

# Health & Safety News

September 2011

Issue 38

## Cooper Safety Associates LLP - Helping You Protect Your Business and Your People

This issue highlights what to look out for when employing a safety consultant; changes to RIDDOR; new COSHH pictograms; and gives an update of recent prosecutions.

### The Occupational Safety and Health Consultants' Register (OSHCR)

The report by Lord Young, "Common Sense, Common Safety", is being put into practice.

The report focuses on raising standards within the health and safety industry by the recognition of qualifications & experience along with a prescribed level of membership of a professional body such as IOSH (The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health).

The report aimed to assist small businesses in accessing competent health and safety consultants appropriate to the needs of their undertaking.



#### Look out for this logo!

The OSHCR is now open to the general public ([www.oshcr.org](http://www.oshcr.org))

Businesses can search the database of consultants by using keyword(s), county, industry or topic, e.g. COSHH.

The register (which is free), also enables users to click on consultant profiles to see a summary of their skills.

## RIDDOR changes

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From 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011, the HSE is changing the way in which non-fatal and non-major injuries are reported under the reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) to a predominantly online system. There will be a suite of seven forms available on the HSE's website ([www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)) to make the statutory reporting process quick and easy.

From April 2012 it is likely the period after which an injury to a person at work must be reported to the enforcing authority will change from over-three-days to over-seven-days.

The HSE have announced they will charge £130 per hour to follow up site incidents. The H&S press report they are more likely to investigate a dangerous occurrence than an over 3 day accident. Report incidents carefully or literally face the cost!

## New COSHH hazard pictograms

New chemical safety pictograms are being introduced worldwide as part of the global harmonisation system to standardise labelling. These new pictograms are already in use alongside current labels but will take their place during 2015.



Acute toxicity, Very toxic (fatal)



Gases under pressure



Harmful skin irritation, serious eye irritation



Flammable gases, liquids and solids,



Explosive, self-reactive, organic peroxide



Harmful to the environment



Oxidising gases, oxidising liquids, oxidising solids



Respiratory sensitiser, mutagen, carcinogen,



Corrosive (causes severe skin burns and eye damage), serious eye damage

## Current COSHH labels



Corrosive



Toxic



Harmful or Irritant

# Recent Health and Safety Prosecutions

An overview of some recent prosecutions brought by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

## Inadequate personal protective equipment (PPE)



A company was fined £27,500 with £10,700 costs under COSHH for not providing suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) to a worker at their factory. His inadequately protected hands came into contact with paper insulation that was soaked in dodecylbenzene (DDB) oil. This caused him to suffer skin irritations across large parts of his body. He has been left with permanent scarring, has to avoid contact with many substances that cause further skin irritation and has been forced to retire on medical grounds. The HSE also issued the firm with an Improvement Notice, which required it to provide suitable PPE; disposable chemical-resistant suits; gloves and footwear.

## Exposure to asbestos



A South Yorkshire company pleaded guilty to two charges under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 and was fined £5,500 with £6,250 costs. The local council bought warehouses from the company in July 2009 and arranged for a professional asbestos survey to be undertaken before demolishing them. The council's surveyor identified large amounts of white and brown asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) within both warehouses. The council notified both the company and its sister company of the risk from the ACMs. However, the sister company continued to expose workers to ACMs by requiring them to clear out a warehouse of wines and spirits where asbestos was present.

## Working at height

A Shenfield school was fined £6,500 with £2,243.85 costs after pleading guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA) because its caretaker fell from height whilst carrying out some re-cladding work.

He fell 1.9 metres to the ground from an unguarded platform, sustaining two broken ribs and needing a three-inch metal plate screwed into his broken arm. The HSE told Chelmsford Magistrates' Court that the school had failed to take suitable and sufficient measures to prevent the worker falling from height whilst carrying out this work.

## Safe Systems of Work



An interior design company was fined £25,000 with costs after pleading guilty to breaching section 3(1) of the HSWA. Two men were injured while carrying out refurbishment work at a retail outlet. The court heard that three men poured concrete into an opening which had been left after the stairs and an escalator had been removed. The temporary propping collapsed, causing the men to fall to the floor below. One of the men dislocated his shoulder, another fractured



## Event – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual HSW & IIRSM Conference 2011

This one-day conference at the ICC Birmingham on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 will enable delegates to hear views surrounding the Government review of health and safety legislation and the negative press coverage of many health and safety issues. Leading industry experts will be speaking at the conference, include:

- **Brian Nimick**, Chief Executive, International Institute of Risk and Safety Management
- **Geoffrey Podger**, Chief Executive, Health and Safety Executive
- **Neal Stone**, head of policy and public affairs, British Safety Council
- **John Dunne**, head of HSEQ, Balfour Beatty
- **Barry Holt**, director of policy and research, International Institute of Risk and Safety Management
- **Lawrence Waterman**, head of health and safety, 2012 Olympic Delivery Authority
- **Sean Elson**, Pinsent Masons
- **Dr Chris Shinn**, Force Medical Officer, West Yorkshire Police
- **Louis Wustermann**, editor, Health and Safety at Work magazine.

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## Cooper Safety Associates – Our services:

- Risk assessments:
  - Workplace
  - Manual Handling
  - Work Equipment
  - COSHH
  - DSEAR & ATEX
- IEC Ex-Proof Competent person
- Fire Risk Assessment
- Training:
  - Manual Handling
  - Fire
  - Health and Safety
  - Safety for Managers
  - COSHH
  - Basic Life Support
  - Anaphylaxis
- Safety Policies and Procedures
- Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Audits
- Health and Safety Management Systems
- OHSAS 18001 & HS(G) 65
- Interim Safety Management Services

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