



SAFETY UPDATE

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NEWS

SCAFFOLDER TRAINING REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

CISRS training card renewal by CPD embraced by scaffolders

The *Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme* (CISRS) has announced (Jan 2018) that over 1000 Scaffolders and Advanced Scaffolders have attended the CISRS CPD course and applied to renew their CISRS cards under the new scheme rules.

The CISRS has been the industry recognised scaffold training scheme for over 40 years and is the preferred scaffolding qualification for major organisations including CSCS, NASC, HSE, Build UK, UNITE, UCATT and the largest scaffold systems manufacturers. The scheme has 60,000+ CISRS card holders in the UK.

The requirement for scaffolding operatives to complete the 2-day course prior to card renewal was introduced on 1st July 2017 following an 18-month publicity campaign. Contact details for all approved centres can be found on the CISRS website.

Demand for training “much higher than expected”

The new course has been very well supported. The number of scaffolders looking to attend CPD has proven to be much higher than expected with centres making additional courses available to meet demand.

Dave Mosley CISRS Scheme Manager said:

“We had expected a lot of people whose cards expired in 2016 simply to take a H&S test and apply for an early renewal prior to the CPD requirement going live. These figures show that there are plenty of scaffolders who have completed the programme and demand for places on courses is increasing.”

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HSE SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION SECTOR HARM

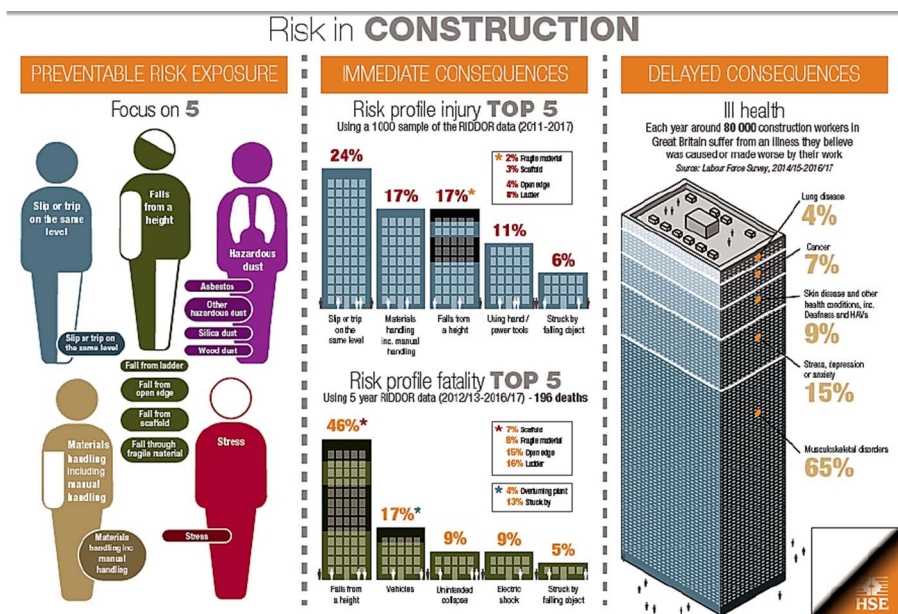
Infographic provides insight into industry priority hazards

On the 10th January 2018 HSE launched the *Construction Industry Advisory Network (CONIAN)*, a "new advisory network" aimed at giving all areas of the construction industry a voice. The network is aimed at bringing together a wider representation of organisations and workers from across the construction industry.

The launch of CONIAN included an HSE Construction Industry Risk Profile Infographic which provides a summary of the harm caused during construction work. HSE stressed that the injury statistics represented by the Infographic are:

"preliminary findings from 1000 randomly selected RIDDOR reports and consequently the figures may change when the full data set is analysed. The risk profile does not reflect the self-reported types of accident used in official HSE statistics."

The Infographic provides a useful summary of the most significant causes of harm caused by work in construction sector.



HSE MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS SUMMIT 2018

Regulator focuses on MSDs in construction and others sectors

Tackling work related musculoskeletal disorders is a key priority for HSE in the construction and other sectors. MSDs are the most commonly reported cause of occupational ill health in Great Britain and HSE is:

"firmly set on achieving significant improvements in preventing and controlling exposure to MSDs"

The regulator has organised a MSD Summit to be held on 21st March 2018 at Queen Elizabeth II Centre, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, London, SW1P 3EE

This summit will explain what HSE is doing, what you can do and current scientific thinking. Delegates will hear about the HSE position on MSDs and how design solutions can reduce the risks.

Risk Reduction Through Design Award

HSE has partnered with the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (CIEHF) to sponsor an annual MSD Risk Reduction Through Design Award.

Speakers at the Summit include:

- Sarah Newton MP (Minister for Disabled People, Health & Work)
- Prof Karen Walker Bone (Director of the Centre for Musculoskeletal Health & Work at the University of Southampton)
- Geoff Cox (HSE Health & Work Branch)
- Martin Friar – (Deputy Director, Head of HSE’s Insight & Service Design)
- HSE Foresight Team – paint picture of MSD issues in future world of work
- HSE Science Division – talk about the reviews on exoskeleton, wearables & cobots
- Kerry Trow (Principal Specialist Inspector, FOD Occupational Health HSE)
- Prof Anthony Woolf (Chair of Arthritis & Musculoskeletal Alliance (ARMA), Royal Cornwall Hospital)

There will be an Exhibitor Zone available for delegates from registration through to the afternoon break.



PARLIAMENT CALLS FOR WORKING AT HEIGHT ADVICE

Group of MPs seek to understand fatal fall causes and solutions

The *All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Working at Height* is seeking information to help the work of the group. The Group is concerned that:

"Falls from height and falling objects from height account for the highest number of preventable fatalities and injuries across all sectors in UK industry. The APPG will seek to understand the root causes and propose effective, sensible measures to reduce this toll and send people safely home from work."

The APPG for Working at Height is being run in conjunction with Prefabricated Access Suppliers' and Manufacturers' Association (PASMA). Questions Asked by the APPG

The Group is investigating serious injury and fatalities while working at height and is consulting all interested persons on the following questions:

- *In your opinion, what are the primary reasons for falls, or falling objects, which cause serious injuries or fatalities when working at height?*
- *Do you have any comments about the existing regulations for work at height, as set out in the Work at Height Regulations (2005)?*
- *Are there specific measures you believe are necessary to prevent falls, or falling objects, from height which are not currently required by law?*
- *What more can industry do to avoid falls from height, and share good practice?*
- *What role should end users/customers have in ensuring safe work at height?*
- *Would you support enhanced reporting of falls from height as a way of better understanding the causes and helping to reduce falls from height?*
- *Do you believe the current definition of competence for working at height is appropriate?*

- *Can you propose any innovative suggestions, particularly using digital technology, which could have a positive effect on reducing falls / falling objects from height?*



You can submit responses by the 2nd March 2018 to appg@workingatheight.info or Working At Height APPG, 32-34 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 2DB.

Working at Height

HSE REACH OUT TO RESOLVE RISK MANAGEMENT

Construction Industry Advisory Network (CONIAN) launched

HSE has launched a “new advisory network” aimed at giving all areas of the construction industry a voice. The Construction Industry Advisory Network (CONIAN) is a newly formed stakeholder network, bringing together a wider representation of organisations and workers from across the construction industry to:

- **Share** – provide a platform for sharing good practice and behaviour; and
- **Support** – reach and support those that need to improve health and safety performance.

A new online community aimed at sharing knowledge, good practice and responding to risks from changes in the workplace and new technologies was announced.

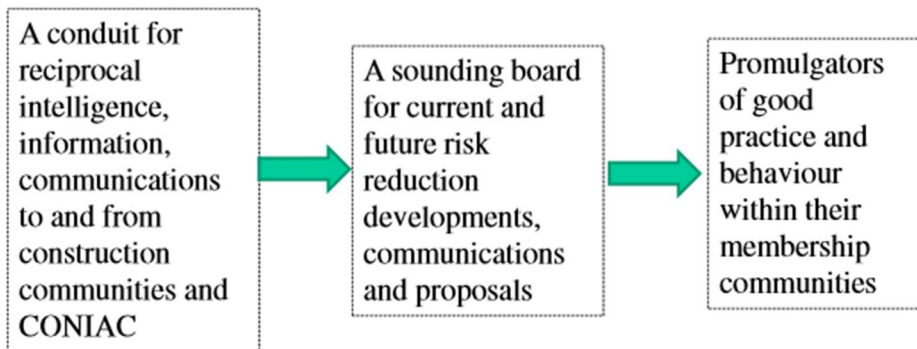
Information concerning the CONIAN online presence is expected at a later date. The existing CONIAC web pages will no longer be updated and there will be a single new HSE website platform for all CONIAC and CONIAN related information.

CONIAN will support CONIAC

The long-established Construction Industry Advisory Committee (CONIAC) advises HSE and relevant stakeholders of emerging health and safety developments and risks and agrees plans for the promotion of effective risk control.

CONIAC has now been aligned to delivering the all industry HSE Help Great Britain Work Well Strategy through five Working Groups and CONIAN will feed into the CONIAC working groups as illustrated below.

A community of representative organisations committed to reducing construction risks and improving worker protection



CASES

FATAL FALL FROM EDGE OF INDUSTRIAL ROOF

Suitable protection missing during installation of roof sheets

A construction company has been fined £100,000 after an employee died after falling over 6m from the edge of an industrial building in May 2016.

Plymouth Magistrates heard how the employee suffered fatal injuries after falling whilst carrying out work installing roof sheets on a new agricultural building.

Precautions, training supervision inadequate

HSE investigators found that the company failed to provide suitable edge protection, failed to ensure there was a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks from the use of the edge protection and failed to ensure those installing the edge protection and supervising the work had received adequate training.

The contractor from Crediton, Devon pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 2 (1) of The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £100,000 and ordered to pay costs of £11,060.40.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Kate Leftly said:

"Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work related fatalities in this country and the risks associated with working at height are well-known.

If suitable edge protection had been installed, the tragic death of this employee could have been prevented."

MANAGER AND PC FAILED TO ACT ON ASBESTOS SURVEY

Principal contractor and site manager sentenced over AIB dust

A principal contractor and site manager have been sentenced after workers were exposed to asbestos during refurbishment work on a project in Derby in January 2017.

Derby Magistrates heard how labourers removed asbestos insulating board (AIB) ceiling panels from a store-room. This work which should have been completed by a licensed asbestos removal contractor under fully controlled conditions.

Failure to manage ACMs on project

HSE found that the PC and site manager failed to suitably manage the site asbestos containing materials (ACMs) and ensure that ACMs identified were removed prior to any potential for disturbance during the construction work. The site manager failed to respond appropriately once the AIB ceiling had been accidentally damaged.

The Principal Contractors was fined £9,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,336 whilst the site manager was given a community order to carry out 120 hours unpaid work and was ordered to pay costs of £1,531.66.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Andrew Bowker said:

Asbestos Insulating Board (AIB)

Where do you find this?

Asbestos Insulating Board was commonly used as fireproofing material but it had many other uses such as:

- partition walls
- fireproofing panels in fire doors
- lift shaft linings
- ceiling tiles
- soffits
- panels below windows

What does it look like?

Normal building items such as wall panels, boards, ceiling tiles and plasterboard. It is difficult to tell the difference between asbestos insulating board items and non-asbestos materials.



AIB ceiling tile



AIB soffit under roof

Resources

-  [Asbestos essentials](#)
-  [Asbestos: The licensed contractors' guide](#)
-  [Managing and working with asbestos: Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012](#)

[More resources](#)

See also

- ▶ [Risk assessments](#)
- ▶ [Information, instruction and training](#)
- ▶ [Duty to manage](#)

"This incident could so easily have been avoided by the duty holders simply carrying out correct asbestos control measures and safe working practices.

Companies and individual site managers should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action including prosecution against those that fall below the required standard for managing asbestos containing materials during refurbishment work."

VEHICLE COLLISION 'EJECTED' MEWP OPERATOR

Fatal fall caused by failure to manage WAH and transport operations

A Suffolk-based trailer service firm has been fined after an employee suffered fatal head injuries in January 2015.

Ipswich Crown Court heard how the employee was operating a scissor-lift working platform (MEWP) when this was struck by a long goods vehicle causing him to be ejected onto a roadway from a height of 1.5m.

HSE investigators found that the defendant failed to plan and organise work at height in a manner that ensured the safety of their workers.

Segregation of operations required

The work at height should have been organised to segregate activity in space and/or time from adjacent workplace transport operations.

The company from Felixstowe, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £120,000. Speaking after the case, HSE Principal Inspector Norman Macritchie said



The selection, management and use of mobile elevating work platforms

HSE information sheet

Introduction

This information sheet is aimed at those who select, specify, manage and operate mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs).

It tells you what you should consider before selecting a MEWP to gain access to work at height and the risks that need to be assessed and managed while the MEWP is in use.

All types of MEWPs are covered by this guidance, including ones that are:

- vertical 'scissor' lift;
- self-propelled boom;
- vehicle-mounted boom; and
- trailer-mounted boom.

General Information Sheet No 6



"This was a tragic and wholly avoidable incident, caused by the failure of the company to implement and monitor safe systems of work.

The company did not undertake the simple safety measure of segregating those working at height from adjacent workplace transport operations, in line with widely available industry guidance."

FAILURE TO PROTECT PUBLIC FINED £600,000

Two elderly people injured during construction of disabled ramp

A retailer has been sentenced after two members of the public tripped and fell over during construction work outside a convenience store in the Vale of Glamorgan in January 2016.

Cardiff Magistrates heard that during the three-day construction project elderly member of the public tripped over the construction work breaking her wrist, hitting her head and suffering severe bruising.

The following day another elderly member of public fell from the partially constructed ramp breaking his collar bone and suffering severe bruising.

Closing the store was 'reasonably practicable'

HSE investigators found that construction work which was undertaken while the store was open required customers to walk through the construction site to enter and exit the store.

The court heard that it was reasonably practicable to close the store during the construction of the ramp and install barriers and signs to prevent access by members of the public.

The national retailer from Essex was fined £600,000 and ordered to pay costs of £11,520. Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Gemma Pavey said



"These incidents could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.

Commercial clients and companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

REFURB CONTRACTORS FINED £1.1 MILLION

Tenant fell 5m through fragile surface whilst walking to home

Two construction firms have been fined a total of £1.1m after a tenant suffered serious injuries when she fell through a fragile surface in June 2015.

Southwark Crown Court heard how the tenant was injured whilst gaining access to her flat when she fell 5.5m through a fragile surface and suffered serious injuries including a fractured pelvis.

The balcony walkway was the sole access to and from the flat and, although construction workers had been working on it for the previous four days, the tenant had not been informed of the work or of any associated risks. There were no physical barriers in place to prevent her from stepping into the balcony walkway.

Prior incident revealed risk

In August 2014 the parties became aware that the balcony replacement work involved exposing, and then working around, a fragile surface, after operatives partially fell through the cement soffit within the balcony. However, it was only after the later injury that the companies put sufficient steps in place to protect workers and members of the public from falling from height.

The Principal Contractor from Newcastle upon Tyne was fined £800,000 after being found to have failed to plan, manage, monitor, and coordinate the balcony refurbishment works to ensure the work was carried out without risks to the health and safety of their operatives or members of the public. The roofing contractor was fined £300,000.

Speaking after the case, HSE Inspector Sharon Boyd said:

"This incident could easily have been avoided if the companies had ensured that workers and members of the public were protected. Companies should be aware that they are at risk of being prosecuted by the HSE if they do not do what is reasonable to protect people."