

7 August 2005
Issue 24

HSfB Newsletter

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- [A.S.A.T.S](#)
- [enricoSmog](#)
- [Fife Chamber of Safety](#)
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- [IonActive](#)
- [Safetyphoto](#)
- [Victorian WorkCover Authority](#)

New Site Downloads

JASON ACCIDENT
STATS.xlt - (187KB)
- Spreadsheet

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Health and Safety for Beginners - HSfB

Introduction

We hope that this issue of our newsletter finds you safe and well.

Newsletter Changes

We are currently working on a new layout for the HSfB newsletter in order to provide you with a better service.

This issue may be the last time you see the layout as it is, however, you will soon see more news articles and with

your help, more content relating to what you would like to see.

Further details of the changes ahead will be in the next issue where things may look slightly different!

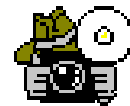
Your Articles

This week's article is one created to give a brief outline of the origins of Asbestos and of its uses.

"We are a United Britain, who has The World standing by our side."



ASATS Making sense of safety - having fun whilst we're doing it.



[SafetyPhoto](#)

We hope you enjoy this issue and please feel free to pass it on!
History of Asbestos by John Johnston AIIRSM

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous silicate mineral which has been used in a variety of useful products for hundreds of years since Roman times. It is found throughout the world including Africa, Australia, Canada, Russia, the United States of America and China.

Between the 1950's and 1980's, asbestos was used in substantial amounts of building projects, products and materials. In addition, most buildings constructed or refurbished within this time period are extremely likely to include asbestos containing materials (ACM's), particularly in buildings constructed using steel frames. Steel frames were often coated with asbestos spray for fire protection.

One of the main reasons why asbestos was so popular and widely used was its versatility and cheap production/importation. Asbestos has various useful properties including the following:

- Resistance to electricity, heat and fire giving asbestos ideal fire-proofing capabilities and insulating properties.
- Fibres can be mixed with cement or woven into fabric or mats.
- Asbestos has a desirable high tensile strength and flexibility.

You can read this article in full by clicking the following link: [Your Articles](#)

Regulation CornerNew Legislation

**The Railways and
Transport Safety Act
2003
(Commencement No.
5) Order 2005**

**The Dangerous
Substances and
Preparations (Nickel)
(Safety) Regulations
2005**

New Consultations

**No new
consultations this
week.**



[HCMB Access
Consultancy](#)

4 August 2005 – HSE Research - Level Crossings

New HSE Research Report on Level Crossings

The Health and Safety Executive's Railway Inspectorate (HMRI) have published a research report on railway level crossings, looking at conditions arising at level crossings and how people react to them, perhaps making errors.

The report, on behalf of the HSE, based their findings on 104 identified human factor issues at railway level crossings.

Click this link for the full story [more....](#)

4 August 2005 – HSE Advice Storing/Selling of Fireworks Safely

HSE Advice on Storing and Selling of Fireworks Safely

Although we are all still in the midst of holiday fun times, sellers of fireworks will be planning and ordering their stocks for Guy Fawkes celebrations. It is with this in mind that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have produced free leaflets full of excellent advice for anyone involved in the storage and selling of fireworks to do so safely.

The leaflets explain the need for Risk Assessments to be carried out and provides simple actions which must be taken to comply with regulations and prevention of injury or harm.

Click this link for the full story [here....](#)

3 August 2005 – Laptops Led to Back Injuries

Incorrect Positioning of Laptops Led to Back Injuries

Incorrect positioning of laptops within the vans of service engineers working for Transco plc in the Cumbria and Tyne & Wear area have led to back injuries and subsequent claims for compensation, now secured.

The laptops were fitted with a security wire, which was attached to the passenger seat within the vehicles. Restriction was limited and laptops could only be used by placing them on the passenger seat. The bad posture scenarios resulted in back problems being created and aggravation of any underlying back weaknesses for those who were required to use the laptops frequently.

Click this link for the full story [more....](#)

3 August 2005 – Tribunal Orders Disability Rights Training

Tribunal Orders Disability Rights Training for Virgin Managers

An Employment Tribunal in Exeter has ordered three key Virgin Managers to be trained, within a 3 month timescale, in how to make provisions under the Disability Disability Act (DDA), especially with regards to "making reasonable adjustments".

The Virgin Cross Country case was taken to tribunal by a train driver employee, where he was awarded £41,000 in damages. It was found that there had been a breach of the DDA in failing to make reasonable adjustments when the train driver returned to work following a knee operation.

Click this link for the full story [more...](#)

31 July 2005 – MHRA Seminars for Implementation of Blood Bank Legislation - Updated

MHRA Forthcoming Seminars for Implementation of Blood Bank Legislation - Updated

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) are hosting seminars throughout the UK, reviewing the forthcoming implementation of The Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005. The Regulations become effective on 8 November 2005.

As these blood, safety and quality regulations will impact all private and public hospitals who have blood banks, the MHRA will address the following key issues, in order to provide understanding and requirements of the regulations, prior to the implementation, such as:

- Understanding the Regulatory requirements of the Legislation; MHRA's role as a competent authority and more.

[Click this link for the full story more....](#)

29 July 2005 – First Prosecution Under DDA Against Debenhams

First Prosecution Under DDA Against Debenhams

The giant retailer, Debenhams will be the first company to be prosecuted under the new Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) following failure to make improvements for wheelchair access within the menswear department of their store in Derby.

Mr. Greg Jackson, a wheelchair user, is suing Debenhams due to his access to the menswear department being an impossible task. A flight of stairs would have to be negotiated by Mr. Jackson in order to reach his preferred destination.

[Click this link for the full story more....](#)

28 July 2005 – HSE June Report - Signals Passed at Danger

HSE June Report Published for Signals Passed at Danger (SPAD)

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have published their Signals Passed at Danger (SPAD) report for June 2005. This report is their seventieth monthly report of SPAD's on the mainline railway network.

The summary report for June 2005 includes the following:

- June 2005 shows a figure equal to the average figure for June over the past 8 years; 12 SPAD's were at signals with previous SPAD history, 2 of which had been passed at danger 5 times or more since 1985; 8 trains ran past the signal by 200 yards or more.

[Click this link for the full story more....](#)

28 July 2005 – Latest Statistics Available from HSE

Latest Statistics Available Within HSE Webpage

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have made available the latest statistics within their web-pages, in pdf format, as follows:

- [Statistics of Fatal Injuries 2004/05](#)

The Statistics of Fatal Injuries for 2004/05 shows the fatalities to workers in all industries throughout the UK and in European Union Member States.

In general, the report highlights the decrease of fatalities in the workplace and is well worth taking a moment to view.

[Click this link for the full story more....](#)

Offers

Blood Safety and Quality Regulations event.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is hosting several seminars about The Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005 legislation in late September/early October 2005 across the UK.

Download the MHRA PDF document for further information on dates, venues and a registration form:
[Blood Safety PDF](#)

HSfB:

"There is no such thing as a "stupid" or "daft" health and safety question!"

28 July 2005 – The Compensation Myth Report by TUC

The Compensation Myth Report by TUC

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) have published a 10 point "Compensation Myth" report which rejects reports implying that compensation payouts within the UK are spiraling out of control.

The TUC's findings are that civil compensation cases involving claims against employers have fallen within the UK on a year by year basis over the past 5 years.

The 10 point myths highlighted and explained within the report can be found in our article by clicking the link.

Click this link for the full story [more....](#)

28 July 2005 - Draft Manslaughter Bill to be Scrutinised

Draft of Manslaughter Bill to be Scrutinised

The Draft of the Corporate Manslaughter Bill, published by the Government in March this year, is to be scrutinised by two select committees created by the Home Affairs and Work and Pensions Committees.

The Draft Bill in March proposed that companies and organisations be held to account where senior managers had gross failings when fatalities occurred.

However, committees have said, under common law manslaughter charges, it has been impossible to prosecute large companies due to the complexity of their management structures.

Unions also have been critical of the bill, mainly the absence of any Directors duties.

Click this link for the full story [more....](#)

28 July 2005 – Corporate Homicide Reform in Scotland

CCA Conference on Corporate Homicide Reform in Scotland

The Centre for Corporate Accountability (CCA) are holding a conference on 6 October 2005, at Partick Burgh Hall in Glasgow, to consider if there is a Scottish alternative to the Westminster reform and what the alternative might be.

The conference will be attended by The Scottish Executive, employers, trade unions, NHS and local Government employers as well as lawyers and members of the Executive Panel.

Click this link for the full story [more....](#)

26 July 2005 – TUC Warning - Asbestos Screening Scan Vans

TUC Warning of Asbestos Screening Scan Vans

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) has issued a warning regarding the arrival of the American style CT Scan Vans in the U.K. They say this is not the best way for workers who fear they may be at risk from exposure of asbestos to deal with the rising asbestos related disease in the U.K.

The Scan Van CT screening originated in the U.S.A., mainly to provide insurance companies with the means to put forward claims for compensation, which would provide monetary benefits of commission when settlements were agreed upon.

Click this link for the full story [more....](#)

Mr. Brendan Barber,
TUC General Secretary:

"The harsh reality for thousands of ill and injured workers is very different with most getting little if anything when things go wrong at work as a result of their employers' negligence."

TUC's Head of Safety,
Mr. Hugh Robertson:

"These companies play on people's fears, and are interested not with the health of the worker, but whether they can make commission on compensation claims for any illnesses they find."

Notice Board & Featured Web Sites

Within each issue of the HSfB newsletter, we will be featuring web sites that may be of interest to you.

If you want to use this free Notice Board and Featured Site area, please send an email with a request and you will be placed in the queue for a free advertising spot.

www.learninglink.ac.uk/site.htm

Learning Resources Portal for Higher Education

Free and Sponsored On-line Learning Resources.

Without ever leaving your home or desk, you can gain the expertise needed to maximize your viability in today's job market.

www.safesite.co.uk/caution/

CAN YOU HELP?

Safesite's much anticipated Project Height video campaign has now gone live, coinciding with the launch of the new Work at Height Regulations 2005.

Over the coming months, Safesite will be releasing short video clips which build up over the year to provide viewers with the full story.

HSfB Community Forums

Why not come along and search our community forums to answer your queries or check out our H & S comedy section, you could even register and be part of our ever growing friendly health and safety discussion board. Click this area to go directly there, it's all FREE....

www.openerg.com/dse/index.html

Safe Office Practice

This site is designed to help you avoid or reduce health problems arising from computer use. Most of these problems can be helped by making straightforward changes to the layout of your desk and computer.

HSfB Site Statistics for August 2005 (so far)

Top 10 Downloads

1. OSHAS 18001 Slideshow by Craig Lydiate
2. Fork-Lift Trucks - by HSfB
3. Working At Height - by Ron Bonner
4. Manual Handling by Adams Burt & Associates
5. Risk Assessment - by Nick Higginson
6. Safety Induction - by Malcolm Strong
7. Basic Principles of Electrical Safety
8. Lifting and Handling Techniques
9. The Anatomy of an Accident or Hazardous Incident – HSfB
10. The Six Pack - by HSfB

Top Ten Pages Visited

1. Downloads
2. Downloads – PowerPoints
3. Toolbox Talks
4. Downloads – Documents
5. Revision
6. News
7. Legislation News
8. Downloads - Miscellaneous
9. Revision Aids by Jane Riley
10. Contents

Top 5 Browsers

1. **MS Internet Explorer**
2. **Mozilla**
3. **FireFox**
4. **Safari**
5. **Netscape**

Stats for August

Average Daily Visits = 408

Max Daily Visits = 605

Visits - August (so far) = 2,857

Bandwidth (August) = 1,818 MB

Total Visits (approx) = 187,368

Forum Members = 334

Newsletter Subscribers = 291

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About Our Organisation...

Our status is a not-for-profit Sole Trader, which is owned, managed and financed by John Johnston AIIRSM.

Our principal functions and activities are to provide continuing advice to beginners in the health and safety field, links to various employment agencies which highlight health and safety careers, links to various training companies for health and safety and also to update professionals on current health and safety news/events.



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