



SAFETY UPDATE

Issue 12 December 2016

THIS ISSUE

NEWS

Skills Card Audit

Industry Guidance on H&S

Inductions

CASES

Falls From Heightx 2

COSHH

Machinery Safety

Manual Handling

Hand-Arm Vibration

Temporary Works

Fragile Roof

PUBLICATIONS

ELA Multi-language Safety

Booklet

POSTER OF THE MONTH

Cholesterol

NEWS

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY SKILLS CARD AUDIT

Build UK and the CECA card audit scheduled for early 2017

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) has published four videos which promote the use of SmartCard technology across construction sites in the UK.

All CSCS cards are 'Smart' and contain a microprocessor chip which stores information on the cardholder identity, qualifications and training.

Construction project site managers can read this information using a smart phone, tablet or PC allowing them to instantly record cardholder information and check that the cardholder is qualified for the job they do on site.

The four CSCS videos show what the CSCS SmartCard can do. The cards are said to have the potential to manage site inductions electronically, control construction site access, record individual training information and provide notifications when qualifications are due for renewal.

Sole recognition of CSCS cards by 2020?

The videos coincide with Build UK and the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA)'s CSCS SmartCard audit, which will take place across all Build UK and CECA member construction sites on 8 February 2017.

The audit is designed to promote the value of SmartCard technology and drive increased industry uptake in line with the Construction 2025 target for the industry to adopt smart technology and solely recognise cards carrying the CSCS logo by 2020.

For further information on the Build UK and CECA CSCS SmartCard Audit Contact Build UK Health and Safety Manager Emma Bentley at emma.bentley@builduk.org

NEW INDUSTRY GUIDANCE ON SITE H&S INDUCTIONS

BuildUK call for engaging, relevant and interesting inductions

CDM 2015 requires that contractors provide each worker under their control with appropriate supervision, instructions and information so that construction work can be carried out without risks to health and safety.

The Principal Contractor or Contractor (on single contractor projects) must ensure a suitable Site Induction is provided to every site worker.

Site inductions should also be provided to those who do not regularly work on the site, but who visit it on an occasional (e.g. architects) or once-only basis (e.g. students). Inductions provided to escorted visitors need not have the detail that unescorted visitors require. Escorted visitors only need to be made aware of the main hazards and control measures.

The Lift and Escalator Industry Association

33-34 Devonshire Street

London

W1G 6PY

P: 020 7935 3013

F: 020 7935 3321

E: enquiries@leia.co.uk

What should and should not be included?

BuildUK has now published a [Guidance Note](#): Site Specific Health and Safety Inductions to help deliver site inductions with the objective of briefing the workforce on the health, safety and environmental aspects of the construction project on which they are about to work.

The guide adds that inductions should not be considered as health and safety training or a marketing opportunity and should never be boring adding:

“A great site induction will provide all this information and motivate the workforce to behave appropriately on site and contribute to improving health and safety practices across the industry. Build UK members support this guidance note as recognised best practice for the delivery of consistent site inductions.”

GUIDANCE NOTE

Site Specific Health and Safety Inductions



Background

Site inductions are delivered across the UK every day with the objective of briefing the workforce on the health, safety and environmental aspects of the construction project they are about to work on.

A good site induction will:

- Inform everyone working on the project of current and forthcoming activities
- Set out any site specific rules and requirements
- Clearly identify particular hazards and risks
- Confirm expected behaviours on site
- What to expect from site management

A great site induction will provide all this information and motivate the workforce to behave appropriately on site and contribute to improving health and safety practices across the industry.

CASES

Although not all case studies are specific to the lift and escalator industry, cases that may be relevant have been included.

LADDER FALL CLAIMED LIFE OF WINDOW FITTER

Simple steps not taken to secure leaning ladder

A Southampton window installation company has been fined after a worker suffered fatal head injuries following a fall from a ladder.

Brighton Magistrates Court heard how the workman was helping in the installation of uPVC windows at a 3-storey house in Brighton on the 10 September 2014.

He was working from an unsecured ladder when it slipped sideways and he fell to the ground. The father of two was taken to hospital suffering from head injuries but died the following day.

Assessment and precautions missing

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations and was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay the prosecution costs.

HSE Inspector Amanda Huff, said:

“The family have been devastated because simple steps were not taken to secure the ladder he was using. If the company had ensured a proper risk assessment was carried out this tragic incident could have been prevented.”

COSHH FAILURES HIT FIRM WITH £800,000 FINE

Respiratory danger uncontrolled and health effect not under surveillance

Health and Safety Executive

Figure 3 Ladder showing maximum angles at 16° on a side slope and 6° on a back slope

Figure 4 Ladder tied at top stiles (correct for working on, not for access)

12. HSE and BERR recommend Class 1¹³ 'Industrial' or EN 131¹⁴ ladders or stepladders for use at work. Make sure the ladder is a suitable size for the work (see paragraphs 9 and 22).

Is it a safe place to use a ladder or stepladder?

13 This covers the specific place where you are going to set up and use it. As a guide, **only** use a ladder or stepladder:

- on firm ground or spread the load (eg use a board);
- on level ground - for **stepladders** refer to the manufacturer's instructions, for **ladders** the maximum safe ground slopes on a suitable surface (unless the manufacturer states otherwise) are as follows:
 - side slope: 16° - but the rungs still need to be levelled (see Figure 3);
 - back slope: 6° (see Figure 3);
- on clean, solid surfaces (paving slabs, floors etc). These need to be clean (no oil, moss or leaf litter) and free of loose material (sand, packaging materials etc) so the foot can grip. Slippery floor surfaces can be slippery even without contamination;
- where it has been secured.

14 The options for securing a **ladder** are as follows:

- tie the ladder to a suitable point, making sure both stiles are tied, see Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7;
- where this is not practical, use a safe, unsecured ladder or a ladder supplemented with an effective ladder stability device (see paragraph 11);
- if this is not possible, then securely wedge the ladder, eg against a wall;
- if none of the above can be achieved, foot the ladder. Footing is the last resort and should be avoided, where reasonably practicable, by the use of other access equipment.

A manufacturer of aircraft ejector seats, has been fined £800,000 after three workers developed debilitating lung conditions.

Three skilled engineering machine (CNC) operators developed extrinsic allergic alveolitis after many years of years of exposure to the mist of working metal fluid.

Aylesbury Crown Court heard how the workers, who had served with the company for more than 20 years, were exposed to the working metal fluid mist over at least a three-year period.

Extraction not provided to control mist

HSE investigators found that the measures in place within the factory to control the exposure were inadequate and there were also failings in the provision of health surveillance.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (1974) and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 and were fined £ 800,000 and ordered to pay costs of over £36,000.

HSE Inspector, Stephen Faulkner, said

“Companies need to make sure they consider workers’ health just as much as their safety when carrying out risk assessments. The dangers of breathing in metal working fluid are well-known within the industry. In this case one worker has had his health permanently and severely damaged, two others have also been affected, all must live with their condition for the rest of their lives.”

DRILLING MACHINE INJURY PROMPTS £250,000 FINE

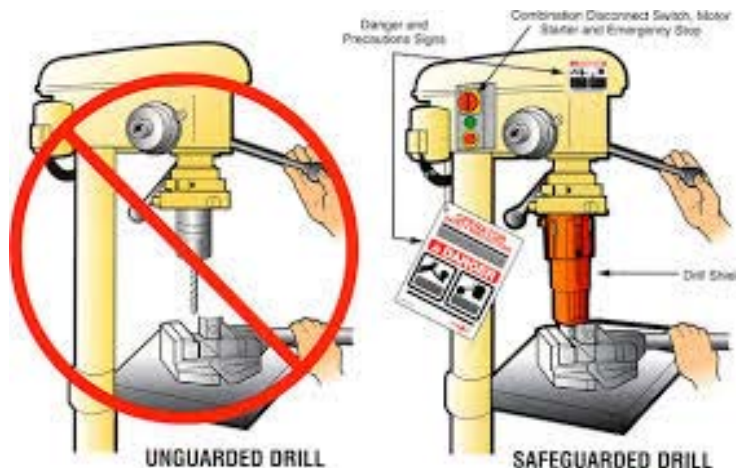
Basic machinery safety deficiencies result in huge financial penalty

An engineering business from Essex has been fined £250,000 after a workman suffered injury to his hand on a drilling machine.

Chelmsford Crown Court heard how the employee was drilling a casting when the glove on his hand became entangled on the rotating drill bit dragging his hand onto the dangerous part of machinery.

He suffered injuries to his hand which required a skin graft and was off work for two months.

Inadequate guarding, training and supervision



An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into the incident which occurred on 16 December 2014 found that the machine was badly guarded and poorly maintained.

The operator was not properly trained or supervised.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and was fined £250,000 and ordered to pay costs of over £12,000.

FIRM FAILED TO MANAGE MUSCULOSKELETAL RISK

Manual handling aids inadequate plus training and assessment lacking

A car component manufacturer, has been fined over £180,000 after six workers experienced back injuries from repeatedly lifting heavy car engines.

Birmingham Crown Court heard that between 1 November 2013 and 7 January 2015 HSE received six reports of back injuries to workers which caused them to be off work for more than seven days.

HSE investigators found that the workers were expected to handle components weighing between 14 and 21kgs some hundreds of times during a shift.

Mechanical lifting aids were either not provided, not suitable, or no training had been received by workers in how to use the aids. There were no suitable or sufficient manual handling assessments in place for the tasks involved.

‘Health’ as important as ‘Safety’

The business admitted breaching Regulation 4(1)(b) of the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992. The company was fined £183,340 and ordered to pay over £21,000 costs.

HSE Inspector Elizabeth Hornsby said:

“Companies need to recognise that manual handling as a high-risk activity. It is equally important to get health issues right, as well as safety. An Office of National Statistics report on Sickness Absence in the Labour Market stated that 30.6 million days were lost in 2013 due to musculoskeletal problems. This itself should highlight the need for employers to get health issues right.”

WORKMAN FELL TO DEATH INSTALLING FALL ARREST

Major power services firm failed to manage pylon fall risk



An international engineering company has been sentenced following the death of a worker who fell some 10m from an electricity pylon. The rigger was installing fall arrest lines for painters to use on a pylon near Carlisle in July 2014 when the incident happened.

When he arrived at the pylon the painters had already commenced painting even though the pylon had not been rigged. Whilst climbing the pylon he fell backwards, narrowly missing one of the painters working directly below him. He sustained serious multiple injuries and died at the scene.

Failure to implement, monitor and enforce system of work

The company had established a system of work but failed to implement, monitor and enforce the system. This failing exposed their employees to

the risk of death. A fine £200,000 was imposed and the company ordered to pay costs of over £59,000.

Speaking after the hearing HSE Inspector Susan Ritchie said:

“The company were clearly aware of the hazards involved with pylon work and had a system in place to manage the risks. Unfortunately, they failed to implement, monitor and enforce this system of work. In addition, the company failed to ensure the proper inspection and provision of safety critical personal protective equipment.”

VISIT TO GP TRIGGERED HSE HAVS INVESTIGATION

Court imposes £250,000 fine after HAVS management failings uncovered

A District Council has been fined £250,000 after a worker was diagnosed to be suffering from hard arm vibration syndrome (HAVS).

Canterbury Crown Court heard how a workman employed by the Council visited his GP and was diagnosed as suffering from HAVS. HSE investigated the matter and found that the worker would typically spend up to 6 hours a day using a range of powered equipment including mowers and hedge cutters, depending upon the season.

Further fifteen cases revealed

The workman was not part of a health surveillance programme nor was he told how he should report his symptoms. Investigators revealed that the council failed in respect of:

- Management – suitable steps had not been taken to assess, eliminate or control exposure of their employees to hand arm vibration;
- Awareness – failure to educate workers on the risk from vibrating power tools; and
- Training – failure to train workers on how to control their exposure to the vibration caused by the power tools.

The Council pleaded guilty of breaching Regulations 6(2) and 7(1) of the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 and was fined a total of £250,000 and was ordered to pay over £18,000 in costs.

HSE Principal Inspector Mike Walters, said:

“Hand Arm Vibration is a serious disease that impacts on people’s lives and impairs their ability to work. It is entirely preventable but once the damage is done it is permanent.

Any business, council or employers can learn from this case. If you have workers who use heavy machinery you need to ensure you properly manage the risks from HAVs, control or eliminate the exposure and train them so they can identify the symptoms.”

TEMPORARY WORKS FAILURE LEAD TO DEATH

TW on major project not built to safe design and checked

The Principal Contractor and two other contractors on a major London construction project have been fined a combined total of over £1,000,000 after one workman died and two others were badly injured when a temporary platform collapsed on 29th October 2012.

Southwark Crown Court heard how a carpenter and a steel-fixer were standing on a temporary wooden platform above a stairwell opening on the 9th floor of a construction site when the platform suddenly gave way.

Timber joists supported by unsuitable hangers

HSE investigators found that similar platforms were constructed on other floors throughout the construction site using timber joists supported by unsuitable joist hangers with plywood fixed on top. The platforms formed part of the ‘temporary works’ but were not built to an agreed safe design and build quality checked.

- Principal Contractor - fined £600,000 and ordered to pay costs of £14,935.54.
- Contractor 1 - £400,000 and ordered to pay costs of £14,935.54.
- Contractor 2 - fined £20,000.

Karen Morris, HM Inspector of Health & Safety, said

“The risks of falling from height are well-known, and the risk of joist hanger failure is well-documented. This tragic incident illustrates what can happen if temporary works are not properly organised. All those who have a role in planning and managing work on site must take responsibility for ensuring that serious risks are properly controlled.”

WORKER LEFT ‘STRANDED’ IN MEWP AFTER ROOF FALL

Construction worker fell 6m through fibreboard roof

A Derbyshire based engineering construction company, has been prosecuted and fined £267,000 after a worker fell and suffered severe injuries in July 2014.

The workman was repairing the “fibreboard roof” of a barn and using two homemade crawling boards when he fell 6m on to the floor below, sustaining serious injuries to his head, hip, and lungs.

A colleague was under the roof in a ‘man basket’ attached to a telehandler. When the incident occurred the workman in the telehandler was required to climb down the boom of the machine to help his colleague.

Insufficient platforms or coverings

HSE investigators found that insufficient platforms or coverings for the roof were provided to protect workers from falling through the roof.

The risk assessment and method statement was “in the office” and was also not specific to the job being undertaken. There were also no separate controls for the man basket, leaving the worker stranded when his colleague fell.

NOTE:-

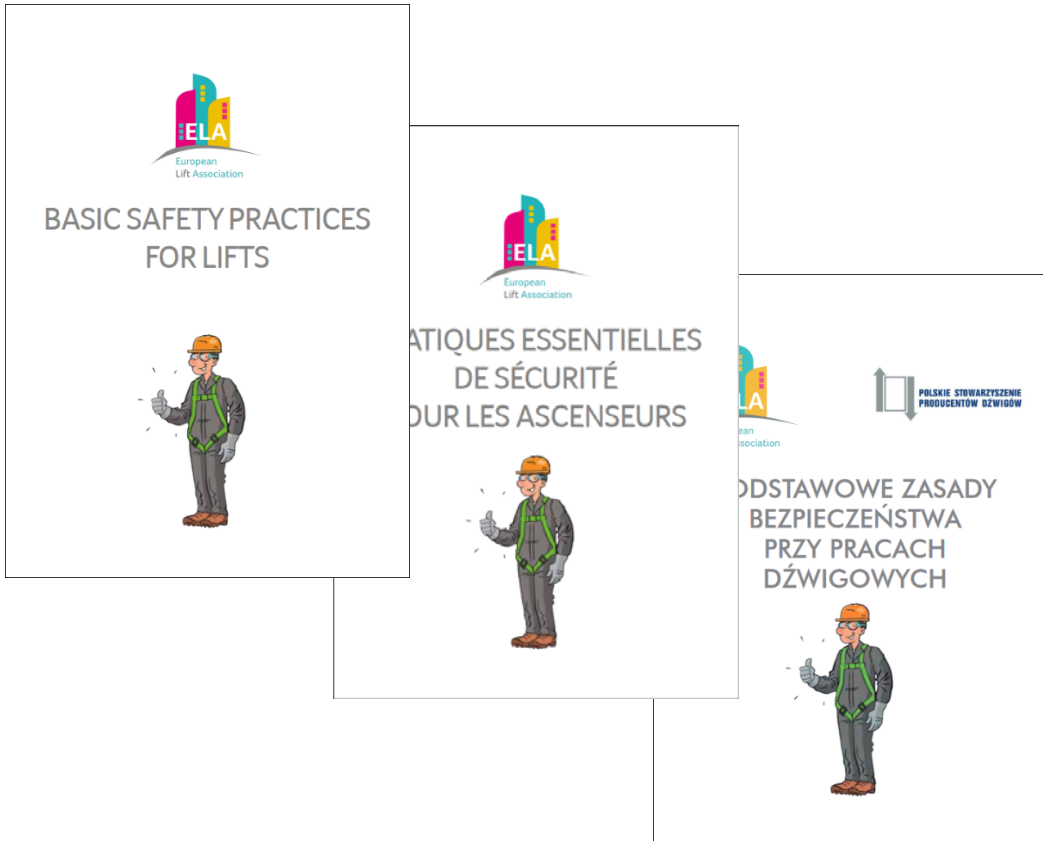
Inclusion of company or organisation information in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by LEIA for the services provided.

PUBLICATIONS

EUROPEAN LIFT ASSOCIATION

The European Lift Association have produced a Basic Safety booklet aimed at operatives and workers. It is available in several European languages.

<http://ela-aisbl.eu/index.php/main-themes/safety>



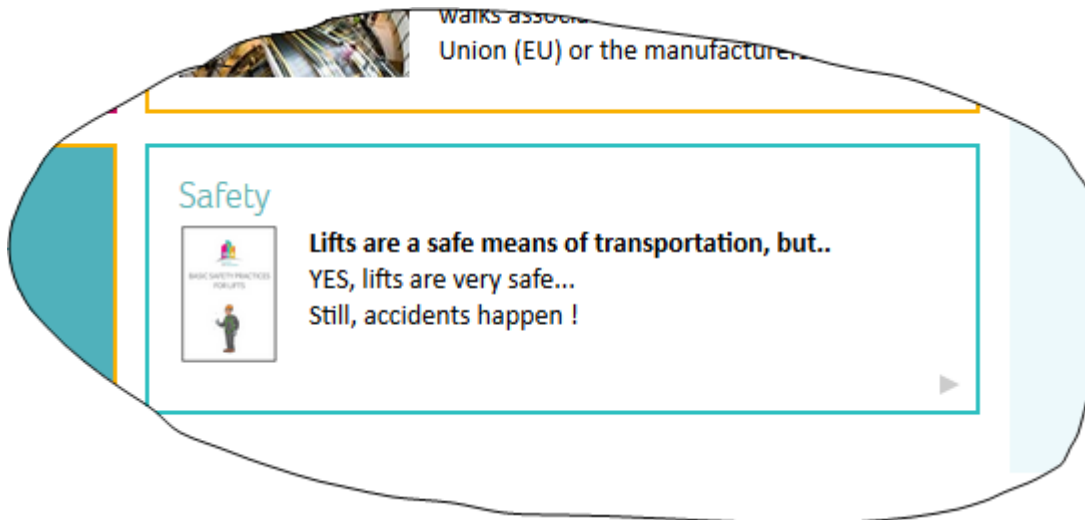
Safety Update December 2017

Erratum:

The link to the ELA website for their safety booklet in several European languages does not work.

You can navigate to the page by going to the ELA website home page:

<http://ela-aisbl.eu/> and looking for the 'Safety' link:





10 MINUTES TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE Lowering cholesterol



**FIGHT
FOR EVERY
HEARTBEAT**
bhf.org.uk

High cholesterol isn't something you can feel or notice, but if you have it you're more likely to have a heart attack or stroke.

The good news is there are lots of things you can do to help lower your cholesterol so your risk is lower.

You're in control. By taking ten minutes every day to make small changes to your lifestyle, you could lower your cholesterol – and change your life.

ABOUT HIGH CHOLESTEROL

What is cholesterol?

Your blood carries oxygen and nutrients (from your food) around your body so that your organs, (like your heart, lungs and brain) can work properly.

Cholesterol is a fatty substance in your blood. There are two different types of cholesterol – HDL cholesterol and LDL cholesterol. HDL is sometimes called 'good' cholesterol and LDL is called 'bad' cholesterol.

Everyone has some cholesterol in their blood. But if you have too much bad LDL cholesterol in your blood, you are more likely to have a heart attack or a stroke.