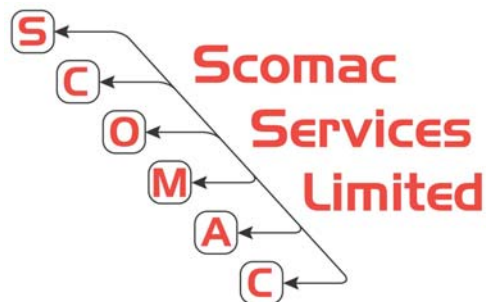


INDUSTRY MATTERS

Issue 6 June 2005



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

Health & Safety Update

COSHH Changes

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Amendment) Regulations 2004 (SI 3386) are introducing the following changes to COSHH 2002 from April 2005:

- Requirements to observe 'principles of good practice' for the control of exposure to substances hazardous to health
- 'Workplace exposure limits' (WELs) for substances hazardous to health. WELs will replace the previous system of maximum exposure limits (OELs).
- A duty to review control measures beyond plant and equipment, including systems of work and supervision, at suitable intervals.

There are now eight 'principles of good practice' contained within the revised COSHH regulations.

These can be accessed at

<http://www.hmso.coshh-essentials.org.uk/si/si2004/20043386.htm>

(Source: ECA Circular No.32, April 05)

Updated Guidance on Portable and Transportable Electrical Equipment

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published updated guidance in an effort to minimise the number of accidents caused by portable or transportable equipment.

Guidance publications can be obtained from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2WA Tel 01787 881165; Fax 01787 313995

(Source: ECA Circular No.33, 1st April 05)

Work at Height Regulations

New Working at Height Regulations have been implemented since the beginning of April 2005. The regulations apply to all work at height where there is a risk of a fall, which is liable to cause injury. The regulations also place duties on employer, the self-employed and anyone who

controls the work of others to control the risk of falls. The duties involve:

- All work at height is properly planned and organised
- Those involved in work at height are competent
- The risks from work at height are assessed and appropriate work equipment is selected and used
- Risks from fragile surfaces are properly controlled
- Equipment for work at height is properly inspected and maintained

The Work at Height Regulations can be downloaded free from

<http://www.hmso.gov.uk/si/si20050735.htm>

(Source: ECA Circular No. 31, April 05)

Recent Health & Safety Cases

Scaffolder killed in collapse

One scaffolder was killed and another seriously injured after the scaffolding rig they were dismantling became unstable and collapsed, causing the men to fall about sixty feet. The scaffolding company was prosecuted and fined under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Construction Regulations 1996.

Electrocution death

A builder was electrocuted when laying foundations for a garage at a domestic project. He was investigating an apparent power failure when he was killed.

Lack of training and risk assessment leads to fatal accidents

A company has been fined after an incident that resulted in the death of a new employee who had not been trained properly and was not being supervised properly. He had been painting a grid while it was hanging from a forklift truck, when it fell on him and crushed him against a steel table.

Another incident at a different company led to the death of a forklift truck operator who was allowed

to drive a telescopic reach-truck despite the fact that he had not been trained on the equipment and risk assessments had not been carried out. There was also no supervisor on site at the time of the incident.

Other information

Proposed changes to the Management Regulation and the Consultation regulations

The Health and Safety Executive are proposing to change some of the liability elements contained in the management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996. To make any comments or to view full details of the proposals visit

www.hse.gov.uk/consult/letter/manregs.htm

(Source: ECA Safety Update, April 05)

CIS Update

The Inland Revenue intends to start publicising the new Construction Industry Scheme with mail shots to accountants in April and to contractors in October 2005. Other interested parties will be targeted early in 2006.

Replacement CIS cards and certificates being issued now may bear an expiry date later than proposed commencement date for the new scheme in April 2006. Members are advised that this will be a common occurrence and that there are no hazardous implications.

Companies holding CIS cards or certificates valid beyond April 2006 will automatically be registered for the new scheme.

(Source: ECA Circular No.28, March 2005)

Hazardous Waste Regulations

The Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 come into effect on 16th July 2005 replacing the Special Waste Regulations 1996. Wastes, such as fluorescent tubes and some batteries, are confirmed as 'hazardous' under the new regulations.

(Source: ECA Circular No.52, June 05)

Introduction of Unique Reference Numbers (URNs) for Fire Protection and Alarm Systems

From 1 April 2005, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) implemented the requirement for URN's into the fire industry. 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 statements.

The policy document is available from the CFOA website (www.CFOA.org.uk) or in hard copy by calling the CFOA on 01827 302300.

(Source: ECA Circular No. 17, January 2005)

False alarms for fire detection and fire alarm systems

The ECA has published a guidance note – A guide to reducing the number of false alarms for fire detection and fire alarm systems. The document is available from the ECA website – www.eca.co.uk

(Source: ECA Website)

Domestic Fire Alarm Systems

Audibility within dwellings is as important as in commercial premises, even though the type of detector and sounder used are generally very different. The ECA has issued a Circular explaining the requirements under BS5839-6: 2004 Domestic fire alarm systems – audibility.

(Source: ECA Circular No. 29, March 2005)

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