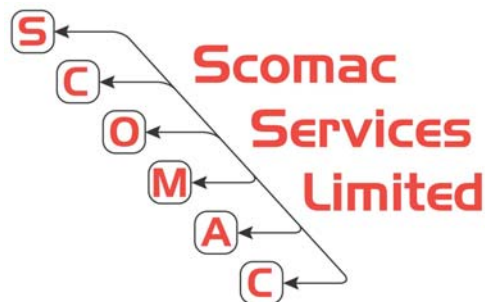


INDUSTRY MATTERS

Issue 4 January 2005



This Newsletter is part of regular series of industry updates for clients and contractors.

Health & Safety Update

The Health and Safety Executive has recently released its fifth annual Health and Safety Offences and Penalties Report. The reports were originally launched to “name and shame” employers who are convicted of health and safety offences. Last year, HSE made 206,000 regulatory contacts, investigated almost 26,000 incidents and complaints, issued 11,295 improvement and prohibition notices and brought 982 prosecutions. The full report is available at www.hse.gov.uk/enforce/off03-04

Recent Health & Safety Cases

Worker killed after falling just two feet

A worker in Scotland was killed whilst dismantling the roof of a farm building. He fell off the ladder he was working on from a height of two feet.

Tower Scaffolds

A trainee electrician on work experience suffered rib fractures after falling five metres from a tower scaffold, when the guardrail gave way. He had been using the tower scaffold to assist with the cleaning of fluorescent ceiling lights.

Accident involving a forklift truck

In this instance there were insufficient processes in place to ensure that pedestrians and vehicles were kept separate. The accident occurred because the reverse gear had not been properly disengaged when the truck was brought to a halt. When the driver went to drive forwards, the truck shot backwards and crushed another employee against a metal table. Although a risk assessment had been carried out and barriers had been put in place to separate pedestrians and the vehicles, the gaps were still wide enough for the fork lift truck to enter the area. Supervision and monitoring were also insufficient.

Fire Protection and Alarm Systems

From 1 April 2005, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), in association with the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA), is to implement the requirement for URN's (Unique Reference Numbers) into the fire industry, as has already been done within the security industry through The Association of Chief Policy Officers (APCO).

This policy will require a phased introduction over a three-year period, to allow systems and management strategies to be brought up to the required standards. Full information on the scheme is available as a download from the CFOA website (www.CFOA.org.uk) or by contacting the CFOA Headquarters on 01827 302300.66

Publications

INDG 237

Maintaining portable electrical equipment in hotels and tourist accommodation.
(HSE Publications, Tel:01787 881165)

INDG 236

Maintaining portable electrical equipment in offices and other low-risk environments
(HSE Publications – 01787 881165)

INDG 220

A guide to the Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996
(HSE Publications, Tel: 01787 881165)

INDG 289

Working with asbestos in buildings. Essential advice for workers carrying out building services including maintenance, repair and refurbishment.
(HSE Publications – 01787 881165)

INDG 372

Electrical switchgear and safety: a concise guide for users
(HSE Publications – 01787 881165)

HSE 31

RIDDOR explained (Revision 4)
(HSE Publications – 01787 881165)

HSE 27

Your health, your safety: a guide for workers.
This publication provides information about safety rights at work, the level of safety training that should be provided and who to complain to about poor workplace practices.
(HSE Publications – 01787 881165)

CIS 49

General access scaffolds and ladders
(HSE Publications – 01787 881165)

Legislation

The Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment) Regulations 2004
SI 2004/2882, coming into force 28.02.2005
The effect of these amending regulations is to exempt an incorporated company run by its owner who is also the sole employee of the company, from the requirement to take out employers' liability insurance.

British Standards

BS 5839
Fire detection and alarm systems for buildings
BS 5839-6:2004
Code of practice for the design, installation and maintenance of fire detection and fire alarm systems in dwellings. Supersedes BS 5839-6:1995

BS EN 62271-105:2003
Alternating current switch-fuse combinations,
Supersedes BS EN 60420:1993 which remains current.

BS ISO 18878:2004
Mobile elevating work platforms. Operator (driver) training. No current standing is superseded.

**If you would like further information on any of the issues highlighted in this report,
please contact Barbie McSean on 01252 353040.**
