

## Site Safe Scotland E-News – June ISSUE 2010

An e-bulletin for clients, designers, contractors and health and safety specialists

Welcome to the Site Safe Scotland construction health and safety bulletin. If this is the first time you have seen the E-News and would like to be a regular recipient please contact [pamela.mackenzie@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pamela.mackenzie@hse.gsi.gov.uk). If you would like to access more information on construction site health and safety go to <http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/infonet.htm>

### HSE CONSTRUCTION PRIORITIES AND CAMPAIGNS

#### SIMPLE MISTAKES CAN SHATTER LIVES...YOUR ACTION COULD STOP THEM HAPPENING

The Shattered Lives campaign returned in 2010, focusing on actions that employers can take to prevent slips, trips and falls at work. Falls from height remain the single greatest cause of fatal accident in construction; so getting safe access for work at height is important. HSE has developed the “WAIT” toolkit. It is for occasional users of access equipment who need help in deciding what access equipment to use for planned work at height. To visit the campaign website and access case studies and the new “WAIT” toolkit go to <http://www.hse.gov.uk/shatteredlives/?ebul=cons/jan10&cr=25>

#### WORKPLACE TRANSPORT 'LOAD SAFETY' INITIATIVE

A new multi-media campaign has been launched to focus on getting hauliers, transport managers and drivers to secure loads properly to help reduce the number of injuries during loading and unloading. Unsafe loads on vehicles injure more than 1,200 people a year and cost UK businesses millions of pounds in damaged goods. The campaign involves direct mailshots giving guidance and top tips on loading safely. To find out more visit.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport/loadsafty/index.htm?ebul=cons/jan10&cr=4>

### RECENT PROSECUTIONS

A local authority has been fined £14,000 after 14 of its employees, were potentially exposed to asbestos while carrying out refurbishment work. The workers, including joiners, had been instructed to remove laboratory doors from a school and carry out alterations at the council's workshop. This involved cutting the doors which had an asbestos core. Property owners should keep accurate records of the location and condition of asbestos and have suitable procedures in place to inform anyone working on or near the asbestos.

An Edinburgh construction company has been fined a total of £3,600 for failing to ensure properly trained staff were managing a construction site in Galashiels. They pled guilty to four health and safety charges. The company admitted that during a house construction in 2008 it; failed to provide adequate supervision of workers, did not providing the site foreman with adequate health and safety training, failed to take adequate precautions to prevent falls from height, failed to provide adequate washing facilities and neglected to ensure scaffolding was regularly inspected. They also admitted failing to comply with two improvement notices served by HSE in August 2008.

Whatever the size of your business, HSE has guidance to help you manage your health and safety. Go to <http://www.hse.gov.uk/business/>

### Recent Developments

**The Notification of Conventional Tower Cranes Regulations 2010** came into force on 6 April 2010. The Regulations require certain information about conventional tower cranes used on construction sites to be notified to HSE. Tower crane suppliers are aware of these regulations and the notification requirements. However if you want to know more visit: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/indg437.htm?ebul=cons/jan10&cr=1> Following several well publicised crane collapses HSE wants to see an improvement in the control of lifting operations with **all types of cranes on sites**, mobile and tower. The construction industry has produced a range of guidance on safe lifting practice and is available on the Construction Plant-hire Association web site <http://cpa.uk.net/>

### HSE Guidance

If you are working in refurbishment the property may contain asbestos (or manage a property that might contain asbestos). Then you or surveyors, clients/dutyholders, architects and others may use or commission surveys of asbestos. HSE has produced guidance on the management of asbestos in non-domestic premises *Asbestos: The survey guide HSG264*. The

new guide updates and replaces previous guidance (MDHS 100). The guidance uses new terminology "Management Surveys" and "Refurbishment/Demolition Surveys" these now replace the old Type 1, 2 and 3 surveys.

#### New Falls from Vehicles Case Study

A new solution to working at height - A system that would allow operators to load/unload cabins without resorting to climbing to or on the roof. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/fallsfromvehicles/wpt13.pdf?ebul=cons/aug09&cr=12>

All HSE guidance is **free** online. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/newsletter.htm?ebul=cons/aug09&cr=15>

### **SAFETY ALERTS**

Following a recent fatal accident in Scotland, HSE is warning all users of telehandlers, of the danger of not replacing broken windows on these machines. This is the third similar fatal accident in the last 7 years. In the earlier incidents the operator is thought to have leaned out of the window and also on the boom control. This lowered the boom onto themselves. Machine owners, users and operators should be warned of the dangers of operating their machines with the side screen broken or missing. If this side glass screen is broken or missing the machine should be removed from use until it has been replaced. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/telehandlers.htm>

Following a warning from a Site Safe Scotland member an alert has been issued for structural failures of the main support structure (chassis) on Liftlux models SL260-25 and SL245-25 scissor lifts. If you have one of these machines and have not completed the inspection required by the recent manufacturers' bulletins, you should immediately withdraw it from service so that it can be examined by a competent person. For guidance visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/liftlux-scissor-lifts.htm>

### **SAFETY SCHEMES IN PROCUREMENT (SSIP)**

Health and safety pre-qualification questionnaires can be a burden where companies are required to repeatedly pre-qualify for both public and private sector work. Stage 1 pre-qualification can become a source of excessive paperwork and significant cost, especially for small businesses. Members of the SSIP Forum have moved towards reducing the burden through 'deem to satisfy' or 'mutual recognition' arrangements between schemes. Philip White, HSE Chief Inspector of Construction, has said SSIP offers real benefits for the industry as a whole. 'An SSIP assessment will ensure compliance for stage one pre-qualification. It offers a real opportunity to raise standards and I think it should allow SMEs wider access to a range of jobs, and client's access to a wider range of SMEs.' There are currently nine accreditation schemes registered with SSIP. Further information from the SSIP website - <http://www.ssip.org.uk/index.html>

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Site Safe Scotland** delivers Safety and Health Awareness days (SHADs). These events providing practical advice on common health and safety risks to small businesses. They are usually free to attend and we usually feed you too! There is a new website making it even easier to find out what is going on. Visit the HSE in Scotland website to see what is happening in your area <http://www.wwt.uk.com/> <http://www.hse.gov.uk/scotland/events.htm>

DATE	TITLE	VENUE	AUDIENCE	CONTACT
2 June 2010	Scottish House Builders Health & Safety Forum	Oatridge College, Broxburn	Small Businesses	Allan Mulholland 0141-275-3062
30 June 2010	Ground works SHAD	Gordon Barracks, Aberdeen	Small Businesses	Pam McKenzie <a href="mailto:pamla.mackenzie@hse.gsi.gov.uk">pamla.mackenzie@hse.gsi.gov.uk</a> 0131-247-2128
29 Sep 2010	Multiple topics SHAD	Borders Showground Kelso	Small Businesses	<a href="mailto:allan.mulholland@hse.gsi.gov.uk">allan.mulholland@hse.gsi.gov.uk</a> 0141 275 3062

Thanks for your interest

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