorts, from 75.8% to 77.2% and from 48.7% to 57.2% respectively.

Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring report in Europe 2019: [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/311349/9789289054027-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/311349/9789289054027-eng.pdf)

**Implications Of Resources And Waste Strategy For England On Local Authorities**

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee has launched a new inquiry into the implications of the Resources and Waste Strategy for England on local authorities.

In December 2018, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) launched the Resources and Waste Strategy setting out how the country can minimise waste, promote resource efficiency and move towards a circular economy. The strategy touches on a number of functions that are the responsibility of local authorities including food waste collection and recycling for households and businesses. Headline policy proposals include the prospect of separate food waste collections for every household in England and an overhaul of the packaging producer responsibility system – intended to make packaging producers pay the full net cost of recycling and disposal for their products.

Other proposals include greater standardisation of local authority kerbside recycling systems, to include a core set of materials collection from householders.

The new inquiry will look at the financial implications of the proposals for local authorities to meet increased standards for waste management. It will also consider how appropriate a standardised approach to waste services will be, or if there are benefits for allowing a degree of local flexibility. The Committee will also investigate how joint-working between layers of local government with responsibility for waste can be improved.

The Committee is now inviting submissions on:

- What the financial implications are for local authorities of the Government’s Waste Strategy
- What the likely effects will be on the recycling rates of local authorities
- How provisions in the strategy may affect existing contracts for waste collection and disposal
- Should waste services be standardised across England or should there continue to be flexibilities for local authorities
- What the opportunities are for closer joint-working between authorities, particularly in two-tier areas
Stakeholders have been asked to submit evidence on the financial implication of the Strategy for local authorities, as well as evidence of the likely impact on recycling rates. They have also asked for views on how it may impact upon existing contracts. The deadline for written submissions is 26 April 2019.


**Precautionary Approach On Cancer Risk Of Diesel Engine Exhaust Emissions**

Diesel engine exhaust emissions (DEEE) from new engines may well pose less cancer risk than DEEE from older engines, but the lack of evidence and the fact that a mix of older and new equipment is currently in use means a conservative and precautionary approach on the risk should be adopted, according to the Health and Safety Executive’s (HSE’s) Workplace Health Expert Committee (WHEC).

The exhaust from diesel engines consists of a complex and variable mixture with both particulate and gaseous combustion products. The main health risks associated with exposure to DEE are pulmonary inflammation, cardiovascular effects and lung cancer. As diesel engine exhaust is a complex mixture, it is not possible to identify one or more specific agents that are responsible for the increased risk of lung cancer.

According to the paper’s authors, there is a lack of epidemiological evidence to confirm the proposition that DEEE from modern engines is less likely to expose individuals to lung cancer risk, and also that it is not clear which component of DEEE increases lung cancer risk.

Advances in diesel engine technology, including the application of filters to reduce particulate matter emissions and using catalytic converters to reduce gaseous emissions, have significantly reduced emissions from diesel engines used in transport. These reductions in emissions will have resulted in reduction in exposure and hence a reduction in risk of developing lung cancer. However, the regulations for emission control for non-road diesel engines have lagged behind those for road engines. There is currently very little data in the UK about the use of new and traditional diesel engine technology in non-road applications. Therefore, WHEC assumes that in UK workplaces where (non-road) diesel engines are used, employees remain exposed to a mixture of old and new diesel technology emissions.

Epidemiological evidence suggests that the increased risk of lung cancer occurs at very low exposure levels (near environmental levels) and therefore WHEC believes that workers in the UK regularly exposed to diesel engine exhaust (above environmental levels) will be at an increased risk of developing lung cancer. WHEC recommends that data should be collected in the UK on the use of old technology versus new technology diesel engines and the number of workers exposed.

It should also study the impact of the regulations for non-road diesel engines on exposure to DEE and targeted toxicological, epidemiological and exposure studies should be considered to improve our understanding of current risk of developing lung cancer and other disease from contemporary exposure to diesel engine exhaust in the UK.


**Ball Pits May Contribute To Pathogen Transmission**

The popularity of ball pits has increased since mainstream commercial restaurants installed them throughout the USA in the 1980s, and they are often found to be contaminated with visible dirt, vomit, faeces, or urine, providing a permissive environment for contamination. Similar ball pits are commonly used in paediatric physical therapy to provide stimulation to children with sensory or motor
impairments. According to the study, clinics may go days or even weeks between cleanings, allowing time for micro-organisms to accumulate and grow to levels capable of giving children infections.

Investigators from the University of North Georgia examined six ball pits located in in-patient physical therapy clinics and outpatient clinics in the state of Georgia. Nine to fifteen balls were randomly selected from different depths of each sampled ball pit.

The study found considerable microbial colonisation in ball pits that were tested, including bacteria and yeast that could cause disease. Bacterial colonisation was found to be as high as thousands of cells per ball, clearly demonstrating an increased potential for transmission of these organisms to patients and an increased possibility of infection.

The researchers found considerable variation in the number of micro-organisms between the different ball pit samples, suggesting that clinics utilise different protocols for cleaning and maintenance, potentially representing a broader need to clarify and establish standards that reduce the risk of transmission.

The human-associated bacteria found in the ball pits included:

- Enterococcus faecalis, which can cause endocarditis, septicaemia, urinary tract infection, and meningitis;
- Staphylococcus hominis, a cause of bloodstream infections and reported as a cause of sepsis in a neonatal intensive care unit;
- Streptococcus oralis, known to cause endocarditis, adult respiratory distress syndrome, and streptococcal shock;
- Acinetobacter lwofii, which has been reported to cause septicaemia, pneumonia, meningitis, and urinary tract and skin infections.

Given that this research shows that ball pits may pose an infection hazard, facilities should establish a schedule of regular cleaning to protect patients and healthcare workers from potential infection risks.

Mary Ellen Oesterle, Kimberly Wright, Marissa Fidler, Paul Johnson, Dobrusia Bialonska.

Are ball pits located in physical therapy clinical settings a source of pathogenic microorganisms?

American Journal of Infection Control, 2018; DOI: 10.1016/j.ajic.2018.09.031

**Trafficking And Modern Slavery Rises By More Than 80% In Two Years**

The number of potential victims of trafficking and modern slavery reported to the authorities has risen by more than 80% in two years, according to figures released by the National Crime Agency.

The National Referral Mechanism end of year summary shows that in 2018, 6993 potential victims were referred into the system, increasing from 5142 in 2017 and 3804 in 2016.

Potential victims from 130 different countries were identified, and for the second consecutive year British citizens made up the largest nationality (1,625), with Albanians (947) and Vietnamese (702) second and third.

The number of British citizens reported was almost double the number from 2017, while the numbers of minors referred increased by 48%. Both increases were driven by the numbers referred for labour exploitation, which includes those exploited for criminal purposes by ‘County Lines’ gangs.

Overall those referred in the labour exploitation category made up more than half of the total number.
The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of modern slavery or human trafficking and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. It is also the mechanism through which data is collected about victims, helping to build a clearer picture about the scope of the threat.

From 29 April 2019, the Home Office becomes the single competent authority for dealing with referrals. This is part of a package of reforms to the NRM announced by the government in October 2017 to improve identification of and support for victims of modern slavery.

The full report can be downloaded from the NCA website: www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics

Social Housing Residents And Landlords To Discuss Building Safety

Social housing residents are to team up with their landlords to trial innovative methods of communicating building safety matters to residents as part of a new Government-appointed group.

The new group will see 8 social landlords and their respective residents come together to ensure residents are given a stronger voice in communicating approaches to building safety within social housing.

The Social Sector Engagement Best Practice Group is a key measure of the government’s Social Housing Green Paper and the Building a Safer Future implementation plan.

It will be independently chaired and each social landlord represented in the group will be joined by a resident from their respective housing stock to help share best practice and challenge existing approaches towards ensuring resident safety.

Group members will decide on and implement short-term pilots to be trialled over a 6-month period covering a wide range of approaches to keeping residents informed on the safety of their building.

Following the 6-month period, the panel will present its findings to the government which will be used to inform and develop future policy.

Dame Judith Hackitt’s independent review of building regulations, published in May 2018, called for the government to test ways to engage effectively with residents and give them a much stronger voice in an improvement system of building safety.

www.gov.uk

New Vehicle Safety Features As Standard From 2022

New cars, vans, lorries and buses sold in Europe will be fitted as standard with a range of safety features from 2022, according to a provisional EU deal on the legislation reached in Strasbourg recently.

The new rules include requirements for new technologies, such as Automated Emergency Braking which can detect pedestrians and cyclists, as well as over-ridable Intelligent Speed Assistance, to be fitted as standard for the first time. New lorries will be required to have improved levels of direct vision to give drivers a greater chance of seeing vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists around the vehicle.

In a bid to tackle drink driving, the legislation will also make it easier to retrofit an alcohol interlock device – a technological solution currently in use in a number of EU Member States. Alcohol interlocks are automatic control systems which are designed to prevent driving with excess alcohol by requiring the driver to blow into an in-car breathalyser before starting the ignition. The device can be set at different levels and limits.
New vehicles will also be required to be fitted with Electronic Data Recorders that store vital data on the car’s status in the moments immediately before a collision. Such information is considered vital to understanding why crashes occur and for preventing future collisions.

https://etsc.eu

**Member States Will Evaluate 31 Substances In 2019**

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has adopted the updated Community Rolling Action Plan (CoRAP) for substance evaluation, with 100 substances listed to be evaluated in 2019-2021. Registrants of the listed substances are encouraged to keep their registrations up to date and to contact the evaluating Member States.

Substances are selected for evaluation based on concerns related to their suspected serious hazard properties. The substances may be suspected sensitisers, persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (PBT) substances, carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR) substances or endocrine disruptors. The selection also considers wide dispersive worker or consumer use. The evaluation may also result in the identification of other concerns on the substances.

A total of 19 Member States are to evaluate 100 substances over the next three years. For the 31 substances specified for 2019, the evaluating authorities have 12 months to carry out their evaluations, the aim of which is to clarify whether further information is needed to conclude whether a substance poses a risk to people or the environment. Where necessary, the registrants will be asked to provide this information, the authorities will then assess the suspected concern and, where relevant, initiate regulatory risk management actions.

ECHA encourages registrants of the listed substances to coordinate their actions and to contact the evaluating Member State. Registrants are also urged to update their dossiers, especially for uses and exposures. They will have the opportunity to comment before any decision to request further information is taken. The draft decisions by the evaluating authorities will be reviewed by the other Member States and ECHA before the final decision is issued.

https://echa.europa.eu

**Emissions To Water Bodies Decreased In Europe**

Europe's water is a resource under pressure. Economic activities, population growth and urbanisation all affect the quality of European freshwaters. The collection and treatment of waste waters is one key element in the water cycle that limits these pressures and one in which European action has fostered an ambitious level of protection across Member States. Despite these efforts, water bodies in the EU remain under pressure from pollution sources. Only around 40% of the surface water bodies are in good ecological status and 38% of surface water bodies are in good chemical status.

Industrial releases to water is one element that exerts pressure on European waters, alongside discharges of pollutants from urban waste water treatment. Published by the European Environment Agency (EEA), this report examines the significance of industrial emissions through direct and also indirect releases to water and the interaction between industrial releases and Europe's urban waste water collection and treatment facilities.

Much of the analysis in this report is based on data on releases from industry and urban waste water treatment plants (UWWTPs) to surface waters as reported to the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR), which collects national information on environmental releases and transfers from large industrial activities across the EU.

Other data sets are also used, including data on the status of European water bodies as collected under the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), and information on UWWTPs as collected under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD). The broad approach taken to assessing these data is outlined as follows:
• Substances covered by the E-PRTR are grouped into categories to allow more coherent analysis (chlorinated organic substances, heavy metals, inorganic substances and other organic substances).

• For each pollutant group, information is presented on the magnitude of and trends in direct and indirect releases from industrial facilities.

• To better compare the environmental significance of releases, the reported emissions are then assessed further in terms of their eco-toxicity.

• The assessment also considers the potential impact of industrial emissions on UWWTP performance and how this relationship can be identified based on available EU-level data.

In addition, based on the findings of the assessment and the analysis of available relevant data sets, gaps in the data sets were identified which, if filled, would allow a more complete and thorough analysis of the impacts of industrial waste water emissions on the receiving environment.

Industrial waste water treatment – pressures on Europe’s environment:


**European Parliament Outlines Blueprint For Long Term CO2 Cuts**

MEPs have outlined their ideas on the EU’s long-term emissions reduction strategy. In a non-binding resolution, adopted with 369 votes to 116 and 40 abstentions, MEPs say that only two of the eight scenarios (pathways) proposed by the European Commission in its November communication would enable the EU to reach net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, the commitment made by the EU under the Paris climate agreement. They support the Commission in pushing for these two scenarios.

Parliament has voiced support for the demonstrations, in particular in the form of climate marches and school strikes that are raising awareness of these climate risks. MEPs are asking national, regional and local governments, as well as the EU, to take concrete and swift action in order not to overshoot the 1.5°C climate limit.

MEPs have expressed that in order to reach net-zero GHG emissions in 2050 in the most cost-efficient manner, the 2030 ambition level will need to be raised. The EU must therefore send a clear message that it stands ready to review its contribution to the Paris Agreement.

If handled well, with the appropriate support for the most vulnerable regions, sectors and citizens, the transition towards net-zero GHG emissions can potentially create 2.1 million additional jobs by 2050 in the EU, according to MEPs. A just transition fund should thus be created to support the regions most affected by decarbonisation, such as coal mining regions.

The EU’s net-zero strategy should prioritise direct emissions reductions and enhancing natural carbon sinks and reservoirs (such as forests) over carbon removal technologies. These have yet to be deployed on a large scale and would entail significant risks for ecosystems, biodiversity and food security.

Investment in industrial innovation, including digital technologies and clean technology is needed to improve growth, competitiveness and create jobs e.g. in a growing circular economy and bio-economy. MEPs also underline the importance of having a predictable energy and climate policy to encourage long-term investment.

Finally, MEPs reiterate the Parliament’s position to allocate at least 35% of the expenditure on research to support climate objectives.

www.europarl.europa.eu
European Court Of Auditors Audit Of EU Measures For Ecodesign And Energy Labelling

As part of its fight against climate change, the EU is committed to improving its energy efficiency by 20% by 2020 and by 32.5% by 2030. To help achieve these goals, the Commission has taken measures focusing on greener product design and consumer information. About €0.8 billion has been allocated for the 2007-2020 period.

The European Court of Auditors have published an Audit Preview on EU policy for ecodesign and energy labelling. Audit Previews provide information on an ongoing audit task. They are designed to be a source of information for those interested in the policy or programmes being audited.

Ecodesign and energy labelling should complement each other. On the one hand, ecodesign requirements promote innovation and ‘push’ the market away from the worst-performing products. On the other hand, energy labels encourage consumers to make better-informed decisions, thus ‘pulling’ the market towards greater energy efficiency. Market surveillance is therefore essential to ensure products comply with the requirements.

The current ecodesign requirements cover 30 product groups ranging from household lamps to industrial solid-fuel boilers. The rules on labelling also apply, at least partly, to 13 of these product groups. The audit will examine how well EU action has helped towards achieving energy efficiency and environmental objectives.

In particular, the auditors will focus on:

- the Commission’s management of ecodesign and energy labelling measures
- the impact of EU action on Member States’ market surveillance activities.

Audit Preview: Ecodesign and energy labelling:

MEPs Vote To End Switch Between Summer And Winter Time In 2021

EU countries that decide to keep their summer time will make their final clock change on the last Sunday in March 2021. Those that prefer to keep their standard (winter) time, can adjust their clocks for the final time on the last Sunday in October 2021, says the draft law approved by MEPs with 410 in favour, 192 against, 51 abstentions.

MEPs backed the Commission proposal to end seasonal time changes, but voted to postpone the date from 2019 to 2021.

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Severn Trent Water Fined For Sewage Discharge

Severn Trent Water has been fined £500,000 for discharging a substantial amount of raw sewage from its sewer network onto land at Sutton Park, West Midlands.

The incident, which occurred on 12 November 2013, arose as a result of a blockage in the company’s sewer system. Due to poor light, the location of the incident was not identified until the following morning when a park ranger found a large amount of sewage flowing from a manhole cover and across the surrounding area.

On investigation, it was found that sewage had also entered a nearby ditch and travelled 700 metres into a brook and pool within the park.

Severn Trent Water Ltd liaised with a number of statutory bodies to produce a plan to remediate the site. As a consequence, soil and plants had to be scraped up across the affected area to stop the
spread of sewage contamination. However, despite this action, around 0.65 hectares of rare and sensitive plants were destroyed. Representatives from Natural England expressed concern with the progress and efficiency of the clean-up operation, which concluded in May 2014.

In passing sentence, His Honour Judge Drew QC recognised that Sutton Park is an environmentally sensitive area, and a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. The judge noted that the clean-up operation had been slow and poorly managed, but that the company had ultimately taken all necessary steps to remediate the site and that it had made a long term commitment to restoring the affected area.

In mitigation, the court noted the company’s overall environmental record, that the company had accepted responsibility for the incident, and that it was not a commercially motivated offence.

In addition to the fine, Severn Trent Water was ordered to pay prosecution costs of £50,693 and a victim surcharge of £120.

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