



SAFETY MATTERS

NOVEMBER 2006

MULTINATIONAL PAYS £100K FOR WORK DEATH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FURTHER UPDATE ON THE NEW CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS	2
TRAINING YOUR STAFF	2
RISK ASSESSMENT	3
TOOL BOX TALK—FIRE	3
PEN PUSHERS FACE BAD BACKS	4

A multinational firm has received a £100,000 fine and has been ordered to pay £32,607 costs following the death of an employee on a West Midlands construction site. Cementation Foundations (Skanska) Limited pleaded guilty at Warwick Crown Court to a breach of health and safety legislation. The case, brought by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), followed its investigation into the death of David Clark, 47, a banksman who was fatally crushed by a piling rig on 29 October 2002. The incident at a construction site in Coleshill was caused by failure of a welded pin, which was critical to the stability of the piling rig. When the part failed, the mast of the rig collapsed on David Clark. Speaking after the case, HSE investigating inspector Carol Southerd said: 'This death was the tragic result of the company's failure to pay enough attention to the quality and reliability of the critical component parts of heavy plant and to the fatal risks associated with those working routinely inside the danger zone of a potential rig collapse or overturn.' She added: 'Preventative maintenance should be managed so as to ensure any replacement of critical parts are of good quality and a thorough investigation is done into the reasons for replacement. Systems of work should be arranged so banksmen, working with piling rigs, are kept in a safe position during machine operation. Banksmen should be trained only to approach the machine for necessary operations at planned safe times.

A NOTE TO THE WISE

Everyone deserves to come to work and conduct their duties in a stress & accident free environment. Just stop and think, can you see problems, if you do then **'own them'**, ie do something about it. Remember nobody wants to leave work in two pieces. Will your conscience allow you to forget the results of an accident if your actions could have prevented it from happening in the first place?

New Asbestos Regulations 13 Oct 06

The revised asbestos regulations, which introduce a more strict exposure standard for asbestos work but which attracted flak for excluding textured wall coverings from their scope, take effect on 13 November this year.

REMEMBER IF IT CANT BE DONE SAFELY— DON'T DO



FURTHER UPDATE ON THE NEW CONSTRUCTION (DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS

The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) has approved new construction regulations, which are expected to come into effect next spring. The revised Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations and Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) now need formal approval by ministers before they become law. Richard Boland, the Health and Safety Executive's head of construction policy, said: 'We remain on target for the regulations coming into force in April next year. Over the last four years we have worked in partnership with the industry to simplify and add clarity to construction health and safety law so that risks on site can be properly managed. We will continue to work together to make sure that the new provisions and ACoP improve standards of health and safety management in our industry.' The regulations make explicit what clients should already be doing as a result of existing duties in the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

TRAINING YOUR STAFF

It is commonly recognized that for every £1 spent on implementing safety and training your staff, could have potential savings of between £8 - £36. Staff replacement charges and re-training are just one of the many financial costs related to accidents and injuries, never mind the resulting bad press for your company, or the increased insurance premiums, there is also the time spent by management dealing with the aftermath to think of and pay for. Proactive and progressive thinking companies take action in order to prevent any possibility of accidents occurring. Induction and site

familiarization training is a must, as is continued refresher training. However other skills may be needed. Conduct a review and take action where required, before it is too late. If you need help or simply want to discuss your options simply call us. Train your staff to work safely not as they like.

DO YOUR STAFF WORK LIKE THIS?



IS THIS YOUR COMPANY SIGN ?



IF SO—ACT NOW

- TAKE ADVICE
- INFORM
- MAKE AN EFFORT
- ENTHUSE & ENFORCE
- 2
- ACT NOW
- CONTROL RECORDS
- TRAIN YOUR STAFF



RISK ASSESSMENT- 5 EASY STEPS

1. **Identify all the hazards.** (anything with the potential to cause you the environment or your equipment harm)
2. **Identify the persons at risk.** (who could be hurt from your activities, remember this is not just about your workforce, depending on your activity you could easily injure a member of the public, a visitor or another contractor).
3. **Decide whether there are sufficient control measures in place** to guard against potential harm. (always try and take a fresh look at things, and reconsider the norm.
4. **Decide if there should be further control measures in place.** (ensuring the right equipment and the right tools for the job are used, it may take longer, but in the long run it will be safer.
5. **Communicate** to and **monitor** the actions of the workforce and make any necessary adjustments as they are required.

Risk Assessment

Reality Check

Gather a team of people that know about the process.

If in doubt ask before you act.

You don't always know the answer.

The answers are not secrets, tell your workforce about the controls required and provide the right equipment for the task.

TOOL BOX TALK—FIRE

Fire Prevention

1. Don't hang clothing over or near heating equipment.
2. Don't let paper, oily rags or other rubbish accumulate.
3. Don't smoke in prohibited areas.
4. Use proper sealed containers for flammable liquids, not open tins or buckets.
5. Don't overload electric sockets, 'one socket one plug'.
6. Handle flammable liquids at a safe distance from possible sources of ignition.
7. Check for flammable materials near by before using blow lamps, welding and cutting equipment.
8. Bitumen boilers, soldering irons and gas rings must be on non-combustible stands.
9. Switch off at mains any electrical equipment not in use.

Fire Precautions

1. Make sure you know what to do in case of fire.
2. Make certain you know your escape route.
3. Keep fire doors clear and unobstructed.
4. Don't obstruct access to fire extinguishers.
5. Ensure you know how to operate the fire extinguishers in your area.

Fire Extinguishers

1. **Water (red)** - use on paper, wood and solid flammable.
2. **CO2 (black)** - use on liquids, gases and electrical fires.
3. **Foam (cream)** - use on flammable liquids.
4. **Powder (blue)** - use on all types of fires but primarily fires involving metals, such as aluminium and magnesium.

Actions To Take In The Event Of Fire

1. Raise the alarm and then call the fire brigade
2. Close doors and windows to prevent the spread of fire.
3. Evacuate the building or area you are working in.
4. Fight the fire with extinguishers provided but don't put yourself at risk. Don't use water to put out electrical fires.





PEN PUSHERS FACE BAD BACKS

People who work in offices are among the most likely to suffer from back pain, according to the British Chiropractic Association. It says poor posture while sat at a computer can cause more back problems than the excessive lifting and carrying done by manual workers. Tim Hutchful from the BCA said: 'For many who work in an office environment, it is the day-to-day, mundane routines that are at the root of most back problems. Hunching over computer keyboards and cradling the phone between the ear and shoulder can all contribute to lower back and neck stiffness, not to mention the fact that many office workers sit for hours at a time with very little movement.' A survey of 2,374 people, carried out by the BCA, found 59 per cent of the working population sits down all day at work and almost 50 per cent of those who work do not leave their desks, even for lunch. A total of 56 per cent of BCA chiropractors highlighted that those who work in an office were more vulnerable to becoming victims of back pain. Mr Hutchful said: 'It is assumed that those most at risk from back pain are the ones who have very physical jobs. However, as this research has unveiled, whilst lifting and carrying are still common triggers for back pain, it is those with less physically demanding jobs and who are often seated for the majority of the day that could be most prone to back problems.'

OUR SPONSORS AGAIN THIS MONTH



Freephone / Fax - 0800 597 7122
info@champagne-cellar.co.uk

*Fine
Champagne
Direct
from*

www.champagne-cellar.co.uk
www.champagne-for-business.co.uk

SPONSOR THIS NEWSLETTER FOR FREE



HAVE YOUR SAY

Each Month we will be highlighting "Hot topics" from the Health & Safety profession that may affect your business.

Let us know your views either by email or write to us at the above address.

Any correspondence will be published in the next Newsletter

We're here to help YOU help yourselves !

Dates For Your Diary:

OCTOBER 2006

- 13 REVISED ASBESTOS REGULATIONS COME INTO EFFECT
- 28 CIEH MANUAL HANDLING COURSE
- 30 FIRST AID APPOINTED PERSONS COURSE. GUARANTEE YOUR PLACE BOOK EARLY FOR PREFERENTIAL RATES

SME TRAINING & CONSULTANTS LTD

The First Floor
70 High Street
RAINHAM
Kent, ME8 7JH

Phone/Fax: 01634 260631

Mobile: 07887 684 733

E-mail: info@sme-training.co.uk

Web: www.sme-training.co.uk