

Hi-Vis BSA Health and Safety News Items & Notes

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Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007

This Act of Parliament which came into force in April, sets out a new offence for convicting an organisation where a gross failure in the way activities were managed or organized results in a persons death.

This is in addition to the powers which already exist to convict senior managers on grounds of negligence, manslaughter and health & safety offences: The onus is on directors and senior managers of an organization to ensure that robust processes for ensuring Health & Safety are in place - including where appropriate a process for 'CDM'.

Responsibility cannot be delegated for this and lack of adequate resources will not constitute an excuse!

More details can be found via the following web site:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/manslaughteractguidance.htm>

Just in case you don't know what you don't know – you are welcome to call BSA to check that your management systems and processes for health & safety are robust.

More Inspections Called For to Improve Construction Health and Safety

Another influential group of MPs has pressed the HSE to devote more resources to inspections to reduce the number of deaths in the construction sector.

As part of a general report into the sector, the Business and Enterprise Committee said it welcomed industry-wide targets to cut construction fatalities and major injuries by 10 per cent year-on-year up to 2012. However, it backed the Work and Pensions Committee's conclusion that more inspections were needed to improve health and safety compliance on building sites, especially given the recent 28 per cent rise in construction-related deaths in 2006/07. It described it as "illogical to argue that the number of inspections has no effect on health and safety standards".

Recognising that the refurbishment sector had the worst record in terms of fatalities, the Committee warned that "only radical steps to address the size of the informal economy are likely to improve the sector's health and safety record". It suggested the Treasury could conduct an analysis of the consequences of cutting VAT on all repair and maintenance work, so as to remove the competitive advantage of those who avoid registration for VAT.

The MPs also stressed the importance of creating a culture of health and safety in reducing the number of deaths and injuries, and called on the Government, in its role as client, to up its game, particularly by ensuring that contractors bidding for public-sector projects are assessed on health and safety. The MPs urged the government to use the Construction, Design and Management (CDM) Regulations 2007 and the Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007 to "enforce a change of approach in public-sector construction procurement, and to drive culture change across the sector".

A key question for Clients and Contractors alike is if inspections drive standards and result in less risk of accidents or down time then 'Are you inspecting sites with regard to Health & Safety often enough?'

Buckle Up or Get Thrown Around:

The International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) has released a dramatic video that shows the dangers of not wearing a full body harness on a boom type access platform.

The IPAF video features a live demonstration in which a crash dummy fitted to a specially modified Skyjack boom shows the effects of driving over a low-lying obstacle. For safety reasons, the crash dummy is suspended at the top of the basket. Worth a thought!

<http://www.ipaf.org/en/publications/film>

Join the Health and Safety Executive campaign to eradicate “Dodgy Ladders”



Falls from height are the biggest safety risk:

The Health and Safety Executive in partnership with LACoRS are offering a part exchange scheme for broken/damaged/or bet ladders at a number of different retail outlets.

Download the poster from <http://www.hse.gov.uk/falls/exchange-poster.pdf> for more information.

The Health and Safety Executive focus on certain aspects of risk on construction sites according to their profile and current campaigns. BE WARNED!

Many common faults of ladders on building sites are that they are of Domestic Standard and not fit for purpose. Many ladders have damage from misuse or damage in transit. Ladders should be tall enough to maintain a three point of contact.

All ladders must be fit for purpose, of industrial strength and inspected regularly to ensure they are safe to use.

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