

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

January 2008

H&S Statistics

The annual statistics compiled by the Health and Safety Commission have been published. Last year (2006/07) over 140 000 accidents were reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), 2.2 million people were suffering from a work related illness (accounting for 36 million days lost), and 241 people were killed whilst at work.

1141 offences were prosecuted by the HSE, with fines totalling £13 million, and compared to the previous year, 20% more improvement/prohibition notices were served by the HSE and local authorities.

The main causes of self-reported ill-health remain as musculoskeletal disorders and stress, whereas the main causes of reported non-fatal injuries remain as slipping and tripping, and handling, lifting or carrying.

Agriculture and construction remain top for prevalence on non-fatal injuries to workers.

CPC for Commercial Drivers

From September 2008 it will be necessary for bus and coach drivers to hold a driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) in addition to their vocational driving licence (applies to drivers of large goods vehicles from September 2009).

The qualification is intended to raise driving standards and road safety, with drivers required to attend initial and periodic training (35 hours every 5 years) by approved trainers. Existing drivers will be exempt from initial training.

A comprehensive guide on the requirements is available at www.drivercpc-periodictraining.org.

Noise in the Music and Entertainment Industry

From April 2008 the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 will apply to clubs, bars, concert halls and similar venues. Employers will have to ensure that employees' exposure does not exceed exposure values by arranging for an assessment to be completed and if necessary reducing noise, or as last resort, enforcing the wearing of hearing protection. The legislation does not cover members of the public.

Stopping Slips in Kitchens

A HSE campaign to be run in early 2008 is intended to help employers and health and safety managers in the hospitality industry to assess the risk of slips in kitchens and decide what action to take to control them.

Last year nearly two thousand kitchen workers slipped at work and received an injury that kept them off work for more than three days, 640 of the workers receiving serious injuries such as a broken bone or severe burn.

The campaign is likely to centre on improvements to cleaning regimes as being a way to prevent slips from occurring, together with the use of non-slip surfaces and slip resistant footwear. For further information on the campaign visit www.hse.gov.uk/slips/kitchens/index.htm.

For further information on these and other issues, please speak to one of our advisors, call our offices or visit our website (www.jwcope.co.uk).