

## CONSTRUCTION INFONET – NOVEMBER 2006

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

### HSC APPROVES REVISED CDM REGULATIONS

The Health and Safety Commission (HSC) met on 17 October and approved the proposed [revised Construction \(Design and Management\) \(CDM\) Regulations](#) and Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) for formal submission to the Minister. The Regulations will revise and bring together provisions in the existing CDM Regulations 1994 and the Construction (Health Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996 into a single regulatory package.

### SOME FORTHCOMING CDM CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

The following conferences or seminars on the new CDM Regulations have been arranged by industry and professional bodies for the coming weeks and months:

- [National House Building Council](#) (NHBC) - various GB locations during November 2006
- [New Civil Engineer](#) (NCE) - The Earls Court Conference Centre London on 14 November 2006
- [Association for Project Safety](#) (APS) - various GB locations throughout November and February

There will be HSE speakers at both the NHBC and NCE events.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY STATISTICS FOR 2005/06 PUBLISHED

The [latest statistics on work-related ill health and enforcement](#) in Great Britain have been published. 'Health and Safety Statistics 2005/06' presents the top-level statistics, including reports on progress against the targets set in the 'Revitalising Health and Safety' strategy. Specific more detailed data on the [latest construction sector statistics](#) are available on the HSE website.

### HSE ISSUES SAFETY ALERT ON THE USE OF TOWER CRANES

HSE has issued a [safety alert on the use of tower cranes](#) to remind those working on projects where tower cranes are in use of the importance of the safe erection, operation, maintenance and dismantling of such cranes. This alert has been prompted by a number of serious [incidents](#) involving tower cranes in recent years.

In addition, there has been an increase in the use of Self Erecting Tower Cranes (SETC) and the Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) has, working in partnership with HSE, published a Best Practice [Guide on the safe use of SETCs](#) which can be downloaded from the CPA website.

### NEW ASBESTOS REGULATIONS NOW IN FORCE

The [Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006](#) come into force on 13 November 2006 and will strengthen overall worker protection by reducing exposure limits and introducing mandatory training for work with asbestos. The revised regulations will introduce the following changes:

- single control limit of 0.1 fibres per cm<sup>3</sup> of air for work with all types of asbestos;
- specific mandatory training requirements for anyone liable to be exposed to asbestos;
- requirement to analyse the concentration of asbestos in the air with measurements in accordance with the 1997 World Health Organisation recommended method;
- practical guidelines for the determination of "sporadic and low intensity exposure"; and
- replacement of three existing sets of Asbestos Regulations.

The decision on whether particular work is licensable, and to be undertaken by a [licensed contractor](#), will now be determined by the risk. Most work with textured decorative coatings containing asbestos (TCs) will be removed from the licensing regime. Research shows the levels of asbestos fibres released during work with TCs are much lower than previously thought and lower than the proposed new control limit when carried out using good practice.

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### RECENT COURT CASES

[Case 1](#) - two companies were fined a total of £300,000 and ordered to pay £63,000 costs following the death of a labourer who fell 5 metres over an unprotected edge during maintenance work;

[Case 2](#) - a piling specialist has been fined £100,000 plus prosecution costs of £32,607 following the death of a banksman who was crushed when a piling rig collapsed after a pin failed and the mast of the rig collapsed on the workman;

[Case 3](#) – a contractor was fined £13,000 and ordered to pay £10,928 in costs after a worker fell 5 metres from the roof of a tank under construction. The HSE investigation revealed that the system of work employed was unsafe and fall arrest equipment unsuitable, poorly maintained and not properly used;

[Case 4](#) - a contractor has been fined £10,000 and costs of £607 following an accident, which resulted in an employee falling 7 metres through a fragile roof light whilst dismantling a warehouse; and

[Case 5](#) - a local authority has been fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £11,286.37 costs after an employee of the works department received an electric shock while changing a streetlight.

### DESIGNERS SHARE THEIR PRACTICAL HEALTH AND SAFETY EXPERIENCE

The team responsible for designing Swansea's Liberty Stadium shared their experiences with other design professionals at an HSE event on 24 October. The [Design Awareness Day](#), or DAD for short, encourages professionals dealing with design of construction projects to think about building in good health and safety measures at inception. Architects, surveyors, engineers and designers attended the event to raise the profile of health and safety issues for construction designers.

### MAJOR CONTRACTORS GROUP MOVE FORWARD TO QUALIFIED WORKFORCE

Members of the [Major Contractors Group](#) (MCG) are moving ahead to employ a fully qualified workforce on their construction sites. MCG has warned that from Monday 2 October, no one will be allowed to work on MCG sites without having the appropriate CSCS card or having registered with Skills Direct as a first step towards obtaining one.

### CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Many organisations involved in the construction industry now include health and safety in their corporate social responsibility programmes. HSE has [published material on corporate responsibility](#) including information of the role of the director and public reporting of performance.

### CONSTRUCTION INFONET

The number of subscribers to [Construction Infonet](#) has been increasing steadily over the last 3 months and subscriber numbers exceeded the 10,000 mark in late October. We hope that the service keeps you informed in a concise and practical way. Please let us know if there are any improvements you would like to see to the service.

I hope you find this latest information helpful.

**Philip Poynter**  
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