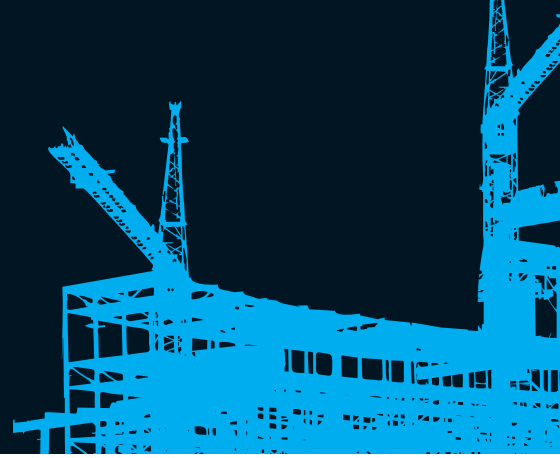




Construction update

February 2010 Newsletter



Welcome.

In this edition we highlight the latest HSE accident statistics, which present a mixed picture with regard to fatal incidence rate in the construction sector.

We reported in our last newsletter the findings of the Donaghy report in to fatal accidents but implementation appears to have stalled with none of the key recommendations making the Queen's pre Christmas speech. We await further announcements.

In the meantime the HSE have funded CIRIA research into major construction hazards and there is an opportunity for you to contribute to this project below.

Tower crane collapses are one such major hazard and new regulations require the HSE to be notified about their use.

Finally we discuss pre qualification questionnaires and draw your attention to latest asbestos reports.

HSE accident statistics

It is positive that fatal accidents in construction fell to 18, in the 6 months to 30 September 2009. This compares to 32 in the same period a year earlier.

Whilst this reduction is welcomed there are doubts whether this is due to safer working conditions or perhaps recessionary factors particularly as preliminary figures for October and November revealed a further 13 fatalities.

It should also be noted that the number of self employed worker fatalities has risen and that construction still accounts for a third of all workplace deaths.

[Click for HSE statistics](#)



For an in-depth review of injury, ill health and fatal accidents over an 11 year period view, "HSE Construction Intelligence Report", [here](#).

CIRIA Project CON183 - Major hazards in construction

The HSE have funded CIRIA in partnership with Loughborough University to consult with stakeholders on the underlying causes and effectiveness of control measures associated with major accidents such as:

- Structural collapse of permanent structure
- Collapse of temporary works
- Fire
- Tunnel collapse
- Disruption of underground services

[Click for further detail.](#)

To submit your opinion and be kept informed about this project, complete this [questionnaire](#).



The notification of conventional tower cranes regulations 2010

These regulations come into force on 6 April 2010 and require the contractor or person responsible for the thorough examination of the crane, under LOLER, to notify the HSE within 14 days of the examination.

Click here for guidance on these regulations, which includes:

- (a) the types of tower crane that need to be notified to HSE
- (b) who needs to ensure notification is made
- (c) when the notification needs to be made
- (d) what information needs to be notified and
- (e) how the information should be notified.

Pre-qualification questionnaires

Further progress is being made to release the burden of companies having to repeatedly pre-qualify for public and private sector work.

Builder's Profile has recently linked up with the Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme.

Builder's profile and CHAS are members of Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP), an umbrella organisation, which aims to facilitate mutual recognition between the various health and safety pre-qualification schemes.

About SSIP

The asbestos survey

The latest Asbestos Survey is available here.

The aim of this report was to provide an updated analysis of mortality among asbestos workers.

There were 15,496 deaths among the 98,912 workers included in the analysis



and all cause mortality was significantly higher than in the general population.

Pleural Plaques - Damages (Asbestos-related conditions) (Scotland) Act 2009

The latest appeal, by Insurers, on pleural plaques being compensable, within Scotland, has been lost.

This remains in direct contrast to the remainder of the United Kingdom where pleural plaques are not compensable since the Law Lords judgement in 2007.

Whilst it is understood Ministers in the Northern Ireland Assembly are considering overturning the ban on compensation for plaques sufferers under their jurisdiction, Justice Secretary, Jack Straw has confirmed no compensation will be due to plaque sufferers in England and Wales other than a government ex gratia payment of £5000 to persons who lodged a claim prior to the 2007 judgement.

Whilst these developments bring some closure, no doubt, the debate about the fairness of compensation by geography will continue.

The uncertainty of future asbestos liabilities was recently highlighted in a recent case when a plasterer was awarded £45,000 for developing, pleural thickening. This is a provisional settlement, allowing the claimant to

reopen the claim should he go on to develop an asbestos related cancer.

Justice Secretary, Jack Straw's Full Announcement

HSG264 Asbestos: The survey guide

This new publication replaces and expands on MDHS100, Surveying, sampling and assessment of asbestos-containing materials. It is aimed at people carrying out asbestos surveys and people with specific responsibilities for managing asbestos in non-domestic premises under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006.

Download here.

QBE Risk Management

This bulletin is produced by the Risk Management team within QBE's UK & Ireland Casualty department. We are a team of dedicated professionals who work closely with our clients to actively assist with accident prevention, employee rehabilitation and claims mitigation.

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