

# KEEP IT SAFE

BFFF QUARTERLY HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

APRIL 2009 EDITION



BRITISH  
FROZEN FOOD  
FEDERATION

# Welcome

Welcome to the BFFF quarterly Health and Safety newsletter 'Keep it Safe'.

Many of you will have seen our health and safety column in 'The Bulletin'. The Bulletin will contain headline information on health and safety topics; 'Keep it Safe' will provide more comprehensive information relevant to our industry.

This edition will include information on the following topics:

## 1. Legislative Update

- i. Gas Safe Register™
- ii. Proposed amendments to the Health and Safety Information for Employees Regulations 1989

## 2. HSE Campaigns

- i. Shattered Lives Campaign
- ii. WAIT (Work At Height, Access Equipment, Information, Tool) e-Learning Tool
- iii. Tackling Stress
- iv. HSE Tells Directors "To Lead By Actions, Not Words"
- v. European Campaign for Safety and Health at Work 2008/09
- vi. Future Events

## 3. Guidance

- i. Project To Help Reduce Red Tape In The Food Industry
- ii. Warning On Chemical Cancers
- iii. REACH Bite Size Advice Sheets Updated
- iv. Food And Drink Better Backs Survey
- v. Campaign On Agency Worker Rights
- vi. Revised ACOP On Confined Spaces
- vii. Skin Exposure Risks At Work
- viii. Management Standards For Health Problems

## 4. Enforcement Action

- i. Ladder Slip Leads To Broken Heel
- ii. Slips And Falls Can Be Costly
- iii. Worker knocked unconscious by shock
- iv. Hotel forced to close after guests exposed to asbestos

## 5. Health & Safety Working Group

- i. Health & Safety Working Group - Update
- ii. BFFF LAPS Update
- iii. Update On Health & Safety Pledge

We do hope you find 'Keep It Safe' a valuable read. Please contact BFFF on 01400 283090 or email [hazelcranidge@bfff.co.uk](mailto:hazelcranidge@bfff.co.uk) if you would like to raise any health and safety issues or receive additional/back copies.



# 1. Legislative Update

## i. Gas Safe Register™

In Great Britain, the HSE's approved gas safety body is changing. From April 1st 2009 Capita will replace the Council for Registered Gas Installers (CORGI) as the approved body for gas safety. In addition, all gas installers should be registered on the new Gas Safe Register™ scheme.

This change follows a review undertaken in 2006, where the HSE identified that a fundamental change was needed in how gas safety is managed, particularly in terms of raising public awareness of gas and carbon monoxide risks.

This change came in the form of offering the approved body status out for tendering. The field was narrowed down to two applicants – Capita and CORGI. Capita won out by scoring higher in the tendering process and has been granted a 10-year contract.

Capita have provided a new scheme for approving gas installers – the Gas Safe Register™. As of 1st April, all gas installers operating in Great Britain will need to be registered on this scheme and not the previous one operated by CORGI. This scheme has been handed over in trust to the HSE so it will continue should another body replace Capita when their contract expires.

CORGI will continue to exist as a gas industry safety body and gas engineers may choose to continue with their membership but businesses seeking to obtain the services of a competent gas engineer must ensure that they are registered on Capita's Gas Safe Register™ scheme.

It should be emphasised that the change applies to mainland Great Britain only – Northern Ireland will retain CORGI as HSENI's approved body for gas safety at least until March 2010.

## ii. Proposed Amendments To The Health And Safety Information For Employees Regulations 1989

The HSE has issued a consultation: Proposals for amendments to the Health and Safety Information for Employees Regulations 1989 (HSIER). Replies were required by 11 August 2008.

The HSIER require employers to provide information to their employees relating to health, safety and welfare at work, by displaying in the workplace a copy of the approved poster or by giving employees a copy of the approved leaflet.

As the law stands, employers must write on the poster the name and address of the health and safety enforcing authority, and the address of the local office of the Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS).

If an employer gives a leaflet to the employee, then a written notice of these details must also be provided.

The proposed amendments would allow the HSE to approve and publish new posters and leaflets, which do not require the addition or updating of information by businesses displaying them.

It would also permit employers to continue to display their existing posters or give out existing leaflets, providing they are readable and provide up-to-date information on contacting the enforcing authority and EMAS.

Publication of a new approved poster and leaflet will also provide an opportunity to present clear basic information about employees' health and safety rights and responsibilities, and how to get further help and advice.

## 2. HSE Campaigns

Each year, HSE plans a series of campaigns based on particular health and safety topics aimed at reducing the incidence of work-related fatal and major injuries.

During each campaign, Inspectors visiting premises will focus on the key campaign areas and assess the standards, offer advice and enforce applicable legislation. It is also common during major campaigns that certain businesses will be targeted for inspection based on their activity i.e. if their work area is relevant to the current campaign.

This section of Keep it Safe, will inform you of the proposed campaign profile for the forthcoming year. Some of these details may change as the priorities change within the HSE, however the information will provide you with the main areas of focus in the near future.

### i. Shattered Lives Campaign

The HSE has launched its Shattered Lives campaign to highlight the devastating consequences of simple slips, trips and falls in the workplace.

The safety body says that every 25 minutes, someone breaks or fractures a bone at work.

The statistics are alarming: every week, one person dies from a slip, trip or fall at work and the serious injuries from slips, trips and falls make up almost a third of all injuries reported to the HSE.

Introducing the Shattered Lives campaign Sian Tiernan, HSE Inspector for Nottinghamshire, said "Each year slips, trips and falls cost the British society nearly £811 million pounds. But what these figures don't reflect is the extent to which these injuries affect individual workers and their families."

The Inspector added, "Slips, trips and falls can be viewed as being minor, funny accidents but the effects are not. It can lead to major injuries, and a lifetime of disability or time off work and in worst cases fatalities.

Shattered Lives will encourage people to change their attitudes: if you spot a hazard, don't assume somebody else will sort it out."

The campaign continues with the introduction of the new online STEP tool. Billed as an eLearning package designed to provide slips and trips guidance through interactive learning, it is aimed at various sectors (including food manufacturing) and has three levels of content:

- Introductory – this level is a short 15 minute course providing key information in an easy to understand way.
- Intermediate – several short sessions on key topics e.g. footwear, flooring and risk assessment for flooring risks totalling 1hr.
- Advanced – detailed lessons with some of them being of a technical nature e.g. classification of flooring, procurement of footwear, test methods.

It is intended that the tool be used for training purposes by anyone from management and Health and Safety professionals to shop floor workers. It is available free of charge from the HSE's website at [www.hse.gov.uk/slips/step](http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/step).

A standalone DVD version may be ordered from HSE books at a cost of £5.

Further information on the Shattered Lives campaign can be accessed at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/shatteredlives>

## **ii. WAIT (Work AT Height, Access Equipment, Information Tool) e-Learning Tool**

The HSE has launched a new e-Learning tool aimed at the occasional user of access equipment. WAIT will help you choose the safest type of access equipment, if you need to work at height. It is especially useful if you are self-employed or a manager or supervisor of a small or medium sized enterprise.

The tool may also assist individuals who want to find out more information on the variety of work at height access equipment available. It provides guidance based on the information you put in about the type of task you are doing and the environment you are working in.

WAIT helps you select the most appropriate equipment, and supplements your assessment of the health and safety risks caused by the job.

Ideally, you need to use the tool at least a day before the planned work activity, taking into account likely weather conditions etc, as this will help you decide what equipment you need, which you may need to hire.

For more information visit:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/falls/wait>

## **iii. Tackling Stress**

HSE has launched a new-look stress website:  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/stress/tacklestress>

The launch is part of a forthcoming stress campaign aimed at raising awareness of stress in the workplace.

The website provides practical information for employees, HR persons, CEOs and Board Directors and outlines the roles that everyone can play in reducing stress.

In addition, the website provides an interactive Stress Management Competency Indicator tool which allows line managers to test their suitability at spotting and dealing with stress in employees under their control.

The site complements the existing HSE Stress Management Standards.

## **iv. HSE Tells Directors "To Lead By Actions, Not Words"**

The HSE has called on Directors to demonstrate personal commitment and spend more time outside the boardroom to show they really care about health and safety.

Judith Hackitt, Chair of the HSE said, "Personal responsibility is fundamental to credibility and strong leadership. The first requirement is to get outside of the Boardroom - visit workstations and talk to staff. Ask them what their health and safety concerns are and show genuine interest in and consideration for their response."

Ms Hackitt challenged the growth of a 'box-ticking' and 'do as I say, not as I do' culture, among managers. She said Board Leadership in Health and Safety was "about common sense, personal responsibility and integrity." She added: "If the actions of the Board are inconsistent with the directions given to staff, this creates a huge integrity gap."

'Leading health and safety at work', ING417, is available free of charge at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg417.pdf>

It was written 'by directors, for directors' and developed in conjunction with the Institute of Directors and a range of other organisations and launched in October 2007.

## v. European Campaign for Safety and Health at Work 2008/09

The European Campaign for Safety and Health at Work for 2008-09 will focus on risk assessment. This two-year campaign is aimed at a wide range of stakeholders, including employers, workers and safety representatives, and is intended to promote the benefits of completing and implementing a risk assessment. The campaign seeks to demystify the risk assessment process to show that risk assessment is not necessarily complicated, bureaucratic or a task only for experts.

The campaign also aims to raise awareness on this issue, provide information and practical advice, encourage activities that have a positive impact in the workplace, and identify and recognise good practice. The focus of the second year of the campaign is promoting good practice in risk assessment. European Week itself is from **19 - 25 October 2009**.

To find out more information, please visit:

[www.hse.gov.uk/campaigns/euroweek/](http://www.hse.gov.uk/campaigns/euroweek/)

Alternatively, visit the website of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work where you can also find out about the European Good Practice Awards 2008 at:

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/campaigns/hw2008>

For further extensive information on risk assessment, as well as tools, case studies and advice, please visit

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/index.htm>

## vi. Future Events

Business advice open days are being run throughout the year. The open days cover all aspects of business including Health and Safety issues, which are manned by a full team of business experts who aim to help businesses to meet and understand their legal responsibilities. They also aim to help

businesses to enhance their operations through the use of new technology and better marketing techniques.

Events in April, May and June are as follows:

7 April 2009	–	Exeter
30 April 2009	–	Maidstone
7 May 2009	–	Luton
21 May 2009	–	Cheltenham
9 June 2009	–	Cornwall & Scillies
25 June 2009	–	Glasgow

For more information, additional dates and online booking visit:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/campaigns/conferences/baod.htm>

### Health & Safety Myth

If you call HSE for help, you'll end up with an unwanted inspection

#### The Reality:

HSE's Infoline is confidential and run for HSE by a contractor. Your individual information is not passed to HSE so it won't result in a visit. The trained operators answer the great majority of calls themselves. If the cannot deal with your query fully, they will ask you if it is all right to refer it to an expert at HSE. So, if you've got a query or a concern, just ask. You've got nothing to lose and it could help your business.



## 3. Guidance

### i. Project To Help Reduce Red Tape In The Food Industry

The HSE has recently funded a new project in the South West of England to help reduce “red tape” in the food industry. The Better Regulation in Food Industry (BRiF) project is committed to reducing the burdens of regulation and inspection for local businesses in the food industry. The project looks at health and safety, fire, trading standards and environmental protection.

The Bristol-based project team is keen to hear directly from food-related businesses of all sizes about their experiences with regulators and ideas on how practice and procedures can be improved.

BRiF is the first major project for the South West Regulators' Forum (SWeRF) and this regional group of regulators has identified the food sector as the focus for its initial, major piece of research because the sector is subject to impact from the full range of regulatory demands.

Project co-ordinators will report back their findings to Forum members and businesses in March and April 2010.

The project manager of the initiative, Sarah Knife, said, “At this early stage, we just want food companies in the South West to know that we are up and running. We are very interested to hear from any who would like to share with us their experiences and ideas.”

“We would also like to hear from businesses interested in taking part in some informal discussion groups and trials involving new ways for regulators to deliver advice, information and inspection — and this can be done anonymously, if requested.”

Regional businesses involved in the food sector who would like to get involved in the

project should contact Sarah Knife on tel: 0117 988 6025 or via e-mail: [sarah.knife@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.knife@hse.gsi.gov.uk).

### ii. Warning On Chemical Cancers

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has published a new research report concluding that the global cancer burden has doubled in a generation and that too little attention is paid to potential occupational and environmental risks.

IARC's World Cancer Report 2008 offers a comprehensive overview of the global burden of cancer, presenting information on cancer patterns, diagnosis, causes and prevention, while clearly outlining what it says is a growing public health crisis.

The report claims that cases of cancer around the world have doubled during the last 30 years of the 20th century.

In 2008, it is estimated that there were over 12 million new cases of cancer diagnosed, 7 million deaths from cancer and 25 million persons alive with cancer within 5 years of diagnosis.

The continued growth and ageing of the world's population has immediate consequences on the cancer burden. By 2030, it is estimated that there will be over 26 million incident cases of cancer annually.

In conclusion, the report highlights the growing global cancer crisis, emphasises the need for a co-ordinated international approach and provides the scientific basis for what should be undertaken and what could be achieved.

### iii. REACH Bite Size Advice Sheets Updated

The HSE, as the UK competent authority (CA) for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH) regime, has updated its Bite Size series of brief leaflets, covering key issues of various aspects of REACH. A total of 15 information leaflets are available on the following subjects.

- REACH is Here
- What REACH Means for Manufacturers
- What REACH Means for EU Importers
- What REACH Means for Users of Chemicals
- REACH: The Basics
- REACH: Timeline
- REACH: Pre-registration
- REACH: Exemptions
- REACH: Articles
- REACH: Guidance for Distributors
- REACH: Creating an Inventory for Downstream Users
- REACH: Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs)
- REACH: Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- REACH: Substances Recovered from Waste
- REACH: Guidance on Biodiesel

HSE has published a range of idealised case studies, reflecting the questions asked of the UK REACH CA helpdesk. They are designed to help stakeholders understand how their business activities might fit into REACH. The leaflets offer good summaries of the most significant aspects. Stakeholders requiring more detailed information should refer to the more comprehensive guidance from the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) website:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/resources.htm#echa>

The Bite Size leaflets and case studies can be accessed at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/bitesize.htm>

### iv. Food and Drink Better Backs Survey

The HSE has recently published the results of its survey for the 2008 Better Backs food and drink manufacturing industry initiative.

In 2006, the food and drink manufacturing industry conducted a major survey across various trade sectors as a follow up to the HSE Backs! 2005 initiative. The survey was repeated during 2008, to allow comparison with the 2006 findings. The survey was co-ordinated by the Food Manufacture Health & Safety Forum, and its objective was to:

- establish the injury incidence rate for back injuries
- identify practical working examples of applications used to eliminate manual handling within the food and drink sector
- help provide solutions for small to medium sized enterprises where they may not have the benefits of large food manufacturers.

The incidence of back injuries in 2008 was considerably lower than in 2006. However, direct comparison was difficult as different companies took part. Nevertheless, many companies had made considerable progress in reducing back injuries. For example, one company had reduced working days lost from back injuries by almost 60%.

The report on the survey covers:

- prevention and management of back injuries
- action being taken around key issues such as occupational health involvement, rehabilitation, employee involvement and job rotation
- the need to consider raw material delivery weights and finished goods weight and design in conjunction with suppliers and customers
- suggestions on back injury prevention.

The survey documents can be accessed at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/food/live.htm#better>



## **v. Campaign on Agency Worker Rights**

The Government has launched a £1 million campaign to help agency workers know their rights, including in relation to health and safety laws, and to help employers know their responsibilities.

A poster campaign will feature in public places, online and in the local press, encouraging workers to be aware of their rights. In addition, Business Minister Pat McFadden will write to over 13,000 employment agencies to outline how they can make sure they are complying with the law.

The campaign will complement the work of the Employment Agency Standards inspectorate, which recently doubled in size and extended its investigative powers.

Commenting on the campaign, Pat McFadden said, "Employment agencies need to make sure they play by the rules and don't short-change their staff. An economic downturn should not be an excuse to deny people their rights to work. This campaign will help agency workers know their rights and help employers know their responsibilities."

Similarly, the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), Brendan Barber, said, "Of course most agencies act within the law, but some agency workers miss out on the most basic employment rights, and are among the most vulnerable in the whole workforce. This is why we welcome the Government's plans to make sure agency workers know their rights and to ensure more effective enforcement of their rights."

Further specific information on agency workers can be accessed at:

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/agencyworkers>

## **vi. Revised ACOP On Confined Spaces**

HSE has published new guidance on working in confined spaces in the form of a revised and updated publication, containing an Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and guidance on the duties in the Confined Spaces Regulations 1997. The new publication will offer guidance and reference points to a range of industries and businesses that deal with confined spaces.

The HSE added that while potential problems with sewers in particular were recognised, more could be done to manage the risks associated with other industries. Commenting on the publication, Bob Daunton of the HSE, said, "Over the years, a simple failure to recognise what is a confined space and not to think about the risks involved in enclosed areas such as ships or offshore structures has led to a number of fatalities."

Mr Daunton concluded, "This guidance will hopefully clarify and highlight the responsibilities that employers have to their employees when they are working in a confined space."

Further information on the publication is available from HSE Books at:

[http://www.hsebooks.com/Books/product/product.asp?catalog\\_name=HSEBooks&category\\_name=&product\\_id=2011](http://www.hsebooks.com/Books/product/product.asp?catalog_name=HSEBooks&category_name=&product_id=2011)

## **vii. Skin Exposure Risks At Work**

New guidance on managing skin exposure risks at work points out that many materials used at work can affect the skin or pass through it and cause diseases elsewhere in the body.

The guidance, recently published by the HSE, is aimed at employers, health and safety advisors, trainers and safety representatives, and offers practical advice to help prevent such disabling diseases.



Among subjects covered are:

- the protective role of the skin
- ill health arising from skin exposure
- recognising potential skin exposure in the workplace
- managing skin exposure to prevent disease.

The HSE has stated that many employers fail to realise they have legal duties to assess the health risks from skin exposure to hazardous substances at work.

The HSE's new book can assist in compliance with such duties by illustrating how to prevent or control exposure to the hazards by using and maintaining suitable measures. The guidance offers advice on:

- assessing and managing risks
- reducing contact with harmful materials
- choosing the right protective equipment and skin care products
- checking for early signs of skin disease.

Managing Skin Exposure Risks at Work can be ordered from HSE Books:

<http://www.hsebooks.com/Books/product/product.asp?catalog%5Fname=HSEBooks&category%5Fname=&product%5Fid=5024>

### **viii. Management Standards For Health Problems**

The HSE has published a new research report investigating whether a Management Standards approach, as used by the safety watchdog to tackle occupational stress, might be used more widely to address occupational health problems.

The main objective of the research reported was to provide evidence, arguments and recommendations in relation to the development of a more unified framework for the HSE's programme on health, work and well-being.

Essentially, the report set out to answer the key question of whether the Management Standards approach might be used more widely to address the most common health problems at work.

In order to answer the question, the researchers investigated the current strengths and weaknesses of the Management Standards approach and their potential. The researchers employed the Delphi methodology, along with a focused review of the relevant scientific and professional literatures, in order to investigate expert knowledge in the area. The programme of work took six months to complete, starting in March 2008 and finishing in September 2008.

The report concludes that the broadening of the Management Standards for work-related health and well-being should be seen as "a positive development", and one that presents an opportunity for the HSE to set an example in this area in the UK, in Europe and abroad.

RR687: Developing the Management Standards Approach within the Context of Common Health Problems in the Workplace: A Delphi Study can be accessed at:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr687.htm>

**Don't chance it**

**CHANGE IT**



## 4. Enforcement

### i. Ladder Slip Leads To Broken Heel

A man from Gateshead, who was off work for more than two years after breaking his heel at work, recently received £120,000 compensation, according to the law firm Thompsons Solicitors.

The man broke his heel when he slipped on a ladder attached to his van while he was working in 2007. He was using the ladder to access the van's roof rack as part of his work but the rainy conditions had made it slippery. His fall left him in a plaster cast for four months. Following the accident, the man contacted his union, Unite, which instructed its lawyers Thompsons Solicitors to pursue a claim for compensation.

The law firm said the man is currently unable to work due to arthritis caused by the injury but hopes he will be able to return to a different job with the firm in the future. In a statement, Thompsons Solicitors said the company admitted liability and had failed to provide safe access to their van roofs in wet weather. The claim was settled out of court.

Angela Collins from Thompsons Solicitors added: "This workplace accident has had a profound effect on this client's life. He has been unable to return to work, all because his employer was negligent by failing to provide safe equipment. More care and attention should have been given to the safety of employees."



### ii. Slips And Falls Can Be Costly

HSE is warning that slips and falls can be costly - after the company responsible for a driver breaking his ankle was fined a total of £5,600 and ordered to pay costs of £8,951.

The company was prosecuted for failing to ensure there was a suitable and sufficient risk assessment of the wooden decking near a diesel pump in one of its depots and failing to protect drivers using the pump. The company was also found guilty of failing to ensure every floor in the workplace was suitable for the purpose for which it was used and was not slippery.

The company were fined £2,400, after pleading guilty to breaching Regulation 12 (1) of the Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1992. It also pleaded guilty to the charge of breaching Regulation 3(1) of the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the court imposed a fine of £3,200.

Speaking after the case, HSE inspector Pamela Folsom, said: "An incident like this can often be seen as trivial and laughed off by employers but the cost to businesses and victims mean it is no laughing matter. In this case, the dangers should easily have been identified with a basic risk assessment and avoided by installing a different type of flooring."

"Although the designated Health and Safety Officer had observed a trip hazard from pallets they did not examine the slippery nature of the decking due to inappropriate footwear. The risk assessments that had been undertaken bore little reality to the actual hazards highlighted and demonstrated the inadequate training given to those employees undertaking them. Consequently the company took no action to reduce the likelihood of a future incident occurring until intervention by the HSE during its own investigation."

### iii. Worker Knocked Unconscious By Shock

The HSE has warned companies about the importance of robust and well supervised systems of work when dealing with the isolation of electrical systems after a worker was knocked unconscious by an electric shock in Southend, Essex.



The prosecution concerned an incident at a supermarket in 2006 where refurbishment works were being carried out when the store was closed. A subcontractor suffered an electric shock from contact with a live cable during replacement of lighting columns. The man was unconscious for a short period and suffered burns and bruising. The HSE investigation found no circuit diagrams had been available and no attempt had been made by the electricity company to produce a diagram by surveying each column to identify its point of supply.

The electricity company was fined £50,000 and ordered to pay costs of £20,000 at Basildon Crown Court after being found guilty of breaching s.3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974, in failing to ensure the health and safety of affected non-employees.

Commenting on the case, HSE Inspector Dominic Elliss said, "The risks of working with electricity are well known and this incident could easily have been avoided. Effective identification and isolation of the electrical supply, together with clear instruction and supervision from the very beginning and throughout such work, are essential in preventing such incidents from occurring."

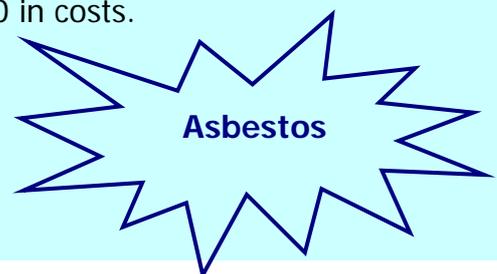
### iv. Hotel Forced To Close After Guests Exposed To Asbestos

The management firm of a large London Hotel have been fined £52,000 after staff and guests were left exposed to asbestos fibres.

Inspectors from the local Council visited following a complaint from a guest about the premises. They found a large quantity of asbestos debris on the fourth floor, which had been closed to the public for renovation. The debris had been produced when contractors had damaged part of the trunking to the ventilation system. The hotel had a disagreement with the contractors, who left the premises before the job was finished.

The asbestos fibres could have been spread across the premises via the lift shaft, through voids in the floor and ceiling, or through the hotel via the ventilation system. A Prohibition Notice was immediately served, banning access to the fourth floor. Health officers also successfully negotiated with the management company to close the hotel for renovations to the whole of the building. The firm did not co-operate with the investigation, however, and was charged with failing to supply documentation about its contractual agreement with the builders, who had carried out the earlier work.

The management company pleaded guilty to breaching s.3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974 (exposing a person not in the company's employment to risk) and s.22(k) of the same Act (failing to provide documentation). At Crown Court the firm received a total fine of £52,000, with £11,200 in costs.



# Health & Safety Working Group

The Health & Safety Working Group meets on a quarterly basis to provide a confidential health and safety forum for the membership to focus on issues relevant to the frozen food industry and to enable the dissemination of pertinent health and safety information to BFFF members.

## **i. Health & Safety Working Group - Update**

As we reported in the January edition of 'Keep It Safe', the Working Group are focusing on accident statistics to see if work can be done to benefit our members.

As a result of the initial study, which included figures from the wider membership, the Group found that Slips, Trips & Falls had the greatest number of accidents and therefore agreed to focus efforts in this area. A more in depth analysis was then carried out which showed that Slips account for two thirds of the accidents in this category.

The Working Group is now pulling together details of slip causes and factors for evaluation and discussion at the next meeting.

It is hoped that once common causes and factors have been identified that we will be able to run a seminar focusing on Slips, which we would hope to have input from the HSE and also Health & Safety Laboratories to provide members with a valuable learning opportunity.

The group continue to share feedback on Health & Safety issues, which arise in their day-to-day business. If any member has a query, which they would like raised for discussion at the group's next meeting, on a confidential and anonymous basis, please provide details to:

[hazelcranidge@bfff.co.uk](mailto:hazelcranidge@bfff.co.uk)

Our sincere thanks to the group members for their time and input which ensures that we continue to build on the first year's

successes and deliver benefits to the wider membership.

## **ii. BFFF LAPS Update**

In 2007, BFFF formed a unique partnership agreement with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in the Midlands and the Local Authority (LA) in Boston, Lincolnshire. This partnership is part of the Lead Authority Partnership scheme (LAPS) and was the first three-way agreement in the UK between the HSE, the LA and a trade association. For more information on the LAPS scheme visit:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/lau/laps/>

We continue to meet regularly with our contacts from the HSE and Boston Local Authority to find out more about future campaigns that HSE are running, eg currently their Shattered Lives campaign is top priority.

We also discuss any queries arising from the H&S Working Group and where HSE or Local Authority clarification is required.

## **iii. Update On Health & Safety Pledge**

The BFFF Health & Safety Pledge seeks to promote the benefits and emphasise the importance of complying with all current health and safety legislation and of striving to improve standards of health and safety through continuous improvement.

We would encourage all members to seriously consider the benefit of signing up to the Pledge.

There has been a fantastic response already with over 35 members signing up to the Pledge including: 3663, apetito, Ardo UK, Associated Packaging Technologies, John Bean Technologies, Birchall Catering Supplies, Brakes, Freshpack, Headland Foods, Holdsworth, Hopwells, ICS Industrial Cooling, McEvoy Foods International, Norbert Dentressangle Logistics UK, Palmer & Harvey, Polarcube, The Ice Company, R&R Ice Cream UK and TICCO.

'As a member of the BFFF, 3663 totally supports the ethos within the BFFF Health and Safety Pledge as the values reflect the commitment to safety management in place within 3663' – Shirley Duncalf, Environmental Services Controller

"At apetito we see world class health and safety provision within our broader corporate responsibility agenda as the only way to do business. We are therefore delighted to endorse the BFFF pledge and support promotion of its standards across the frozen food industry and all workplaces." - Paul Freeston, Chief Executive apetito UK.

"Maintaining the highest safety standards is in everyone's best interest" – Barry Jackson, Director UK John Bean Technologies.

"The Brakes Group are very pleased to have signed up to the BFFF Health & Safety Pledge. This helps reinforce the message that health and safety is good business and clearly demonstrates our commitment to the achievement of the highest levels of performance in this crucial area". Frank McKay, Group Chief Executive Officer Brakes

"Freshpack are convinced that by committing to the BFFF Health and Safety Pledge and by sharing information with other members that all will benefit." Ann Horne, Technical Director Freshpack

"Polarcube, The Ice Company Ltd. are committed to the BFFF Health & Safety Pledge in striving to continually improve existing site safety performance and ensure Health & Safety compliance is achieved" - Ian Hancock, Group Health & Safety Manager.

"KFF are committed to achieving high standards of health and safety, they acknowledge the importance of an effective and integrated approach to the management of health and safety and welcome the opportunity of developing

these in conjunction with BFFF". Chris Beckley, Operations Director Kent Frozen Foods.

"As a member of the BFFF, McEvoy Foods International Ltd totally supports the ethos within the BFFF Health and Safety Pledge. We are therefore delighted to endorse the BFFF pledge and support promotion of its standards across the Frozen Food Industry. Maintaining the highest safety standards is a responsibility that we take very seriously in our business." - Howard J. McEvoy, Chairman

"Millifoods takes the health and safety of its workforce very seriously. Indeed, we have an excellent track record both in our standards and our ambitions to continuously improve in this crucial area. The welfare of our staff is imperative to the success of the company and we involve staff representatives in our weekly H&S meetings. We are delighted to support and to sign up to BFFF's Pledge." Stephen Drew, Managing Director, Millifoods Ltd.

"R&R are more than happy to sign up to the Health & Safety Pledge. Health and safety is and always has been central to everything we do, we believe and aim to ensure that staff and others visiting our sites, are able to come to work knowing that when they are on site they will not be exposed to risks that will harm or injure them. As a business we continually audit our practices and set measurable targets to reduce any accidents and incidents year on year, so that people can be confident that our aim becomes a reality" – Peter Pickthall, HR Director R&R Ice Cream UK

"We are delighted to sign up to and support the BFFF pledge." Tim Pedley, Managing Director A E Surcouf and Sons Ltd.

Members wishing to sign up or to find out more should e-mail:  
[hazelcranidge@bfff.co.uk](mailto:hazelcranidge@bfff.co.uk)

