



Welcome.

In our last issue we reported on the HSE's plans of recovering their costs when investigating businesses that have contravened health and safety legislation, known as Fees For Intervention (FFI).

Currently there is an ongoing trial period with a planned date for implementation, now likely in October 2012. Businesses involved in the trial period have been given a draft leaflet on how this may affect them and it can be viewed at [this link](#).

In this edition we highlight a number of revised guideline in the demolition sector and with the run up to the Olympics revised guidance on temporary demountable structures. The HSE have recently highlighted increased accidents involving mobile elevating working platforms, the Scaffolding Association has recently been founded and Construction Skills have made available a useful induction video, 'Setting Out'.

Lastly we also remind you of the importance of sub-contractor insurance checks in that up to 20% of employers may not carry compulsory Employer's Liability insurance.

High Reach Demolition Sector Guide

The National Federation of Demolition Contractors (NFDC) has launched a revised and updated edition of the existing guidance notes on the 'Safe Use of High Reach Demolition Excavators'. The publication has been produced by NFDC in conjunction with all the leading high reach excavator manufacturers reflecting changes in the high reach demolition sector over the past five years.

The guidance reflects changes such as high reach machines now going beyond a working height of 60m to even 90m and the checks required to ensure a stable and secure base particularly in avoiding risks from unseen voids and hidden basements.

In conjunction with the revised guidance the National Demolition Training Group has developed a high reach excavator training course designed to take an operator experienced on a machine with a 15m working height up to 30m.

The revised guidance can be viewed at [this link](#).

Safe use of Mobile Crushers in the Demolition sector

The National Federation of Demolition Contractors has also issued a revised edition of its guidance notes on the 'Safe use of Mobile Crushers in the Demolition Sector'.

Produced in conjunction with leading crushing equipment manufacturer, Sandvik Mining and Construction, the revised guidance differentiates specific hazards associated with demolition in contrast to similar machinery found at quarries. This includes key hazards concerning jaw crushers, operatives working on the machine's platform during operation, reducing potential for tramp metal to reach jaw crushers and controls for whole body vibration.



The revised guidance can be viewed at [this link](#).

Temporary Demountable Structures (TDS)

With the run up towards the Olympics and other events there has been an unprecedented demand for temporary structures.

This prompted the HSE to commission the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) to conduct research in the safe practice of erection and deconstruction of TDS to assist the events industry and its supply chain. The published report reviews existing guidance, past experience and current sector practices. It contains suggestions as to how management

frameworks might be further developed to ensure good practice.

The report and guidance is available at this link.

Preventing crushing in Mobile Elevating Work Platforms

Mobile Elevating Work Platforms, (MEWP's), have been increasingly used as a safe means of access when working at height. They are used extensively in the construction sector and more widely for maintenance type jobs in wider industry.

Although MEWP's are considered safer than alternatives, e.g. working from ladders, the HSE has seen an increasing trend where operators have been crushed between an overhead structure and the control panel in the basket while manoeuvring the MEWP.

HSE is working closely with industry to raise awareness of the problem, develop safe working practices and encourage the development of design solutions.

Current guidance to control this risk is available at this link.

The Scaffolding Association

The Scaffolding Association is a not-for profit organisation and has just recently been founded to improve the understanding, safety and standards of scaffolding across the construction industry.

Their main aim is to continuously improve competence and minimise risk across the scaffolding industry, by:

- Supporting the whole of the industry through a competence-based accreditation scheme, in line with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007
- Working with procurement partners and other interested parties to ensure the right information is available to enable the safe commissioning of the scaffolding project

- Providing accessible, robust technical guidance for scaffolders, designers and procurement partners
- Encouraging high standards of training and competence across the industry.

Further information is available at this link.

Construction Skills – 'Setting Out'

Construction Skills have published a 10 minute video on their website and Youtube, titled 'Setting Out'.

The video details the safety measures workers can expect their employers to take on their behalf; and offers some tips on what steps workers themselves can take to promote a safer working environment.

It could be a useful aid to inducting new workers and is available at this link.

Employer's Liability Insurance Compliance report

This research report highlights the need for main contractors to routinely check the insurances of all subcontractors or risk being held liable for their actions.

HSE research report RR844 suggests almost 20% of employers may have no cover for workplace injury in contravention of The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 (ELCI).

The research was undertaken to provide "a robust measure of levels of compliance in order to support policy development in this area". A key finding is that taking into account "social desirability bias in the survey" the overall compliance level could be as low as 81.7% and at best 94.3%.

The full report is available at this link.

QBE Risk Management

This newsletter is produced by QBE's Risk Management service team part of QBE European Operations, Property Casualty and Motor division. We are a team of dedicated professionals who work closely with our clients to actively assist with accident prevention, employee rehabilitation and claims mitigation.

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