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▶ New Exposure Limits for Chemicals in the Workplace

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▶ The Safety of Gas Appliances in the Workplace

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Safety news

Cooper Safety Associates

- Helping you protect your business and your people

Welcome to this quarters newsletter! Inside you'll find an update on some new legislation for chemicals and noise. A breakdown of gas safety requirements and some safety issues that we've been dealing with over the last 3 months.

Noise Control in the Music and Entertainment Industry

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mental part of the work. Some advanced protective equipment for hearing can accurately attenuate some of the sound such that all frequencies still arrive at the ear, but at a lower amplitude. Control could be achieved by means of limiting exposure time, for example this could mean rotating staff in a bar from noisy areas to those less noisy. If you think that your organisation or business may be affected, have some monitoring carried out to see if there actually is a problem, contact us to discuss how we could help you.



HSE updated guidance on stress

Updated guidance has been released by the HSE on how to manage stress in the workplace. This follows a rise in reported stress which cost over £530 million in 2005/6. The new guidance aimed at managers contains information on, sensible management of stress, control measures and minimizing the impact on business.

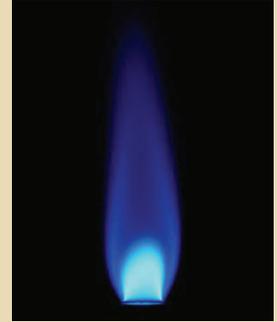
Gas Safety Regulations

The HSE has recently successfully prosecuted a landlord for failing to carry out his duties under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998. Numerous warnings were issued to the individual that he was not carrying out his legal duties to his tenants. He was fined £1250 and ordered to pay the HSE's costs of more than £4500 for failing to carry out an annual safety check of a gas flue.

But what are a landlords duties under the regulations? The main requirements are as follows:

1. Gas fittings and flues shall be maintained in a safe condition so as to prevent the risk of injury to persons.
2. Appliances and flues shall be checked for safety within 12 months of being installed and at intervals of not more than 12 months since the last safety check was carried out.

So in a nutshell if your workplace has a gas installation, you must have it maintained and inspected at least once per year by a suitably qualified engineer. In the UK this means someone accredited by CORGI (Council for Registered Gas Installers).



HSE Campaign - Slips and dermatitis in Kitchens

The HSE is launching a campaign aimed at reducing slips and dermatitis within the kitchen environment. The campaign is pitched at managers with health and safety responsibilities is to run between January and March 2008.

There are free seminars being run in Manchester and London in February and March, see the HSE website for details.

Focusing on slips the workshops will look at, floor slipperiness, design of good footwear and cleaning regimes.

The section on dermatitis will look at its causes within the kitchen how it develops and what can be done to prevent it.

If you can't make one of the seminars the HSE has also produced a printed pack on both subjects again see the HSE website for details:- www.hse.gov.uk/slips/kitchens/





Prosecutions

An overview of some recent prosecutions brought by local authorities and the health and safety executive.

The director of a roofing company was jailed in November for two and a half years for manslaughter and attempting to pervert the course of justice after one of his employees died falling through a skylight on the roof of a retail store. No safety equipment had been provided. The director hired safety equipment and told another employee to place it on the roof before the HSE could arrive to investigate.

A NHS Foundation Trust has been fined £5000 and ordered to pay costs of approximately £2000 after a patient was able to climb out of a first floor window. The patient sustained a fracture when he dropped to the floor. Window restrictors had been fitted, however they were key operated and were left unlocked. The trust pleaded guilty to not ensuring the safety of non-employees and not carrying out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment. Two employees of a construction firm were prosecuted after a man fell into an unguarded hole and died, the men who were digging a trench failed to guard part of it into

which the 90 year old man fell. The HSE investigation discovered that the men had received sufficient training regarding guarding and had consciously ignored their training. They were fined £650 and ordered to pay £650 costs. A glazing manufacturer has been fined £50000 and has to pay costs of over £10000 after a worker fell into a skip full of broken glass. The worker who was riding on a load carried by a forklift truck fell in after a strong gust of wind caught the load. The employee lost the sight in one eye and had to have reconstructive surgery. No risk assessment had been carried out on the activity.

SMART HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Dispelling Myths



The Health and Safety Executive has steadily been expanding its collection of cartoons depicting common safety myths. For 2008 they have even launched a calendar with some comical but useful information. Take a look at:-

www.hse.gov.uk/myth



This door marked as fire exit, lead directly onto a flat roof with no means of getting to the ground level beyond jumping!

Focus on > Fire Exits

Always ensure that your fire exits are clearly signed and kept clear at all times, fire exits should not be locked at any time that the building is occupied.

This blocked fire exit was one of several in the building, it would take some time to clear this exit in the event of a fire.



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