

KEEP IT SAFE

BFFF QUARTERLY HEALTH & SAFETY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018



Health & Safety Seminar 2018
Book your place now!



British Frozen Food Federation

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FOREWORD FROM SIMON

Welcome to the January edition of Keep It Safe

Manual Handling Equipment Observation Assessment Guidance - Since the last edition we are pleased to announce the Manual Handling Equipment Observation Assessment guidance is now available and assured. This work started when Revised HSE guidance for operators using manual handling equipment (MHE) was published last year, this guidance mentions 'the importance of competent observation'. BFFF members asked for an efficient way to observe the safety performance of MHE operators through the H & S expert group. This work was completed and sent to the primary authority for assurance. Due to the changes in primary authority the assurance process was delayed. The guidance can be found on the BFFF website under 'Materials Handling Equipment': <http://bfff.co.uk/health-safety/guidance/>

HSE Visits Quarter 4 – At the last food and drink manufacturers forum (FDMF) the HSE announced they would be visiting food & drink premises (approx. 1000 visits) in Quarter 4 (January to March 2018.) HSE are continuing to target specific areas of the industry – those rated high as inadequate performers and have not been visited in the last 3 years. There are a range of H&S issues which are particularly relevant to the frozen food sector, such as the safe use of ammonia, slips, trips, legionella, manual handling, workplace transport and working at height. In these visits HSE intend to target Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) and Asthmagens. New training material has been developed for inspectors in the shape of 3 training videos demonstrating the use of the MAC tool and the use of the ART tool. The BFFF H&S team can provide members with guidance and advice on how to deal with a wide range of issues. If you have any questions, give us a call it's part of your membership.

Health & Safety Expert Group Update - The Health & Safety Expert Group are next due to meet 24th January 2018 amongst other topics we will be discussing the grey areas surrounding RIDDOR reporting. Reporting can be very controversial in terms of falling into scope. We would encourage BFFF members to send through any of these opaque accidents where there was uncertainty. We intend to request definitive answers and start to build a reference document to help with the decision making process in reporting or not.

We would like to welcome Ann McKenna, Divisional Health & Safety Officer, at Kerry Foods to the Health & Safety Expert Group.

Please feel free to contact Simon or Crystal for more information on our expert group's work or indeed any of our fire safety work, or if you wish to get involved in the benchmarking statistics or primary authority schemes.

Also, don't forget that all of BFFF's guidance is available on our website here: <http://bfff.co.uk/health-safety/guidance/> along with cases studies here: <http://bfff.co.uk/health-safety/hs-case-studies/>

In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy this edition.

Please contact BFFF if you would like to receive additional / back copies of this newsletter



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We do hope that you find Keep It Safe a valuable read.

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BFFF Health & Safety Seminar and People Awards Dinner

Thursday 22nd February 2018

Birmingham Hilton Metropole

Now in it's ninth successful year, join leading industry experts to discuss a wealth of topics affecting our industry. This event is designed to provide members with guidance on a multitude of topical health and safety matters delivered by short sharp presentations and case studies.

Key Note Speaker - Prof. Tim Marsh



Prof Tim Marsh, then at UMIST, was one of the team leaders of the original UK research into behavioural safety in the early 1990s, is one of only a few Chartered Psychologists who are also Chartered Fellows of IOSH. He is considered a world authority on the subject of behavioural safety, safety leadership and organisational culture, was awarded a "President's Commendation" in 2008 by the International Institute of Risk and Safety Management and was selected to be their first ever 'Specialist Fellow'.

Other Topics Include:

- Human Behaviours
- Workplace Transport
- Occupational Health
 - Fire Safety

and more to be announced...



Health & Safety Seminar Sponsored by:



Book your place here: <http://bfff.co.uk/health-safety/seminar/>



2018 will see British Frozen Food Federation's (BFFF) inaugural People Awards ceremony, aimed at celebrating the unsung heroes within the frozen food industry.

"For 30 years our annual product awards have recognised the most exciting and innovative new products at our sell-out Gala Dinner Dance event. This year we have decided it is high-time we celebrated the people behind those products and the £8billion frozen food industry as a whole and give them the recognition they deserve."

– John Hyman, Chief Executive Officer, BFFF.

BFFF HEALTH AND SAFETY INITIATIVES

BFFF HEALTH & SAFETY SEMINAR 2018

Now in its ninth successful year, join leading industry experts to discuss a wealth of topics affecting our industry. This event is designed to provide members with guidance on a multitude of topical health and safety matters delivered by short sharp presentations and case studies.

The full programme can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yckl2czz>

There will also be an opportunity to ask any fire safety questions you may have, as Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue will have a fire safety clinic for all delegates to take advantage of on the day.

If you wish to book, please return the booking form (found here <https://tinyurl.com/ycrwh9fn>) to crystalholmes@bfff.co.uk

Thanks to our sponsors for this event, Chalcroft Construction. More information on our sponsors can be found on page 27.

NEW BFFF MANUAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT OBSERVATION GUIDANCE PUBLISHED

Revised HSE guidance for operators using manual handling equipment (MHE) was published in 2017, this guidance mentions 'the importance of competent observation'.

BFFF members asked for an efficient way to observe the safety performance of MHE operators through the H&S expert group. We are pleased to announce this guidance is now available and assured. It can be found on the BFFF website under 'Materials Handling Equipment' here: <http://bfff.co.uk/health-safety/guidance/>



BFFF HEALTH & SAFETY PLEDGE

BFFF would like to invite members to sign up to the Health & Safety pledge for members in line with the HSE's (Health and Safety Executive's) common strategy for the sector.

We are delighted to have engagement from so many members to our current pledge, and would encourage as many as possible to get involved. It's free to join and helps to demonstrate commitment to reducing incidents/accidents and improving overall health and safety in the workplace.

HSE produced their revised strategy for our sector last year, which covers a five year period from 2016 to 2021. The revised strategy builds on previous success by focussing on delivering measurable improvements against four key objectives.

The outlined objectives aim to accelerate reduction in ill health and injury rates. Currently the food and drink manufacturing sector has over twice the average injury rate as other manufacturing sectors, and the BFFF pledge supports the HSE strategy in trying to combat this.

The full pledge can be found here: <http://bfff.co.uk/health-safety/pledge/>

Our sector needs to focus on effective workforce engagement and show commitment to leadership to reduce ill health and injuries in the workplace.

We would like to thank all of the BFFF membership that have been part of the pledge so far, and look forward to working with those and more in the future.

To get involved and for more information, please contact crystalholmes@bfff.co.uk

FIRE SAFETY – FROM LINCOLNSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE

FIRE SPRINKLERS & PREVENTION SYSTEMS

Sprinkler systems have proven to be a most effective way of protecting people and buildings from fire, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) continue to support their use in many types of buildings including warehouse and factory premises. Usually our regulatory activities will focus on life safety systems mostly found within sleeping accommodation but property protection systems can, in some cases be just as important to the life cycle of a business. The biggest benefit to most BFFF members will be the ability to recover following a fire and a possible reduction of insurance costs. Property protection systems should not be underestimated, insurance companies will often reduce premiums where businesses install a suitable fire prevention or suppression system.



The Hollywood film industry has created a negative image of sprinklers with water pouring from every sprinkler head. In reality it is likely that much less water will be put onto the fire than if the fire service had to fight a growing fire after their arrival. So, with less water, fire and smoke damage along with a reduction in business downtime, fire suppression and prevention measures reduce the amount of insurance cover required substantially.

Every letter that Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue Fire Safety Inspectors send to businesses includes a reminder of the value that sprinklers have to the protection of life and property, this message has the support of Fire & Rescue Services all over the UK through the NFCC. The reason NFCC fully support the installation of sprinklers is their reliability and effectiveness. Following a study into Fire Service incident data (supported by NFCC - https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/write/MediaUploads/NFCC%20Guidance%20publications/Protection/Optimal_Sprinkler_Report.pdf), it was found that sprinklers are 94% efficient in their ability to operate and 99% effective in extinguishing or controlling a fire.

A further Building Research Establishment (BRE) Global report entitled 'An Environmental Impact and Cost Benefit Analysis for Fire Sprinklers in Warehouse Buildings' completed back in December 2013 (<http://www.business-sprinkler-alliance.org/publications/an-environmental-impact-and-cost-benefit-analysis-for-fire-sprinklers-in-warehouse-buildings-bre-global/>), outlined the cost benefits to installing and maintaining a sprinkler system for its whole life. This report showed that any warehouse over 2,000m² would benefit by more than threefold if they had sprinklers installed and a fire event occurred. Of course there are some assumptions that are made, such as 'the lifetime of a warehouse being 45 years and the insurance premium costs are based on 2010 best estimates'. With that being said, sprinklers and other types of fire suppression systems have their place and without exception should be considered during the planning / review phase of any business continuity plan in premises over 2,000m².

The current building regulations and its guidance are under review and there is no certainty to how any changes would impact this industry. Recommendations from NFCC (who are supporting research into assessing firefighter safety in large buildings) are that the thresholds where sprinklers would be required in new developments should be reduced to 4,000m² (currently there is no limit for single storey buildings within current Building Regulations guidance).

Of course there is more than one way to conform to the building regulations; any recommendations sent to government are unlikely to change the ethos of self-regulation. Therefore, so long as the rationale for a building design is sound it will be accepted. There are technologies available that take a different approach to protection from fire. One that is relevant to chilled food is oxygen reduction or hypoxic air systems.

Oxygen reduction will not only reduce the possibility of a fire starting, it also reduces the degradation of the stock. It can be used in many applications and the room does not need to be sealed. In many cases it will still be safe to work in the oxygen reduced environment. This type of system prevents a fire from starting in the first place, so as long as it is running the covered area will be safe from fire.

Sprinkler systems only react to a fire starting by first detecting one or more symptoms of fire before discharging to either extinguish or control the fire, because of low temperatures this can create obvious ice creation risks. The oxygen reduction system is running constantly, has a lower maintenance burden and doesn't require any tanks to be refilled.

But why even consider putting in active fire protection measures in the first place, the cold environment is a natural fire suppression system, why would you need to put in more protection measures? The answer of course is to determine how critical that part of the business is to your operations. If you absolutely cannot afford to lose an area of your premises to fire, then why wouldn't you consider a system that will reduce the risks to as low as they can possibly be.

INTERIM REPORT INTO THE REVIEW OF BUILDING REGULATIONS AND FIRE SAFETY

The Chair of an independent review into building regulations and fire safety has found that a "universal shift in culture" is required to rebuild trust amongst residents of high-rise buildings and significantly improve the way that fire safety is assured.

Dame Judith Hackitt, who was appointed by government to lead an Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety following the Grenfell fire, published her interim findings on 18 December 2017.

Alongside her interim report, Dame Judith is calling on the construction industry, building owners, regulators and government to come together to address the 'shortcomings' identified so far. The interim report finds that:

- a culture change is required - with industry taking greater responsibility for what is built - this change needs to start now
- the current system for ensuring fire safety in high-rise buildings is not fit for purpose
- a clear, quick and effective route for residents to raise concerns and be listened to, must be created.

Chair of the review, Dame Judith Hackitt said: "I have found that the regulatory system for safely designing, constructing and managing buildings is not fit for purpose. The current system is highly complex and there is confusion about the roles and responsibilities at each stage. In many areas there is a lack of competence and accreditation. While this does not mean all buildings are unsafe, it does mean we need to build a more effective system for the future. That is why I am calling for the construction industry, building owners, regulators and government to come together to identify how to overcome these shortcomings together."

The interim report sets out six broad areas for change:

1. ensuring that regulation and guidance is risk-based, proportionate and unambiguous
2. clarifying roles and responsibilities for ensuring that buildings are safe
3. improving levels of competence within the industry
4. improving the process, compliance and enforcement of regulations
5. creating a clear, quick and effective route for residents' voices to be heard and listened to
6. improving testing, marketing and quality assurance of products used in construction.

Dame Judith has consulted widely in developing her interim report and will continue to do so in the coming months before making her final recommendations. She continued: "I have been deeply affected by the residents of high rise buildings I have met and I have learned so much from them. These buildings are their homes and their communities. They are proud of where they live, but their trust in the system has been badly shaken by events of the last few months. We need to rebuild that trust."

The independent review will now undertake its second phase of work – including targeted work in partnership with the sector and other stakeholders.

A summit involving government and representatives from the building industry will take place in the New Year and a final report will be published in spring 2018.

Background

In producing her interim report, Dame Judith Hackitt has: i) issued a call for evidence which received more than 250 responses; ii) held a series of round-table discussions with industry representatives, professional bodies, tenants and landlords organisations and residents' groups; and iii) held a series of bi-lateral discussions.

The Review was commissioned in July 2017 and the terms of reference were published in August 2017.

It is reporting to the Communities Secretary Sajid Javid and the Home Secretary Amber Rudd and is examining:

- the regulatory system around the design, construction and on-going management of buildings in relation to fire safety
- related compliance and enforcement issues
- international regulation and experience in this area.

SAFETY FOCUS

WHAT THE STATE OF YOUR TRUCK SAYS ABOUT YOUR SAFETY STANDARDS

Provided by Mentor FLT Training Ltd.

Knocks, bumps, scrapes... There's a commonly-held belief that these types of daily damage are inevitable when you're running a busy fleet of forklift trucks. In fact, it's so acceptable at some companies that their annual budgets regularly include six-figure contingencies for repairing or replacing racking alone.

Focusing on managing the damage may appear to be an effective approach but the real, substantial savings are to be made by tackling the root causes, namely: unsafe operation.

Damage to your lift trucks, site and stock should be a stark warning that best practice is not being followed... and, if you don't take action, you could be putting your operations, your staff and your profits at risk.

According to IOSH, 70% of workplace incidents are preventable by good management, and we believe 70% of costs are too. So let's take a look at the money you could be saving...

Unnecessary costs

Aside from your basic responsibilities for safety, the costs associated with 'everyday' bumps, scrapes and prangs are a huge incentive for improving operating standards. Costs quickly mount up and if you're running a decent-sized fleet, a £100,000 bill at the end of a typical contract is not unheard of.

The tip of the iceberg...

Where there's damage to your FLTs, you can be certain there's damage to racking and stock, too. As a 'rule of thumb', for every £1 of damage to a truck, you can expect damage costs ranging from £5 to £20 elsewhere on site.

Take racking, for instance. Not only will there will be a cost for repair or replacement; how will you manage in the interim? Will you need to take the aisle out of action? What about your customers' outstanding orders?

Then there's damage to safety barriers. This should be a major red flag for dangerous practice. Essentially, your first line of defence in keeping forklifts and pedestrians segregated has been compromised. Not only does this incur a cost to repair but another solution must now be implemented to ensure safety, or staff will be put at risk. This is a breach of H&S law that, under the latest sentencing guidelines, could result in a crippling fine.

But it's not just the fixtures and fittings to bear in mind. Even a simple dropped pallet, for example, comes at a cost. While the cost of writing off the stock varies widely, many factors remain the same: clean up, restocking, aisle closures, re-site and recycling costs.

Managing your operating standards

If you notice excessive damage to your trucks, it may be a sign that further training is required. While it's easy to attribute the damage to those behind the wheel, as a manager, it's your responsibility to ensure standards are upheld. A good manager needs the relevant knowledge to be able to recognise unsafe practice and the confidence to stop it in its tracks. Training for managers is often overlooked but without the relevant skills and knowledge, managers are ill-equipped to ensure your workplace stays safe.

By training your operators to be safe and your managers to manage safely, you can make substantial savings and benefit from more efficient operations. Ultimately, good safety makes good commercial sense. For more information please contact Pete Kerfoot at Mentor on 01246 555222 or info@mentortraining.co.uk

Further information can also be found at www.mentorfltraining.co.uk

CASE STUDY

BRAKES CASE STUDY



BFFF recently visited Brakes in Harlow to meet with Paul Duncalf Head of Risk and Compliance. During this visit Paul described a recent unannounced visit from the enforcing authorities at one of his sites. The visit was to primarily look at the sites management of Legionella, on the day certain departmental staff were unavailable. The inspector offered to reschedule the visit. Brakes said this would not be necessary and a manager responsible for a completely different department went through the process, procedures and checklist relating to this statutory requirement.

To the surprise of the inspector this senior manager was fluent in these procedures and talked around the whole management system and records held in this respect. The inspector was said to be astonished and promptly left the site having been more than satisfied around the findings. Surely this could not be down to pure luck, I decided to find out more about this strategy.

What was described to me was multi-disciplined approach in making various employees responsible regardless of pay grade or job role. These responsibilities involved various aspects of the sites Health & Safety and were rotated creating a very strong culture. Some employees would be weaker in some areas, they would receive coaching and mentoring until deemed competent and then put into an annual site master Health & Safety Toolkit Planner .

This case study is a good example of how leadership and coaching is paramount in creating a strong safety culture, maximising the resource available with everyone being responsible/accountable and everyone gaining new competencies across a wide range of compliance areas.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

UPDATED IONISING RADIATION REGULATION

The HSE has outlined the major changes that will arrive with the new Ionising Radiation Regulations, which will apply to workplaces where radioactive substances and electrical equipment that emit ionising radiation are used, in a paper submitted to the September meeting of its board.

The new Regulations will replace the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 and implement Euratom's Basic Safety Standards Directive, which covers public, occupational and medical exposures to ionising radiation.

The HSE carried out an eight-week consultation between February and April on the implementation of the legislation, which is expected to come into force on 1 January 2018.

In its consultation, the HSE said that the proposed Regulations would introduce two major changes, including a reduction in the dose limit for exposure to the lens of the eye – the Directive introduces a reduction of equivalent dose from 150 millisieverts to 20 millisieverts in a year.

The second major change is the introduction of a "graded approach", a new three tiered risk-based system of regulatory control.

This will require the HSE to implement an authorisation system, whereby it grants permission to dutyholders for higher risk activities through a system of registration and licensing.

The higher the radiation protection risk associated with the work, the greater the regulatory requirements.

There were 129 responses to the consultation, the vast majority of which were from the nuclear and medical sectors, which the HSE says are most likely to be affected by the changes.

Respondents backed the HSE's plan to introduce the new Regulations on 1 January 2018, which will enable dutyholders to retain the calculation and assessment of exposure to ionising radiation on a calendar year basis, a system which has been in place for over 30 years.

CD283 - CONSULTATION ON IMPLEMENTING NEW AND REVISED WEL

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is consulting on the implementation of new and revised Indicative Occupational Exposure Limit Values (IOELVs) for thirty-one chemical substances to help protect workers from the ill-health effects of exposure to hazardous substances in the workplace.

The consultative document sets out HSE's proposals for establishing workplace exposure limits for the substances listed in the 4th Indicative Occupational Exposure Limit Values (IOELVs) Directive 2017/164/EU, in order to implement it in Great Britain.

Consultation began on 10 November 2017 and ends on 2 February 2018.

The preferred method for making comments is via the online questionnaire as this is the most effective way for HSE to fully consider and analyse responses. The online questionnaire and the consultative document can be accessed here: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd283.htm>



REVISED FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENGLAND

The Home Office is consulting on a revised Fire and Rescue National Framework for England. The National Framework sets priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in England in connection with the discharge of their functions. Fire and rescue authorities have a duty to have regard to the Framework.

According to the Home Office, the National Framework was last published in 2012 and changes are required to embed the fire reform programme and provisions in the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

It is proposed that the priorities and objectives for FRAs as set by the Framework to be:

- identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face
- make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and response to fire and rescue related incidents
- collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service provision
- be accountable to communities for the service they provide
- develop and maintain a workforce that is resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse.

GUIDANCE

HEALTH AND SAFETY FINES UP 80% IN A YEAR

The latest enforcement figures published by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for Britain indicate a major rise in health and safety fines, of around 80%, from £38.8 million in 2015/16 to £69.9 million in 2016/17.

Figures for 2016/17, some of which are provisional, indicate the following:

- A total of 593 cases prosecuted by the HSE and, in Scotland, by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) had a verdict reached.
- A conviction was secured (for at least one offence) in 554 of the 593 cases; a conviction rate of 93%.
- Those found guilty of health and safety offences in 2016/17 received fines totalling £69.9 million, an average penalty of around £126,000 per case — more than double the average fine in 2015/16.
- The 2016/17 data on prosecutions show a large annual increase in the total fines, rising from £38.8 million in 2015/16 to £69.9 million in 2016/17, indicating an increase of 80%. This is the second consecutive year which has seen a large increase in health and safety fines. 2016/17 is the first full year where new sentencing guidelines have been in effect.

While fines remain the most common penalty following a conviction, the use of immediate and suspended custodial sentences has increased in 2016/17. In the previous year, 4% of offences convicted resulted in an immediate custodial sentence and this has increased to 6% in 2016/17. Similarly, there has been an increase from 6% of offences convicted resulting in a suspended sentence in the previous year to 12% in 2016/17.

Commenting on the new figures, a source at the HSE said, “Though there were fewer prosecutions taken in 2016/17, the statistics show an increase in fines to £69.9 million from the 2015/16 total of £38.8 million... Twenty large fines accounted for £30.7 million of the new figure.”



POOR MENTAL HEALTH AT WORK COSTING BILLIONS

An independent review into workplace mental health has revealed that 300,000 people with a long-term mental health problem lose their jobs each year and that poor mental health costs the UK economy billions every year.

The investigation was commissioned by the Prime Minister in January 2017 and led by the mental health campaigner and former HBOS Chair Lord Dennis Stevenson, and Paul Farmer, Chief Executive of the charity Mind.

The reviewers' report, entitled *Thriving at Work* and published in October 2017, has highlighted the following:

- Statistics from the Department of Work and Pensions reveal that 300,000 people with a long-term mental health problem lose their jobs each year.
- Poor mental health costs the UK economy between £74 billion and £99 billion a year.
- Analysis by Deloitte, commissioned by the reviewers, also reveals a demonstrable cost to employers of between £33 billion and £42 billion of the above number.
- In contrast, evaluations of workplace interventions to support mental health at work show a return to business of between £1.50 and £9 for every £1 invested, with positive effects on business and productivity.

In response, the reviewers are calling on all employers, regardless of size or industry, to adopt six "mental health core standards" that lay the basic foundations for an approach to workplace mental health. These cover mental health at work plans, mental health awareness for employees, line management responsibilities and routine monitoring of staff mental health and wellbeing. Large employers and the public sector are expected to go even further, demonstrating best practice through external reporting and designated leadership responsibility.

Paul Farmer said, "Workplace mental health should be a priority for organisations across the UK. Every employer in the UK has a responsibility to support employees with mental health problems and promote the mental wellbeing of their entire workforce."

DFT RELEASE AT-WORK ROAD DEATH STATISTICS

The number of people killed on British roads while they were at work dropped slightly last year according to the latest figures published by the Department for Transport (DfT). Of the 1,792 killed in fatal accidents in 2016, 529 (29.5%) were at work at the time. The previous year 31% of the 1,730 road fatalities involved people at work.

The proportion of the 2016 fatal accident toll who were commuting to or from work was 12% (221 of 1,792), broadly level with the past five years. However, the DfT data, based on information gathered by the police at road accidents, shows serious injuries to commuters have risen by almost a quarter (24%) since 2011, according to new government statistics.

Figures from the Department for Transport (DfT) show that 2,132 of the 24,101 people seriously injured in road collisions in 2016 were driving to or from work. This is 255 more than during the previous year and the highest level for five years.

Serious injuries sustained by at-work drivers also increased, by 11% to 1,305 compared with 2015. This is the highest number recorded since 2011, when 1,384 such motorists were badly hurt in accidents.

Commercial vehicles and cars being driven for work that were involved in personal injury accidents continued to fall. Some 33,506 cars, buses/coaches, vans and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) crashed last year, compared with 35,530 in 2015 and 39,376 in 2014, according to the latest figures.

The DfT said that comparisons between the 2016 and 2015 serious injuries figures should be interpreted with caution due to changes in the systems for severity reporting by about half of all police forces.

NEW INSTITUTE FOR RISK AND REGULATORY RESEARCH

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the University of Manchester (UoM) have committed to launching an Institute for Risk and Regulatory Research.

The new Thomas Ashton Institute will capitalise on the existing strong international credibility of both the University of Manchester and HSE. It will act as a hub for Risk and Regulatory excellence reaching out globally through its educational activities and acting as an authoritative source of health and safety knowledge and expertise. The Institute will deliver research, training and learning on a national and global stage, and will support HSE and the University of Manchester even further in growing capability and expertise in the management and regulation of risk.

Health and safety practitioners from around the world will be able to learn and benefit from the knowledge and learning opportunities available from the Institute, taking back an enhanced competence to their own countries where it can be used to improve safety and health locally.

One of the key aims of the Institute's work will be to take the lessons learned from four decades of incident investigations and research and making them accessible to industry. The work will help to make sure that mistakes are not repeated as new technologies and industries emerge. Both partners are keen to bring new technologies to fruition safely and more quickly by addressing safety, health and regulatory barriers before they emerge.

HSE Chief Executive, Dr Richard Judge said: "We are excited by the opportunities that establishing this new Institute brings, and by the opportunity to cement and strengthen our long running partnership with the University of Manchester. This directly supports our regulatory activities. In creating an international centre of excellence for risk and regulatory research, we are also providing a focal point for working with others. As part of that, we will invite forward-thinking contributors to work with us on the Institute's future programmes to prevent work-related death, injury and ill health."

More information can be found here: <https://www.ashtoninstitute.ac.uk/>

EARLY BENEFITS FOR EARNED RECOGNITION OPERATORS

Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) earned recognition for vehicle operators is a new way to prove you meet driver and vehicle standards.

You can regularly share performance information with DVSA. In return, your vehicles are less likely to be stopped for inspections. It's a voluntary scheme that's designed to work for operators of all sizes.

The pilot is testing the idea of earned recognition, and that the policies and processes work. You need to have IT systems for vehicle maintenance and drivers' hours. These will monitor if you're meeting a set of key performance indicators (KPIs).

Every 4 weeks, these systems will tell DVSA if you've missed any of the KPIs by a set amount. If this happens, DVSA will work with you to fix the issue. DVSA won't have direct access to any of your data or systems.

Eligibility:-You must have:

- had a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) or public service vehicle (PSV) operator licence for at least 2 years
- digital management systems for vehicle maintenance and drivers' hours, which can track the KPIs and automatically report if they're missed
- a track record of good compliance with driver and vehicle standards
- If you have multiple operator licences

You can apply if your organisation has multiple operator licences, but you must report the data for every licence you have. This includes if you have both HGV and PSV operator licences.

If you would like to apply to join the earned recognition pilot it can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yaelm2td>
Applications for the pilot must be sent by 28 February 2018.

More information and the benefits of joining the scheme can also be found on the above link.

IOSH RESPONSE TO INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

The UK Government's new Industrial Strategy "begins to take the right steps to enhance worker protection", according to IOSH.

The strategy, launched on 27 November by Business Secretary Greg Clark MP, aims to improve productivity. IOSH has highlighted a number of key areas in the White Paper which tie in with its own work and that of the wider occupational safety and health profession.

They include recognising the importance of workers and inclusive workplaces in driving the UK's future prosperity.

IOSH has done substantial work in this area. Its Life Savings campaign demonstrated how health and safety saves money as well as lives, and it has promoted sustainability and fairness within supply chains.

The Government has an ambition to see people thrive by doing 'good work', something IOSH has promoted for years and wishes to help develop as a common set of principles and measures on the quality of work. The Institution funded research into 'good work' in 2011.

IOSH's emphasis on the need to provide inclusive and flexible working environments, accommodating the needs of older workers, carers and those with physical and mental health conditions, features in the White Paper.

The Institution says that it has done a large amount of work, including research, into older workers, the fit note system, and returns to work after cancer and common mental disorders.

IOSH promotes designing-in health and safety, so is encouraged that the 'transforming construction programme' intends to provide safer and healthier places to work.

The Institution is also keen that high-quality apprenticeships, as part of 'sector deals', include upskilling to embed good practice and ensure long, healthy and successful careers.

IOSH has joined forces with leading employers across a broad range of sectors to support development of the UK's new Safety, Health and Environment Trailblazer Apprenticeship.

Richard Jones, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at IOSH, said: "We were very interested to see the Government's new industrial strategy. To help ensure the UK is as productive as possible and harnesses all its talents, it's vital the strategy has good safety and health at its heart.

"So, we're pleased that this strategy begins to take the right steps to enhance worker protection. There's no doubt that productivity and successful innovation go hand-in-hand with safety and health."

FIT FOR WORK ASSESSMENTS TO BE SCRAPPED

The Government has announced that Fit for Work assessment services will close in spring, following low referral rates.

Employers, employees and GPs will continue to be able to use the Fit for Work helpline and website for workplace health advice and support on sickness absence, but from 31 March 2018 in England and Wales, and 31 May 2018 in Scotland, assessments services will cease.

The Fit for Work referral service provides free access to an occupational health professional for people who are off work for four weeks or more. The Department for Work and Pensions said an expert working group on OH has been appointed to take an in-depth look at the sector.

A survey by GP magazine this summer found that 65% of GPs had not referred a single patient to the Fit for Work service and that a lack of publicity was the cause. A study by Willis Towers Watson health and benefits team in March found that only 21 of HR professionals had used Fit for Work.

PLAN TO GET 1 MILLION DISABLED PEOPLE INTO WORK

Government has announced ambitious plans to get one million more disabled people in work over the next 10 years.

The report, Improving Lives: the future of work, health and disability, (available here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybejpybm>) sets out how Government will work with employers, charities, healthcare providers and local authorities to break down employment barriers for disabled people and people with health conditions over the next 10 years.

Work and pensions secretary David Gauke said: “Everyone should be able to go as far as their talents can take them, but for too long disabled people and people with health conditions have been held back from getting on in work.

“...we’ve set out an ambitious 10-year strategy to end this injustice once and for all. By bringing employers, the welfare system and health services together we’re taking significant steps to ensure everyone can reach their potential.”

MULTINATIONALS PLAN 5.4% SHE SPENDING RISE IN 2018

Multinational businesses plan an average 5.4% increase in their safety, health and environment (SHE) budgets next year, according to new research by technology consultants Verdantix. A survey of 382 SHE directors in 31 countries found that 35% of respondents expect to increase spending on safety measures, while only 20% plan to raise investment in curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

The survey covers SHE directors in businesses with annual revenues of at least \$250 million (£191 million), including ConocoPhillips, BP and Rolls-Royce.

“Our global survey finds that in 2018, 21% of SHE leaders will increase spend in double digits, 26% in single digits and 48% will spend the same budget as in 2017” commented Verdantix analyst, Isabel Velasco.

Two in five directors (42%) plan to increase spending on SHE technology, but less than a third (29%) will raise budgets for consultants.

Asked about emerging technologies, the survey respondents said they were most interested in “smart” equipment and mobile apps for audit and incident management.

Only 35% of SHE directors self-describe themselves as technology leaders.

PHE LAUNCHES SEARCH FOR BEST OH AND WELLBEING PRACTICES

The UK government health agency Public Health England (PHE) is calling on OSH practitioners to share their health and wellbeing initiatives as part of a project to assess the most successful interventions.

PHE, along with research institute RAND Europe, will use the findings to produce a good-practice guide.

Employers, market providers and developers who wish to participate in the study will be asked to submit information about their programmes, the target group, and any evidence of impact.

All submitted practices will receive feedback on their wellbeing initiatives and will be listed in the final public report. Those deemed most promising and innovative will be featured as case studies and infographics.

Poor health and wellbeing is estimated to cost the UK economy around £58bn each year through sick days and low productivity at work.

Click here to take part in the survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/workplacewellbeing/>



ENFORCEMENT PROJECT TO CHECK REACH COMPLIANCE

A pilot project is underway that aims to determine the level and reasons for non-compliance and to raise awareness of the obligations. In particular, suppliers of consumer articles will be targeted.

The Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement has started the pilot project to verify compliance with the notification and communication obligations of substances in articles in REACH. The project is being launched as a result of national enforcement actions, reports from authorities or NGOs, and a low number of notifications being made to ECHA. They all indicate that the obligations of industry would not be adequately met.

The pilot project aims to:

- check compliance of producers, importers and suppliers of articles with their obligations (Articles 7 and 33 of the REACH Regulation);
- contribute to raising awareness and understanding of the legal obligations and in turn raise the level of compliance among duty holders;
- build a better picture of the actual level of compliance by suppliers of articles;
- identify the reasons for non-compliance and whether further actions are required (e.g. support to duty holders) by ECHA, the Commission and/or competent authorities of the Member States; and
- gather experience and establish enforcement methods for potentially checking these obligations on a larger scale in the future.

The target groups for inspection are article distributors and producers or importers of articles. Articles that are likely to contain Candidate List substances to which consumers may be exposed are a particular focus point. Examples of consumer articles that may be inspected are electrical products, building materials and interior articles.

Specific substances that would be targeted in the project include:

- brominated flame retardants
- phosphorous flame retardants
- short-chain chloroparaffins
- phthalates
- aprotic polar solvents
- perfluorinated substances
- phenolic benzotriazoles.

The operational phase of the project started in October 2017 and will run until the end of June 2018. A report of the results is expected by the end of November 2018.

ECHA updated its REACH guidance on requirements for substances in articles and also held a webinar for industry on the communication and notification obligations that EU importers, producers and suppliers of articles need to comply with in case their articles contain Candidate List substances.



DEAL REACHED ON PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING WITH EXEMPTION

New EU rules on professional driver training requirements will not include a proposed blanket exemption for lorry and bus drivers on journeys of less than 100km from the company base, according to a legislative deal between the European Parliament and EU Member States agreed earlier in December.

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) has reported that a major exemption, proposed by the European Parliament's transport committee in an October vote, could have had a significant negative impact on road safety according to ETSC. MEPs had added text that could have excluded many professional bus and lorry drivers from the need to do additional professional training, as long as they stayed within 100km from their base. TISPOL, the European network of traffic police, also raised concerns over the enforceability of the rules.

The final political deal on the legislation, hammered out in a behind-closed-doors 'trilogue' meeting between institutional negotiators earlier in December, still includes an exemption for "drivers of vehicles operating in rural areas to supply the driver's own business". But lawmakers also agreed the exemption should only apply if the journey is not related to transport services and where Member States consider that the transport is "occasional and does not impact road safety".

Commenting on the compromise deal, Antonio Avenoso, Executive Director of ETSC said: "This final wording appears to be a significant improvement on the Transport Committee's proposal. However, we struggle to see any situation where road safety would not be compromised by letting drivers get behind the wheel of large vehicles with only the minimum level of training. It is welcome that the exemption will not apply in urban areas where there is the most interaction with pedestrians and cyclists, but rural roads also carry significant risks.

"When heavy vehicles crash, the consequences are very often devastating. It would be absurd and wrong to explain to the families of the victims of such a collision that the driver had been exempted from additional training because he or she only drove occasionally or was just delivering to their own business. The simple fact remains: there can be no justification for exempting those who take the responsibility of driving large vehicles from receiving the training they need.

"When implementing these new rules, we urge Member States to very seriously consider the requirement that the exemption must 'not impact road safety' before allowing any drivers to escape initial and ongoing training."

ETSC has long argued that, rather than being restricted to fewer drivers, professional training requirements should have been extended to those who drive vans professionally. Van use has increased dramatically in recent years thanks to the explosion in home deliveries. Van drivers are not currently required to undertake any additional professional training, though employers are required to carry out risk assessments which should cover driving as well as training needs. For ETSC, the failure to extend the professional training legislation to van drivers is a missed opportunity to improve road safety.

In a positive development, welcomed by ETSC, the final deal includes requirements for training on danger recognition, coping with stress and mitigating distraction as well as coping with severe weather conditions. The political deal now needs to be formally approved by the European Parliament and EU member states.



HELPING GB WORK WELL - CALL TO EMPLOYERS TO DO MORE PAYS DIVIDENDS

Employers publicly committing to making positive changes to their firms' health and safety culture has resulted in an estimated 300,000 workers reaping the benefits of improved health and safety practices.

Earlier in 2017, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), along with Unions and Industry leaders called for broader ownership of workplace health and safety by asking for public commitments from business.

The response from many of Great Britain's top businesses was so positive, with more than 100 organisations making commitments, that HSE is launching an online community dedicated to inspiring business to share their commitment to Helping Great Britain Work Well.

The launch of the new web community will establish a social sharing network where companies and businesses can make their commitments, share their journey of improvement and help each other and encourage others follow in their footsteps.

HSE chair Martin Temple said: "Making a workplace commitment to health and safety is something that takes time, energy and passion, but the rewards for delivering on that commitment are incalculable."

"Sensible and proportionate health and safety prevents ill-health, death and injury in the workplace and is good for business and good for workers."

To find out more and see what other businesses are doing, join the Help Great Britain Work Well web community and join the conversation at #HelpGBWorkWell. In the community you will see many excellent examples of the activities and commitments being made to help improve health, safety and wellbeing in the workplace.

It is estimated at least 300,000 workers have benefitted since the commitments initiative was launched last year with companies introducing many schemes to benefit workers.

Water utility company, Welsh Water, launched a 'Back to Health' scheme aimed to providing medical treatment to assist employees' recovery from illness or injury significantly faster than NHS provided treatment.

Construction company Morgan Sindall committed to introducing a suite of 'Engagement Discussions' as part of its '100% Safe' Cultural Development Programme which has led to improved knowledge and understanding of health and safety practices.

EU OSHA HEALTHY WORKPLACES CAMPAIGN 2018-2019

The next Healthy Workplaces campaign will launch on 25 April 2018. The 2018-19 campaign is called Manage Dangerous Substances. It aims to raise awareness of the risks posed by dangerous substances in the workplace and to promote a culture of risk prevention.

The campaign has the following objectives:

- to raise awareness of the importance and relevance of managing dangerous substances in European workplaces
- to promote risk assessment, elimination and substitution, as well as the hierarchy of prevention measures
- to raise awareness of the risks linked to exposure to carcinogens at work
- to target groups of workers with specific needs and increased levels of risk (for example, women, migrants and young people)
- to increase awareness of policy developments and the current legislative framework.

EU OSHA has issued the following resources on the campaign:

- a leaflet;
- a guide; and
- a presentation

all of which can be accessed here: <https://healthy-workplaces.eu/>

NEW QUALIFICATION TO HELP SAFETY AND HEALTH DRIVE GOOD BUSINESS

A new business-focused qualification for a new generation of safety and health professionals has been launched by IOSH.

IOSH, the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health, say it has responded to business trends and feedback from employers, trainers and experienced practitioners to create a new way of qualifying as a safety and health practitioner.

Bev Messinger, the Institution's Chief Executive, unveiled the Northern Advisory Council for Further Education (NCFE) IOSH Level 3 Certificate in Safety and Health for Business at the ICC in Birmingham – the venue for its recent annual international conference IOSH 2017.

Safety and Health for Business has been developed in collaboration with highly-respected Ofqual-regulated awarding organisation NCFE, which has a wealth of experience in designing qualifications for business.

IOSH created its course content with input from leading businesses and thought-leaders across key sectors worldwide.

Richard Orton, Director of Business Services at IOSH, said: "As the world's leading professional body for safety and health, with members at senior levels in organisations of all sizes across sectors, we're uniquely positioned to hear what businesses need and how these needs are changing so we can respond appropriately.

"Feedback and insight from employers, members and training providers continues to be invaluable. We have worked very closely with key stakeholders to develop our new qualification and ensure the knowledge and solutions it teaches are relevant in a broad range of business contexts.

"The business intelligence we receive demonstrates to us the real need for rounded safety and health professionals able to work alongside business leaders helping them achieve their goals and deliver their strategies responsibly. Linked to our competency framework IOSH Blueprint, the qualification will help organisations do what they do better, more responsibly and more sustainably."

Cost-effective and time-efficient compared to other qualifications, Safety and Health for Business is designed to be highly relevant for businesses so up-and-coming practitioners understand how their specialist safety and health knowledge and skills align with and support their organisations' business strategies and objectives.

The Level 3 qualification forms part of IOSH's plans to 'enhance' the safety and health profession, one part of its WORK 2022 five-year strategy.

The qualification builds on IOSH's world-leading, established Managing Safely course to equip supervisors, managers and other delegates with the right knowledge and skills. Delegates must have completed Managing Safely or Managing Safely Refresher within the last three years.

Safety and Health for Business is taught and assessed in flexible, engaging ways. It can also take less time to complete than other regulated qualifications, meaning delegates could spend less time away from the workplace.

There are three units covering:

- safety and health management in an organisation
- how to influence a safety and health culture within an organisation
- a strategic, business-focused approach to safety and health.

After completing the course, delegates will have the right qualification requirements for Associate and Technical IOSH membership.

For more details about the qualification, visit <http://www.iosh.co.uk/safetyandhealthforbusiness>

STUDY CLAIMS DSE COMPLIANCE AT JUST 10%

New research has claimed that there is a significant lack of compliance with display screen equipment (DSE) regulations.

The study, undertaken by Specsavers Corporate Eyecare across 500 senior professionals in UK firms, revealed that only 10% of employers were complying with the regulations.

Results

Although the legislation states employers must provide all screen users with tests and glasses – if required solely for DSE use – the study showed more than a third (39%) do not provide any eyecare at all for screen users.

Almost a third (30%) do provide eye tests for all – but not glasses – and 14% provide eye tests for some workers. Less than one in ten (7%) provide the full requirements – eyecare and glasses – but only for some screen users.

As a result, the full survey results revealed that 61% of employers were providing some level of eyecare – but only 10% were fully complying with the law.

Two-thirds are screen users

The study shows firms on average class around two-thirds (68%) of their employees as screen users. Regionally, this is 55% in Wales and as high as 77% in Yorkshire and Humberside.

Screen users are at their lowest in the food and drinks industry (42% of employees) – and the percentage of users is at its highest in the media – 94%.

Jim Lythgow, director of strategic alliances for Specsavers Corporate Eyecare, said: “The good news is that there is an overall willingness to provide eyecare – but this is not to the extent as required by law.

“We believe there are two vital elements in increasing the number of employers complying with the DSE regulations: the first is to ensure they are educated about the full requirements of the legislation; the second is to make DSE eyecare as simple and cost effective as possible to procure.”

TIPS FOR PURCHASING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI) has revised this information, which sets out advice on how to go about purchasing occupational health services.

The kinds of services provided by occupational health services can include statutory health surveillance, opinions on fitness for work and rehabilitation, advice on legal compliance both in relation to health and safety legislation and the Disability Discrimination Act.



The information sheet covers:

- accreditation of occupational health services
- knowing the health risks for your company and what type of statutory health surveillance the business may require
- considerations when contacting an occupational health provider
- the level of service required
- what an occupational health provider should supply
- the type of statutory health surveillance a business may require
- what should be included in the contract
- how many occupational health providers to contact.

The document is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/ya5bymnv>

According to claims made by the Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET), the government's new Industrial Strategy will work only if it tackles the skills gap.



In a survey of 800 businesses, including food and drink firms, 61% said that recruiting engineering and technical staff with the right skills was likely to be a barrier to achieving their business objectives over the next three years. A further 75% agreed that tackling the skills problem was fundamental to making the government's Industrial Strategy viable.

To counter the growing skills gap in the engineering workforce, 81% of respondents said that more employers needed to provide work experience to youngsters. However, only 30% of all employers acknowledged that it was their responsibility to invest in the necessary training to meet the skills challenges posed by increased digitisation and automation.

Joanna Cox, IET head of policy, said: "We must now bring businesses, academia and government together and strengthen their working relationships to ensure that the next generation of talent has the right practical and technical skills to meet future demand. We are urging more businesses to provide more quality work experience opportunities for young people and more apprenticeships, enabling employees to earn while they learn and develop their work-readiness." "Engineering has the potential to make a huge contribution to increasing productivity in the UK" and "Businesses also need to widen their talent pool, and see the benefits that come from a more balanced and diverse workforce" she added.

According to IET the recruitment shortage could be fuelled by a lack of diversity in the engineering sector, as the research found that just 11% of the workforce was female, while only 15% of employers made an effort to attract and retain women in engineering and technical roles.

Also, of the companies surveyed, 87% said they did not have plans in place to encourage ethnic diversity within their businesses and did not have initiatives in place to recruit lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers.

In response to the growing skills gap, the IET has launched the Work Experience for All campaign. More information can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yafv2xuf>



ENFORCEMENT

COMPANY FINED AFTER WORKER SUFFERS ELECTRIC SHOCK

A North-East company has been sentenced today after a sub-contractor suffered an electric shock when he cut through a live cable.

South Tyneside Magistrates' Court heard how, on 20 March 2016, the injured person was removing an item of industrial equipment at the site. Believing the equipment to be electrically isolated, he cut through an electricity supply cable.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found the company had failed to adequately plan and manage the work carried out by its contractors who were removing some equipment. The contractor started work to remove equipment having been told it was safe to do so. During the work the contractor cut through an electric cable to a fan. This cable was live, and the contractor suffered an electric shock which resulted in hospital treatment. After the incident, it was found that there were several pieces of equipment that had not been electrically isolated.

The company was found guilty of breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £900,000 with £5390 costs by South Tyneside Magistrates' Court.

After the hearing, HSE Inspector Shuna Rank said "This incident could so easily have been avoided if the work had been properly planned, the risks identified, and steps taken to ensure that all equipment was electrically safe before the contractors started work at the site.

"Fortunately, in this case, the injured person has made a full recovery, however the outcome could have been fatal."

ASBESTOS RISKS NOT ADDRESSED

Two Yorkshire-based companies have been fined after putting both workers, and members of the public, at risk through asbestos exposure.

Leeds Crown Court heard how the company began refurbishment works for a jewellery outlet when it disturbed materials containing asbestos. Once Hallmark Design and Shopfitting realised it had disturbed asbestos they arranged for a licensed asbestos contractor to remove it under controlled conditions.

During a routine HSE inspection of the licensed asbestos removal works being carried out, it was found that the plan of work for the notifiable asbestos removal works was not suitable. This was because it was evident that more would need to be removed than what was originally planned, therefore the licensed contractors agreed to stop work.

A further investigation by the HSE found the client had failed to provide the principal contractor with relevant information regarding the asbestos on-site and did not have a suitable refurbishment and demolition survey for the premises. A Prohibition Notice was served on the refurbishment company because they had failed to carry out a suitable and sufficient assessment as to whether asbestos was present or was likely to be present in the premises.

The refurbishment company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 5 of The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 and has since been liquidated leading to a fine of £1.

The jewellery outlet pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 and was fined £120,000 and ordered to pay £20,000 in costs.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Jayne Towey said: "Asbestos still kills around 5,000 workers each year and any building built or refurbished before the year 2000 may contain asbestos. The companies in this case did not take account of the risks associated with the disturbance of asbestos and put not only their workers but also the general public at risk of inhaling fibres."

JD SPORTS FINED £60,000 FOR FIRE SAFETY BREACHES

JD Sports Fashion have been ordered to pay out almost £70,000 in costs after breaching fire regulations in its Merry Hill store. The company admitted six offences at a hearing before a district judge in Wolverhampton.

Fire safety officers investigated the Brierley Hill premises before Christmas 2015. Inspectors found serious breaches of fire safety laws at the company's JD Sports and Scotts stores - including an escape route reduced to just 30cm after being blocked by crates and stock. Despite a warning, inspectors again found safety breaches when they returned two weeks later.

West Midlands Fire Service prosecuted the company following the inspection and it was fined £10,000 for each of the six offences and ordered to pay £7,500 in costs.

Fire inspection officer Mick Norton said: "It beggars belief the company compromised the safety of their staff and Christmas shoppers in this way.



"In spite of our warning that we would be revisiting, breaches were again identified when we returned two weeks later. We do everything we can to advise businesses on fire safety but will not hesitate to prosecute if our advice is ignored. Retailers must realise they can't put profit before people's safety by over-stocking, reducing the width of escape routes and blocking fire exit routes."

600KG BAG FALLS ON EMPLOYEE

A port company has been fined £666,000 for safety breaches after a bag of fertiliser fell and struck an employee. Ipswich Magistrates' Court was told how a 600kg flexible intermediate bulk container (FIBC) bag of Ammonium Nitrate fell onto an employee as he was removing pallets from the front of a stack. He suffered multiple fractures, a dislocated ankle and knee and back injuries, and was unable to work for thirteen weeks.

The HSE's investigation into the incident, which occurred on 16 May 2016, found that the company had failed to follow their own risk assessments, by stacking FIBC bags directly on top of one another, rather than in the recognised industry standard of stacking in a pyramid fashion. The company had also failed to review their stacking practice following earlier incidents of bag spills and stack collapses at their Ipswich and King's Lynn docks.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and have been fined £666,000 with costs of £8,688.23.

Speaking after the case HSE inspector Tania van Rixtel said: "This case highlights the importance of ensuring FIBC bags are stacked according to industry guidance. This incident could so easily have been avoided if the company had followed their own risk assessments and reviewed their systems following previous bag collapses."

£20K FINE FOR MANUAL HANDLING FAILURES

An engineering company has been fined after a worker's fingers were crushed by a metal frame he was attempting to lift with colleagues.

Norwich Magistrates Court was told how a worker of the company was injured when a metal frame weighing approximately 250 kilograms fell whilst lifting it manually to carry out welding, crushing his fingers. Two fingers were partially amputated later as a result of his injuries.

The HSE's investigation revealed that the lifting and turning of these frames was not an isolated occurrence and a number of the frames had been made in this manner over the three years that the company has been in existence. No steps had been taken to avoid the manual handling or to assess the manual handling operation and take steps to reduce the likelihood of injury.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) (b) of the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 and was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay £884.00 costs.

WOOD WASTE CO FATALLY FAILED TO MONITOR WAH TRAILER

A wood waste company has been fined £216,000 after a worker died after falling 4m from a trailer platform while unsheeting the unit at the firm's site.

Sheffield Crown Court was told that the company had failed to carry out an adequate assessment for sheeting and unsheeting trailers at the site in Hazehead. No automatic sheeting was used and workers, including the deceased, were exposed to fall risk.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found that the only measure to prevent access to the platform attached to the front of the "walking floor" trailer unit was a wire rope, which was normally fasted to a post on the platform with a carabiner and was hanging loose when the incident happened on 30 June 2014. The company pleaded guilty to breaching s 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act and reg 3 (1) of the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999. The company was also ordered to pay £31,266 in costs.

After the hearing HSE inspector Tim Johnson said: "The incident could have easily been prevented by providing either automatic sheeting or self-closing gates similar to those at the access point on mobile elevated work platforms, coupled with a double guard rail along the length of the platform.

"It is a requirement to carry out suitable planning for significant risks such as working at height. The sheeting and un-sheeting of lorry trailers is clearing working at height and the company should have identified the risks and control measures necessary to prevent this fatal accident."

£1.2M FINE AFTER DRIVER FATALLY CRUSHED

A national manufacturer and supplier of fitted kitchens, appliances and joinery products has today been fined £1.2 million after the death of a visiting HGV driver at one of the company's premises.

Carlisle Crown Court heard how an agency driver was delivering kitchen worktops to a site in Workington when he was crushed to death as a forklift truck (FLT) overturned whilst lifting kitchen worktops from the trailer of the HGV.

An investigation into the incident that took place on 10 November 2014 found the FLT had been overloaded and that visiting delivery drivers were not kept at a safe distance from the loading and unloading operations. The company pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and has been fined £1.2 million and ordered to pay costs of £33,902.00.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Steven Boyd said: "Standing too close to where loading or unloading work is being carried out can put people in harm's way so people, such as delivery drivers, should be in a position of safety when forklift trucks are operating.

"This tragic incident could have been avoided if [the company] had implemented a safe procedure to ensure that pedestrians were kept at a safe distance during loading and unloading work. Duty holders should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."



MEET THE HEALTH & SAFETY EXPERT GROUP

The H&S Expert group consists of safety professionals representing all sectors of the frozen food supply chain and BFFF membership. The group meets three times per year and provides a confidential health & Safety and fire safety forum to focus on issues relevant to the industry, enabling the dissemination of pertinent H&S information to members. The Expert group informs and advises the BFFF board to assist with determining Federation policy in health & safety and fire safety legislative areas.

If you are interested in becoming more involved, or would like to confidentially raise an issue for discussion at the meetings please contact Simon Brentnall on 01400 283096 or simonbrentnall@bfff.co.uk

Members of the Group

- Mark Lovett - Group Health, Safety & Environment Manager, Apetito Ltd.
- David Morgan - Health, Safety & Environment Manager, Asda Stores Ltd.
- Kate Taylor - Health & Safety Manager, Bidfood
- Paul Duncalf - Head of Risk and Compliance, Brakes
- Bryan Atkinson - Safety Co-ordinator, Cargill Meats Europe
- Todd Hallam - EHS Director, Chalcroft Construction
- Aaron Scandrett - UK Group Health, Safety and Environment Manager, Froneri UK Ltd.
- Robert Ironmonger - Health, Safety And Environmental Manager, Greenyard Frozen UK Ltd.
- Paul Rhodes - Group SHE Manager, Greggs Plc
- Neil Walker - Health, Safety & Quality Manager, Heron Foods Ltd.
- Stephen Dean - Health & Safety Manager, Iceland Foods Ltd.
- Lee Deeble - Health & Safety Co-ordinator, Kent Frozen Foods Ltd.
- Ann McKenna - Divisional Health & Safety Officer, Kerry Foods
- Simon Aldous - Health & Safety Manager, Moy Park Ltd.
- Clare Crompton - Health, Safety & Environment Manager, The Authentic Food Company Ltd.
- Dennis Futty - Quality Assurance Manager, Three Oceans Fish Co. Ltd.
- Adrian Cooper - Quality, Health, Safety & Environment Manager, XPO Logistics
- Dave Penson - Safety, Health, Environment & Energy Manager, Young's Seafood Ltd.



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