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IN FOCUS

The HSE's Health and Work strategy and plans outlines a focus on the following topics; work-related stress, musculoskeletal disorders and occupational lung disease.

If you would like to read more, please follow the [link](#).

Specifically for the construction sector the HSE has identified the following three priorities;

- * Reducing incidents of ill health, particular focus on occupation lung disease and musculoskeletal disorders
- * Supporting small businesses to achieve improved risk management and control.
- * Embedding the principles of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM).

If you would like to view the draft report for construction, please [click here](#).

Work Related Sick Leave

According to HSE annual statistics for 2015/16, work related ill health in the construction industry rose by 9%.

Across all industries, the number of working days lost to ill health in 2015-16 was 25.9m, up from 23.3m in 2014-15.

In the building sector, the number of people saying they had a work related illness was 84,000 while in 2014-15 this figure was 76,000. Of the 84,000 in 2015/16, two thirds (56,000) had a musculoskeletal disorder.

In contrast, fewer construction workers were injured in 2015/16 according to reports made under RIDDOR. The rate of injuries requiring 7 or more days' absence was 259 per 100,000 workers, down from 279 in 2014/15. The most serious injuries (Specified injuries) also declined from 143 to 139 per 100,000.

Across all industries, musculoskeletal disorders and stress, depression or anxiety were the most common forms of illness, 78% of the total.

In the manufacturing sector, illness rates also increased slightly from 2560 per 100,000 in 2014/15 to 2630 in 2015/16. The number of injuries in the sector has remain at around 13,500 for the past two years however, the rate of over 7 day injuries decreased slightly from 384 to 360.

621,000 workers sustained a non-fatal injury in 2015/16. 469,000 of those were absent from work for up to 7 days while the remaining 152,000 were absent for over 7 days.

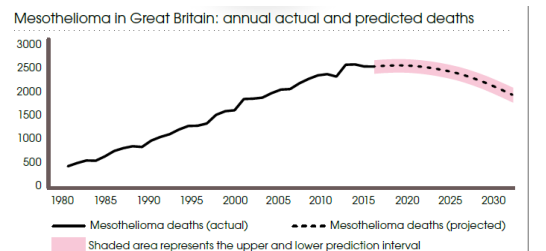
Injuries sustained while handling, lifting or carrying were most common (20%) followed closely by slips, trips and falls (19%).

13,000 deaths each year are estimated to be linked to past exposures at work, primarily to chemicals and dusts.

Estimated annual deaths due to work related diseases are as follows;

- * **36% - Asbestos-related cancer**
- * **33% - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary disorder (COPD) and other respiratory diseases.**
- * **21% - Other respiratory cancer**
- * **10% Non-respiratory cancer**

The graph below indicates the annual actual and predicted deaths from Mesothelioma.



To view the full summary statistics document, please [click here](#).

Latest Health and Safety Alerts

The following health and safety alert has been issued by the HSE.

Certain Types of Aluminium Pool Hall Lighting Systems on Runners

The HSE has issued this alert to advise owners or managers of premises where such lighting systems may be found of the risks of collapse from a certain type of pool hall lighting system following an incident at a public swimming pool. For more information on this topic, please follow the [link](#).

CDM 2015

The CDM 2015 Regulations are now well established, having been in place for well over a year and a half. However, it is evident that there is still some confusion, particularly on smaller domestic client projects, about who has responsibility for what.

Under the previous CDM 2007 regulations, domestic client projects did not fall under CDM and therefore many contractors and designers who's main work is carried out for domestic projects are struggling to comply with the new regulations.

All construction works now fall under the requirements of the CDM 2015 regulations, regardless of whether or not they are notifiable to the HSE (via the F10 notification) or if the project is domestic or non-domestic. This means that the Principal Contractor or, in case of single-contractor projects, the contractor, must prepare a Construction Phase Plan (CPP) for the works or arrange for one to be prepared. The CPP has to be produced for all projects and should be in place **before** works commence on site. On a domestic Client project, if there is more than one contractor involved in the works and the client fails to make the appointment of Principal Contractor then the contractor who is in control of the construction work will automatically become the Principal Contractor.

On domestic client project, the duties of the Client also fall on to the Principal Contractor or, in case of single-contractor projects, the contractor.

On a domestic client project where there is more than one contractor involved in the works and the client fails to make the appointment of Principal Designer then the designer in control of the design work will be the Principal Designer.

SafeScope are offering services to assist designers, contractors and clients to understand and manage their duties under the new regulations.

These services range from training in general CDM 2015 awareness, as well as duty holder specific training sessions, to acting as principal designers. We can also act as advisor to clients and contractors/principal contractors by helping them to or completing duties on their behalf by offering documentation, procedure information and guidance to those who will be completing there duties themselves.

If any of these services would be of interest to you or you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us either by email at contact@safescope.com or by phone on 01473 407020.

Reports and Guidance

- * HSE is currently consulting on amendments to the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 (GSIUR). [Click here](#) for more information.
- * ISO are developing a new standard, ISO 45001 *Occupational health and safety management systems—requirements*. The standard is currently expected to be published in December 2017. Follow the [link](#) for more information.
- * The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) is reminding the industry to get ready for the withdrawal of the Construction Related Occupation (CRO) card. CRO cards will cease to be issued from 31 March 2017 and CRO cards issued since 31 March 2015 will expire on 30 September 2017. Please [click here](#) for more information.
- * HSE has released their business plan for 2016/17. [Click here](#) to view a copy.

- * HSE is making some changes to their risk management guidance. For more information, please follow this [link](#).
- * An updated version of Manual Handling; Guidance on the Regulations has been published. Please follow the [link](#) to view a copy.
- * HSE has been reviewing 4 sets of regulations in a bid to make compliance easier. The regulations are; The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations, The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations, The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations and The Work at Height Regulations.
- * Manufactures etc must re-label and re-package their products to comply with the CLP rules by 1 June 2017. For more information, [click here](#).
- * IOSH have published a new free guide to help organisations manage employee health. [Click here](#) to view a copy.

Face Fit Testing

All operatives working on site who wear a face mask for their works are required to be face fit tested on the type/types of mask that they use.

There are two types of testing; Qualitative and Quantitative.

Qualitative testing can only be carried out on tight fitting half masks not full face masks.

Quantitative testing can be used to fit all types of tight fitting face mask , both full and half face.

These tests rely on the face mask having a tight seal with the face and therefore users have to be clean shaven when undergoing the test.

If an operative is not willing to shave, for whatever reason, then they will need to be provided with a loose fitting full face (positive pressure/supplied air) mask which does not require testing.

IN COURT

- * Two companies have been fined after exposing workers to potentially deadly asbestos over a period of years, despite being alerted to the risks at their premises. The two companies were fined a total of £215,000.
- * Three companies have been fined over £2million after a worker's leg was broken in six places when a trench which he was working in collapsed on him.
- * A building contractor has been fined £15,000 after a worker was killed when a load fell from a tower crane during a lifting operation in Colchester.
- * A home improvement company has been fined £100,000 after the unsafe removal of asbestos material from a domestic property.
- * A construction firm has been fined £144,000 after a worker was seriously injured when he fell off a roof during demolition work.



- * Two London based construction companies were prosecuted after a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspection identified serious safety breaches on a double basement construction project. The emergency services were called to rescue a labourer with a broken arm and reported their concerns about the dangerous site to the HSE. The companies were fined a total of £44,000.
- * British Telecom plc (BT) has been fined £500,000 after an engineer fell seven metres from a loft in London, breaking his back and his ankles.
- * Two companies have been fined a total of £223,550 after a worker died following a fall through a roof.
- * A demolition company has been fined £6,000 for safety failings following a report to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for unsafe work at height activity.
- * A company has been fined £20,000 after a worker fell thirteen metres down a service riser shaft.



- * A London based construction company has been fined £40,000 for safety failings. An inspector found there was an excavation directly behind the front door, which was the only entrance and exit for the site.
- * Two construction firms were fined a total of £292,000 for safety breaches as a result of separate investigations into reported cases of carpal tunnel syndrome and hand arm vibration syndrome to employees.
- * A worker died and two others were badly injured at a construction site in Putney, when a temporary platform collapsed. The Principal Contractor was fined £600,000. The company responsible for constructing the platforms was fined £400,000.

Knowledge Corner - Asbestos Awareness: what to do if you discover asbestos

Asbestos still kills around 5000 workers each year - more than the number of people killed on the roads. Asbestos is more than a problem from the past as it can be present in any building built or refurbished before the year 2000.

So what should you do if you come across potential asbestos at work?

You should stop work immediately. Keep everyone out of the area and put up a warning sign to let people know of 'possible asbestos contamination'. The client then needs to arrange for a sample of the material to be tested to determine if it actually does contain asbestos. If the sample does contain asbestos then the client must make an Asbestos Management Plan and decide if the task needs an HSE licensed contractor to remove it.

SAFESCOPE

- Construction Health and Safety
- CDM Services
- Health and Safety Training
- Building (O&M) Manuals
- Face Fit Testing and Training

I hope you find this newsletter issue informative, useful and helpful. Our aim is to make the newsletter relevant and easy (bite size information) to cover the range of new topical issues, news and legislation. Any feedback is most welcome.

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