

## CORPORATE SAFETY COMMITTEE – 11TH JANUARY 2006

**SUBJECT: RECENT HSE UPDATES**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, Management and Trade Union Safety Representatives of recent updates in Health and Safety information, advice and guidance.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has published comprehensive guidance on hand-arm vibration (HAV) entitled Hard-Arm Vibration: Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005. The new guide is aimed at employers, health and safety advisers, specialists and occupational health professionals and includes practical guidance on what actions can be taken, in order to reduce and control the risks of HAV, under the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005.

Exposure to HAV occurs across the Authority, particularly where the use of power tools is extensive. The guidance provides practical advice on undertaking HAV risk assessments, estimating vibration exposure and arranging health surveillance.

This guidance (L140 - Hard-Arm Vibration: Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 replaces HSG88 – Hand-Arm Vibration, and is available from HSE books.

The Health and Safety Executive has published its annual Offences and Penalties report for 2004-05. The report presents key statistics and links to the full enforcement database, which shows the names of all those who have been served with an enforcement notice or convicted of a health and safety offence. During 04/05 the HSE brought 712 prosecutions and secured convictions in 95% of those cases. HSE inspectors also served 8445 enforcement notices.

The full report can be accessed via the HSE website at:

[www.hse.gov.uk/enforce/off0405/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/enforce/off0405/index.htm)

The Health and Safety Executive has issued a consultative document on the draft revised Asbestos Regulations. This document seeks to implement the amendments to the European Asbestos Worker Protective Directive, and make changes to the existing asbestos regulatory framework.

There are currently three sets of regulations that control exposure to asbestos: -

The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 (CAW), which govern the way we all work with asbestos, ensuring that it is done safely.

The Asbestos (Licensing) Regulations 1983 (ASLIC) as amended, which requires work with all the more hazardous asbestos containing materials to be undertaken by a HSE licensed contractor.

The Asbestos (Prohibitions) Regulations 1992 (Prohibitions Regulations) as amended, which ban the importation, supply and use of raw asbestos and asbestos containing materials.

The proposals repeal and replace the CAW, ASLIC and the Prohibitions Regulations. Building on regulatory changes the proposed regulations and Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) will: -

Further tighten standards of protection, by specifying a single control limit for exposure, specific training requirement and a hierarchy of control that should be used to reduce exposure, Increase awareness of the presence of the risks from working with asbestos containing materials, Simplify and rationalise the legislative regime and introduce a new risk based approach to licensing, where certain types of work where exposure to asbestos will only be 'sporadic and low intensity' and below the control limit, will not need to be undertaken by a licensed contractor. An example of this would be work on textured decorative coatings containing asbestos, such as Artex. This risk-based approach is the result of new research that has identified that the risk from removing such materials is one thousand times less than previously thought.

The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2006, are scheduled for implementation in April 2006.

The consultation document can be accessed online at [www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd205.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd205.htm).

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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