

CONSTRUCTION INFONET – FEBRUARY 2007

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

CDM 2007 UPDATE, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Health and safety minister, Lord McKenzie of Luton, has signed the CDM 2007 Regulations, which will now be laid before Parliament shortly. Meanwhile, construction industry bodies and professional associations are organising conferences and seminars covering the planned [CDM 2007 regulations](#). As part of the launch for the regulations HSE is publicising [CDM training and awareness events](#) on our website¹. On average there are over 21,000 unique visitors per month to the construction web pages. We hope that adding these events will be useful to the construction industry and encourage others to arrange CDM awareness events. You can [register your CDM event](#) with HSE online.

¹ Listing on does not imply HSE endorsement of any specific events, organisations or companies

SOME RECENT CONSTRUCTION PROSECUTIONS

[Case 1 - Collapse of floor joists](#): a housing developer has been fined £18,000 and ordered to pay £4,210 costs after four bricklayers were injured when the floor of a house collapsed. The joist hangers had not been adequately built into the brickwork and the floor had not been supported from below. The investigating inspector commented "It is fortunate that the four were men who were injured in the collapse suffered relatively minor injuries. However this incident could have easily resulted in one or more fatalities". [Relevant precautions](#).

[Case 2 - Fall through fragile roof](#): a roofing company has been fined £15,000 and ordered to pay £6,939 costs following multiple injuries to a workman who fell over 7m through an asbestos cement roof. The company had failed to ensure that a safe system of work was adopted for its work at the premises. The investigating Inspector said: "Plenty of guidance is available to the roofing industry. The risks associated with working on fragile roofs are well known and guidance on how to do so is available from HSE." [Relevant precautions](#).

[Case 3 - Untrained operator using an excavator](#): a developer has been fined £4,000 and ordered to pay £12,000 in costs following a construction site accident when a worker lost a leg while assisting a colleague in lifting ballast from the rear of a tipper truck. The workman operating the excavator was also fined £350. He was not qualified to drive the excavator. The HSE Inspector said: "Construction plant and machinery is obviously potentially dangerous. Even a small excavator, let alone a 7 tonne machine, can easily kill in the wrong hands. This is why it is essential that skilled competent operators, whose skills have been verified through formal training and assessment, only ever operate such machines". [Relevant precautions](#).

WARNING ON THE DANGERS FROM CARBON MONOXIDE

HSE has issued a reminder of [danger from carbon monoxide](#) when using equipment powered by internal combustion engines in confined or poorly ventilated spaces. This follows a recent incident in which three men suffered fatal poisoning from carbon monoxide on a construction site. The source of the carbon monoxide is believed to have been a generator.

HSE PROGRAMME OF WORK IN CONSTRUCTION 2007/08

Future issues of *Construction Infonet* will provide detail of the programme of work which HSE Construction Division will be carrying out during 2007/08. The programme of work will include:

- [CDM 2007](#) - work to raise awareness and knowledge of CDM 2007;
- [Refurbishment projects](#) - major fit outs projects, minor repairs and extensions across all sectors and sizes of project. We will focus on falls, good order, structural stability, fire, occupational health, noise, HAVs, asbestos and welfare;

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HSE PROGRAMME OF WORK IN CONSTRUCTION 2007/08 - CONT

- Major commercial projects - early and construction phase interventions on selected new build commercial projects with a focus on CDM 2007, falls, MEWPS, good order, steel erection, occupational health and lifting operations;
- Homebuilders - concentrating on site transport, good order, falls, lifting operations and occupational health. A mixture of site inspections head office visits and awareness events will be employed;
- Major players - we will continue our central approach work with major clients, designers and contractors etc and project specific interventions;
- [Management of occupational health](#) - will be promoted throughout our entire work programme;
- [Worker engagement](#) - promotion of worker engagement across all sectors of the industry;
- [Moving goods safely](#) - focusing on product supply chain management particularly with regards to concrete products, trussed rafters, steel and plasterboard from manufacturer to site delivery;
- [Falls from vehicles](#) - work to reduce injuries from falls from vehicles and the promotion of better standards of access and egress to vehicles where it is still necessary on construction sites;
- [Roofwork](#) - presentations, seminars, head office visits and site inspections;
- Piling and drilling contractors - looking at machinery guarding issues and HAVs;
- [Lifting operations](#) - particularly tower cranes and self-erecting cranes;
- Temporary traffic management on height speed roads - visits to clients and contractors;
- [Asbestos](#) - site inspections and major change events and;
- [Musculoskeletal disorders](#) - which will involve following up on MSD injury reports.

FATAL INJURIES IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR 2007

The fatal injuries to construction workers since 1 January 2007 include:

- Fall through a rooflight during refurbishment work on a warehouse; [Advice](#)
- Fall from a scaffold; [Advice](#)
- Fall from a ladder resting on tower scaffold which overturned; [Advice](#)
- Collapse of tower crane causing fatal injuries to a workman below; [Advice](#)
- Collapse of wall during work on a nearby excavation; [Advice](#)
- Reversing excavator, which ran over a nearby workman. [Advice](#)
- Electrocution of workman involved in house refurbishment and; [Advice](#)
- Burns to workman whilst burning rubbish in braziers. [Advice](#)

I hope you find this latest information helpful.

Philip Poynter
Construction Infonet Editor
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