

CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 21ST NOVEMBER 2011

SUBJECT: RECENT HSE UPDATES

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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 No new health and safety legislation came into force on the 'common commencement date' of 1st October 2011.
- 2.2 The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have published their annual statistics relating to work-related injuries, diseases and dangerous incidents. Although they show a continued general decline in the number of people injured or made ill by work activities they also show an increase in the number of fatalities compared to the previous year.

The full details may be obtained from the HSE website: www.hse.gov.uk/statistics

- 2.3 Following public consultation on plans to extend cost recovery for breaches of health and safety law, the HSE has begun operating a 'dry run' to see how well it works in practice. This will continue until 9th December, after which the HSE will be testing its new procedures and understanding of the scheme by businesses. During this trial stage no actual costs will be recovered.

The proposed charging scheme, known as 'fee for intervention' (FFI) means organisations found to have broken health and safety laws will pay the costs incurred by HSE in helping them to put matters right. The scheme is part of the Government's policy announced in '*Good Health and Safety, Good for Everyone*' which aims to make a fresh start with health and safety regulation. FFI is set to be introduced from as early as April 2012.

- 2.4 Recent changes to the 'Work-Related Deaths Protocol' allow the HSE and other regulators to bring prosecutions before an inquest takes place into the causes of death. This is a substantial change to previous policy and will reduce the number of delayed prosecutions.
- 2.5 Since 12th September, only fatal and major injuries/incidents can be reported by phone. All other work-related injuries/incidents, which fall under RIDDOR, have to be reported via one of seven online forms available on HSE's website: www.hse.gov.uk/riddor.

- 2.6 The HSE have published a new leaflet providing basic advice on the risks and regulatory requirements for the operation of steam boilers. It sets out the general principles of boiler safety for people with limited technical knowledge of boilers, such as owners, managers and supervisors, who do not have access to industry guidance. This leaflet applies to steam and high temperature hot water boiler plant (operating above 0.5 bar pressure and a temperature of 110 °C), and is available to download free of charge from the HSE website:
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg436.pdf

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the contents of the report be noted.

Author: Andrew Wigley, Health and Safety Officer
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Gareth Hardacre, Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development
Donna Jones, Health and Safety Manager
Councillor James Fussell, Cabinet Member for Human Resources