



SAFETY UPDATE

Issue 09 September 2018

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NEWS

NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY TEST FOR ARCHITECTS

RIBA raise the bar for members on design risk management and 'life safety'

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) will over the next twelve months develop a new mandatory test for all UK Chartered Members on "health and safety and building users life safety". The test is set to launch in 2019 and will cover:

- Roles, responsibilities and legislation;
- Design Risk Management; and
- Personal health and safety when working away from the office.

RIBA comments that the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 – CDM 2015 and the Hackitt Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety have been put architects:

"under increasing pressure to demonstrate to the construction industry, clients and procuring bodies that they have appropriate skills, knowledge and experience in health and safety and life safety of building users and in their own personal safety on site."

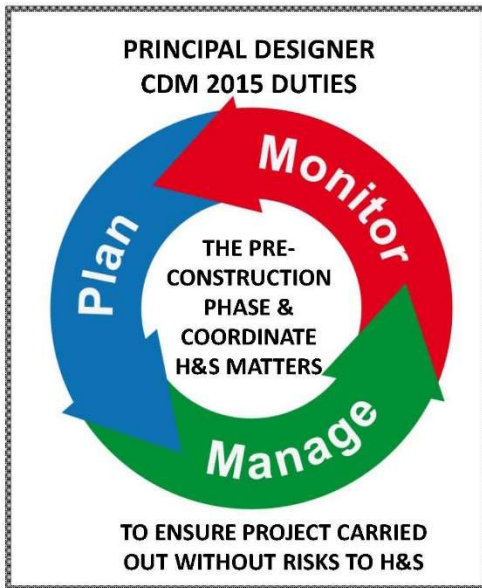
Members are expected to already have appropriate health and safety knowledge as set by the architectural education criteria and ongoing requirements of at least two hours formal CPD in health and safety per year.

One year to pass test

The new test requirement is a direct result of this work and the Hackitt Review's call for professional bodies to raise competency in life safety issues. Existing RIBA members will be given a year to pass the test before renewing their membership for the 2021 subscription year.

The RIBA will provide health and safety CPD in a variety of forms to help ensure RIBA Chartered Members have the appropriate knowledge and confidence in their existing skills and experience in health and safety.

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SAFETY ALERT: DEFECTIVE SCAFFOLD COUPLER

National Access and Scaffolding Confederation issues warning

The NASC has published [Health & Safety Alert – Defective](#) Double Coupler which was issued jointly by major contractors Kier and Bam on 8 August 2018.

The alert explains that whilst erecting a handrail using tube and fitting, a drop forged double coupler failed when tightened. On initial inspection the coupler had sheared at the gate hinge pin lug.

Further inspections on random couplers identified that “a number of similar and additional defects were present”.



3M PRIZE DRAW £5000 PPE GIVEAWAY

The 3M Safety Giveaway - Win a PPE review plus £5000 of 3M Safety products

3M Safety are offering you the chance to win one of the biggest prizes they have ever given. One lucky winner will receive:

- A visit from a 3M Technical Specialist who will meet with you, discuss your safety needs and help you select your prize products
- £5000 worth of 3M Safety products of your choice which we will supply completely free of charge

There are also lots of second and third prizes to be won, detailed below.

All you have to do for your chance to win one of these fantastic prizes is click on the link below and fill in your details. You will then be automatically entered into our prize draw!

[ENTER NOW](#)

The prizes

First Prize (1 to be won)

1 x visit from a 3M Technical Specialist plus £5000 worth of 3M Safety products of your choice

Second Prizes (30 to be won)

1 x 3M™ PELTOR™ ProTac™ III headsets

Third Prizes (100 to be won)

1 x 3M™ SecureFit™ 400 Series protective eyewear

3m SAFE TEA BREAK

The SafeTea Break, brought to you completely free by 3M, provides you with the toolkit and platform you need to engage your workforce in a discussion about health, safety and long latency occupational diseases.

The new pack that we've developed is even better. It includes a new topic - Fall Protection - designed to get employees thinking about potential hazards when engaging in work at height.



For more information or to download your free 3M SafeTea Break kit simply click [HERE](#).

HANDLE WITH CARE

Incorrect manual handling is one of the most common causes of injury at work. It can result in musculoskeletal disorders, which include injury and pain to backs, joints and limbs.

[Manual handling](#) is the cause of more than a third of reported workplace injuries, according to recent statistics.

The HSE website hosts advice, free tools and useful publications on how to reduce the risk of injury through manual handling tasks in the workplace. These include the leaflet [Manual Handling: A Brief Guide](#).

CASES

FIRM FINED £400,000 OVER VIBRATING TOOLS RISK

Hand-held orbital sanders, rivet guns, grinders and drills caused harm

A company which maintains and repairs aircraft components has been fined £400,000 after workers were exposed to risk from the use of hand-held vibrating tools.

Cardiff Crown Court heard how around 100 employees were exposed to vibration and developed Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) over a period of 22 years. At least 30 employees were exposed to risk of significant harm whilst using orbital sanders, rivet guns, grinders and drills.

A suitable assessment of work activities should have been undertaken and additional controls implemented to reduce exposure to vibration.

Failed to grasp importance of HAVS health surveillance

Employees should have undergone suitable health surveillance to identify symptoms at an early stage of the disease. This would have prevented it from progressing to a disabling condition.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching HSW Act Section 2(1) and was fined £400,000 and ordered to pay over £39,000 in prosecution costs.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Janet Hensey said:



"This was a case of the company completely failing to grasp the importance of HAVS health surveillance. If they had understood why health surveillance was necessary, it would have ensured that it had the right systems in place to monitor worker's health and the employee's condition would not have been allowed to develop to a severe and life altering stage".

TWO WORKMEN DIED IN SPRAY BOOTH EXPLOSION

Flammable vapour ignited by ignition sources present at the scene

A Norwich manufacturer has been fined after two employees working with flammable substances in a spray booth died in an explosion in July 2015.

Norwich Crown Court heard how the two workmen sprayed several welded steel buckets and were preparing for the next batch.

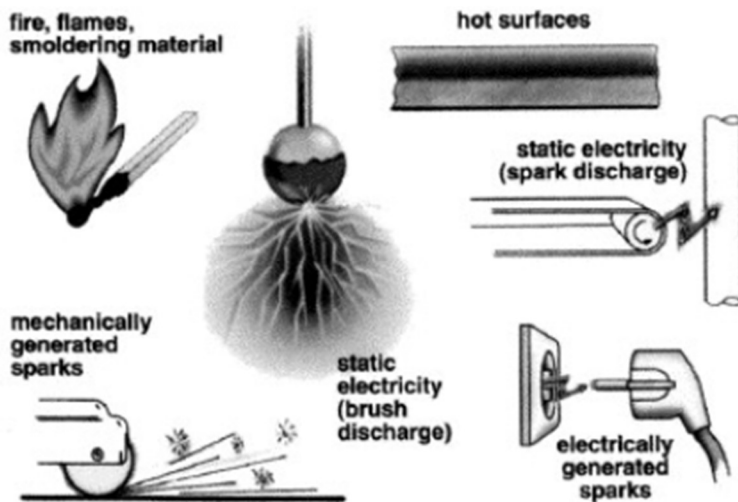
The flammable vapour generated whilst cleaning or flushing a paint spray gun was ignited by one of the "various sources of ignition" which were present at the scene and the explosion claimed the lives of both workers.

Wholly avoidable incident

HSE investigators found the immediate cause be the “inconsistent and incomplete approach” to health and safety by the company and its employees which resulted in the lack of a suitable and sufficient safe system of work for the activities in the spray booth.

The company of Spar Road, Norwich pleaded guilty to breaching HSW Act 194 Section 2(1) and the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmosphere Regulations 2002 and was fined £145,000 and ordered to pay costs of £65,900.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Keith Waller said:



"This was a tragic and wholly avoidable incident, caused by the failure of the company to implement safe systems of work, and failure to ensure that health and safety documentation was communicated and followed."

CLIENT FAILED MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS TEST

Homes developer prosecuted for breaching CDM 2015 client duties

A homes developer has been fined after putting employees at risk due to widespread safety failings on two construction projects.

Manchester and Salford Magistrates' Court heard how the company appointed several principal contractors to build numerous properties at two sites in Preston and Tarporley.

HSE carried out proactive inspections at both sites and found those working on site were exposed to risks including falls from height, electrocution, inhalation of silica dust and being struck by construction plant.

Clients cannot delegate health and safety responsibilities

HSE investigators found the company failed to make suitable arrangements for managing the projects. There were insufficient welfare facilities at the site in Tarporley and the company failed to give notice in writing to HSE before the construction phase began at the Preston site.

The company from Stockport was found guilty of breaching the CDM Regulations 2015 and fined £76,000 and ordered to pay costs of £14,651.64.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Susan Ritchie said:



"Clients cannot delegate their health and safety responsibilities. The CDM Regulations 2015 places clear duties on clients making them accountable for the impact their decisions and approach have on the health, safety and welfare of their project.

In general terms, the client must ensure that the construction project is set up so that it is carried out from start to finish in a way that adequately controls the risk to health and safety of those who may be affected by it."

JAIL TERM FOR DEVELOPER AFTER BUILDING COLLAPSE

Inexperienced workers demolished structure without Principal Contractor

A property developer has been sentenced after the roof and part of the rear wall collapsed at one of his properties during demolition works in August 2017.

Manchester Crown Court heard how a group of workers, with no experience in construction, were engaged to demolish the property in Oldham.

HSE inspectors, alerted by the local authority building control department, found internal walls and supports for the roof had been removed. Further work was stopped and a nearby major was closed because of the danger of collapse.

The building collapsed suddenly on 12th August triggering an emergency response involving Greater Manchester Police and the Fire Service causing significant disruption as the site was made safe.

Miracle only one person injured

The collapse could have been prevented if a Principal Contractor been appointed and a suitable risk assessment carried out. These steps could have ensured the stability of the building during the demolition with regards to temporary works and control measures such as scaffolding.

The sole trader from Manchester was found guilty of breaching HSE Act Section 2 (1) and Section 3 (1) the CDM 2015 Regulation 19 (1). He was sentenced to eight months imprisonment for each offence (concurrent) and was order to pay prosecution costs of £65,000.

In his sentencing of Mr Ahmad, the Judge remarked that:



'This was a very serious case indeed. It was nothing short of a miracle that only one person was injured. A clear statement has to be made to those who undertake significant projects such as this, namely that health and safety legislation has to be adhered to for good reason, and those who ignore its basic tenets will receive punishment.'

REVERSING VEHICLE CLAIMED LIFE OF 'BANKSMAN'

Workman trapped whilst assisting colleague in reversing lorry

A haulage firm has been sentenced following a fatal incident in which a driver was crushed by a reversing vehicle in December 2013.

Worcester Crown Court heard how the 60-year-old man was assisting a colleague to reverse a vehicle when he became trapped between the reversing vehicle and his own vehicle causing fatal injuries.

HSE investigators found drivers were routinely labelling their loads in the yard whilst other lorries were returning to the yard and reversing in close proximity.

Devise safe methods of working

The investigation found no segregation of vehicles and pedestrians, lighting was inadequate and there was deep shadow between parked lorries.

The transport company from Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire was found guilty of breaching the HSW Act Section 2(1) and fined £150,000 and ordered to pay costs of £253,728.07.

Speaking after the case, HSE principal inspector Elizabeth Hornsby said:



"Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working. If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, this tragic loss of life could have been prevented."

MAJOR CONTRACTOR FAILED TO SUPERVISE LIFT

Errors whilst lifting pre-cast concrete blocks fined £600,000

A major UK contractor has been fined £600,000 after at Newport Magistrates' Court which heard that an agency workman suffered life-changing injuries when a 6.93 tonne block of pre-cast concrete fell on his leg in 15 August 2016.

The injured man started work at the Maerdy Bridge, Cardiff site where two bridges were being built. District Judge Brown heard that on the day of the accident the concrete units that would form the bridge were being relocated on the site.

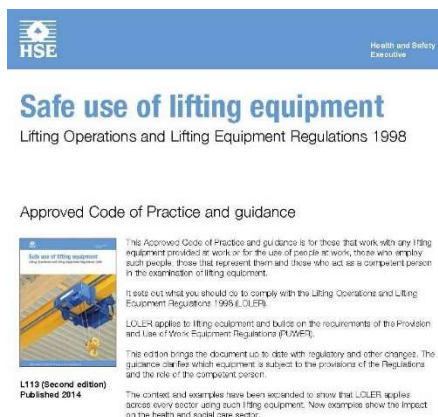
He was on a ladder removing lifting chains from a block when it toppled over and his leg was crushed between the fallen unit and the one behind it.

Adequate supervision required

The Office of Rail and Road's (ORR) investigation into the incident revealed that the injuries could have been prevented if the contractor had provided adequate supervision for the job.

Ian Prosser, HM Chief Inspector of Railways, said:

"This workman suffered devastating injuries in this incident and we are pleased that the severity of the sentence indicates how seriously it is taken by the court."



The cover of the L113 (Second edition) publication, 'Safe use of lifting equipment', is shown. It features the HSE logo and the title 'Safe use of lifting equipment' in large blue letters. Below the title, it says 'Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998'. The cover also includes a small image of a blue lifting device and text describing the publication as an 'Approved Code of Practice and guidance' for those working with lifting equipment. It mentions that the edition brings the document up to date with regulatory and other changes and includes new examples of lifting equipment across various sectors.

"We are absolutely committed to protecting the health and safety of workers and, as this prosecution demonstrates, we will not hesitate to take enforcement action when it is necessary."

DEMOLISHING INTERNAL WALL REVEALED ASBESTOS

Firm lacked survey and asbestos management plan for premises

A machining manufacturer has been fined after workers were exposed to asbestos fibres whilst demolishing an internal wall.

Birmingham Magistrates' Court heard how the workers were asked to remove the internal wall by their manager. There was no asbestos survey or an up to date asbestos management plan for the premises.

AIB removed without license

HSE found that asbestos insulation board was removed unsafely without proper precautions and by unlicensed individuals from the company without any safeguards in place to prevent the spread of the asbestos fibres.

The firm from Moor Lane, Birmingham pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,454.40.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Tariq Khan said:



"Asbestos in buildings needs to be managed or removed by competent contractors. Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working."

"The company needed to follow the proper procedures by carrying out an asbestos survey and formulating an asbestos management plan as well as training those responsible for managing asbestos".