

CONSTRUCTION INFONET – DECEMBER 2006

An e-bulletin for clients, designers, contractors and health and safety specialists

DESIGN BEST PRACTICE

Construction project designers with duties under CDM are continuing to develop ways to eliminate hazards or reduce risk through the design process. Numerous examples of good and best practice can be found on [The Design Best Practice \(DBP\) website](#) which presents examples from work of The Design Network, formed in 2004.

The Design Network is described a 'collective response from a group of design and construction organisations to help them improve their processes and people to comply with the requirements of CDM. The Network group has set its focus on two areas: (a) understanding how we assess our designer competence and look for opportunities to improve and (b) collecting and communicating [design best practice](#) which can reduce hazards on site and help the construction team work effectively'. You can [submit your own case studies](#) to DBP.

THE PATTERN OF FATAL INJURIES

The HSE Chief Inspector for construction, Stephen Williams, has revealed, "The gap in safety performance between larger and smaller contractors is increasingly getting bigger. The split is now in the region of 75% of fatal accidents happening on smaller sites. Last year that split was closer at 65%." Where in recent months fatal injuries have occurred on larger CDM projects they have involved:

- [Lifting operations](#): including deaths arising from the collapse of a crane and from persons being struck by falling or moving loads;
- [Mobile plant and vehicles](#): including deaths arising the overturning of an excavator, a tipper lorry and a mobile elevating work platform; and from being struck by a reversing telehandler;
- [Working platforms](#): including a death arising from the collapse of a scaffold

Further information on injuries and ill-health can be found in a [comprehensive report](#) on construction industry and ill-health intelligence which has been published recently on the HSE website.

HAND ARM VIBRATION (HAV) CAMPAIGN IN CONSTRUCTION 2006-2007

The HSE website now contains very useful information on promoting established good practice [controls to reduce risks from HAV](#). This information supports the current inspection campaign, which will carry over into 2007. Construction is one of three priority sectors involved in the campaign and visiting inspectors will expect to see evidence of:

- the elimination of HAV risks where reasonably practicable;
- reduction of risk to the lowest level that is reasonably practicable;
- proper management of risk; and
- suitable health surveillance procedures.

To help construction project teams eliminate and manage HAV risk the website provides detailed [information on good practice in construction](#) with links to further advice, examples and guidance. Part of the HAV campaign tackles the development of new solutions and examples of good practice for HAV. If you want to support the development of new solutions or have suggestions on good practice please contact the Noise and Vibration Programme using the [feedback form](#).

SOME RECENT PROSECUTIONS

[Case 1 - Falling shutter during lifting operation](#): two construction companies have been fined a total of £350,000 following an incident in which a workman died when a large timber shutter fell and struck him whilst it was being lifted from the ground to the 9th floor of a building. [Relevant advice](#).

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RECENT COURT CASES Cont

[Case 2 - Lorry grab strikes overhead power line](#): a company and its director were both fined £80,000 and ordered to pay £35,000 prosecutions costs following the death of a lorry driver who was electrocuted when the grab of the crane mounted on his lorry came into contact with an overhead power line. [Relevant advice](#).

[Case 3 - Scaffold collapse](#): two firms have been fined a total of £132,000 following a scaffolding collapse. Two sections of a loading bay tower collapsed and a workman fell 5 metres into the components of the collapsing tower. The structure had been overloaded. Factors contributing to the collapse included: failure to appreciate that such a structure would require to be designed; failure to provide information on the safe loading for the structure; and failure to control the loading of material onto the scaffold. [Relevant advice](#).

[Case 4 - Overturning dumper](#): two companies and a company director have been fined a total of £250,000 following the death of a 31-year-old man when a dumper used to move soil overturned. [Relevant advice](#).

GUIDANCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF ASBESTOS AT WORK

The guidance on [Managing asbestos in non-domestic premises](#) has been published giving advice on how to comply with the duty in Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 to manage asbestos in non-domestic premises. It explains the duties of building owners, tenants and anyone else with legal responsibilities for such premises. This guidance is essential reading for CDM clients.

BUILDING HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARDS 2007

Entry to the [Building Magazine](#) annual Health and Safety Awards is now open. These awards, held in association with HSE, showcase and reward excellence in construction health and safety and celebrate the continued success of [Working Well Together](#), the construction industry's largest campaign supporting micro and small/medium firms in the construction industry. The awards are open to all from client to contractor.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY INJURY STATISTICS 2005/06

A useful summary of the latest [construction injury statistics](#) is now available on the HSE website. The statistics for 2005/06 show that the rate of fatal and major injuries in the construction industry is continuing to fall and that the rate of:

- reported fatal injuries (to all workers, including the self employed) in construction between 1999/00 and 2005/06 has reduced by around 36%;
- reported major injuries to employees in construction between 1999/00 and 2005/06 has reduced by around 22%; and
- reported over three day injuries to employees in construction between 1999/00 and 2005/06 has reduced by around 31%.

I hope you find this latest information helpful.

Philip Poynter
Construction Infonet Editor
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