



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 10TH JANUARY 2007

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 revised asbestos regulations, The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006, came into force on 13th November 2006. The revised regulations implement the European Asbestos Worker Protection Directive and repeal and replace;

- The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002,
- The Asbestos (Licensing) Regulations 1983, as amended and
- The Asbestos (Prohibitions) Regulations 1992, as amended.

The revised regulations will strengthen overall worker protection by reducing exposure limits and introducing mandatory training for work with asbestos. The revised regulations introduce the following changes:

- A single control limit of 0.1 fibres per cm³ 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 air using the 1997 World Health Organisation recommended method; and
- Introduces practical guidance for the determination of 'sporadic and low intensity exposure'.

Under the new regulations, most work with textured decorative coatings (TC'S) containing asbestos e.g. artex will be removed from the licensing regime. This is due to research showing that the levels of asbestos fibres released during work with textured coatings are much lower than previously thought and that when work is carried out using good practice the levels have been found to be below the new control limit. However, all work with asbestos containing materials, including TC's, must be undertaken by trained workers following a risk assessment and in accordance with appropriate controls to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres.

Further information can be found at the following links:

- www.hse.gov.uk
- www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si200627.htm

- 2.2 The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has announced that the Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) to accompany the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM 2007) will be available this month. The HSE has stated that this will enable construction and design professional's time to prepare for the regulatory change, which is due on 6th April 2007.

The current regulations have been criticised as being over bureaucratic, and producing large amounts of generic documentation that add little to the safe management of construction projects. CDM 2007 is designed to simplify the regulatory regime by incorporating the Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996 as well as reducing the bureaucracy. The main changes of the new regulations are:

- An enhanced client role;
- The change of the 'planning supervisor' role to that of a 'co-ordinator', with the increased emphasis on co-operation with all duty holders;
- Changes to the type of projects that the majority of the regulations will be applied to.

Further information can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm.htm

- 2.3 The Health and Safety Executive has announced that it will be updating its process for the retention of records with regards to the Public Register of Convictions database. The database is intended to name and shame those found guilty of offences under the Health and Safety Legislation. It has been the HSE's policy to remove the records that are over five years old. The HSE has reversed this decision and will reinstate the website records of Health and Safety at Work offences which have been committed more than five years ago. The HSE's Public Register of Convictions can be found at www.hsedatabases.co.uk/prosecutions.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

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