

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 18TH OCTOBER 2006

SUBJECT: RECENT HSE UPDATES

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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 HSE plan to introduce revised Construction (Design and Management) Regulations on 1st April 2007. The revised regulations will combine the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994 with the Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996 to create one simplified set of regulations. The regulations will focus on the effective planning and management of construction projects, to improve risk management by ensuring responsibility is placed with those best placed to influence or manage it; reduce bureaucracy; and simplify and clarify the law for dutyholders. The HSE plan to publish an approved code of practise to support the regulations, which should be available from January 2007.
- 2.2 The HSE plan to revise the Working at Height Regulations bringing those paid to lead and train climbing and caving activities within the scope of the Regulations. This will complete the implementation of the European Working at Height Directive (EC2000/45/EC). Consultations on the proposals will run until 31st October 2006 and a copy of the consultative document is available to view on the Internet <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd204.htm>. It is expected that the revised regulations will come into force on 1st April 2007.
- 2.3 The HSE have revised their guidance on risk assessment, 'Five Steps to Risk Assessment', placing a greater emphasis on risk assessment resulting in actions and reducing the focus on bureaucracy. The revamped, plain English guide is available to download from the HSE website www.hse.gov.uk/risk.
- 2.4 The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 came into force on 1 October. The order places responsibilities on organisations to carry out fire risk assessments and to introduce changes where necessary to reduce the risk of fire. The regulations repeal and consolidate previous fire safety legislation and introduce a risk-based framework to fire management. A brief guide to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 is available on the health and safety page of the intranet.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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