



Welcome.

Further costs may arise on organisations with poor health and safety compliance. This is in light of the consultation period on the Health and Safety Executive recovering their costs, from the start of a 'material breach' of health and safety legislation to the point where HSE 'support' has concluded, having recently finished.

This is at a time when latest figures from the Office for National Statistics evidence how challenging the current economic climate is with new construction orders falling to their lowest level since 1980.

New orders totalled £9.5 billion in the second quarter of 2011, 16% lower than the first three months of the year and 23% down on the same quarter last year.

In this edition we highlight:

- A web based tool to help measure your health and safety performance
- The HSE construction plan for 2011/12
- Recent review of Construction Design Management Regulations (CDM) 2007
- The legacy of good construction from London 2012 and
- The current ladder exchange, which will shortly close.

New online tool rates construction safety performance

An American university (Oregon state university) has developed an online tool to help improve health and safety performance in the construction industry.

The Sustainable Construction Safety and Health (SCSH) Rating System allows users to plan and assess the health and safety performance of construction projects during the planning and design stages.

The SCSH contains 50 safety elements, which each quantify the effectiveness in preventing construction injuries and illnesses.

Companies that use the tool will receive a star rating based on the quantitative analysis within the tool.

The tool is designed for all types of construction projects, regardless of size, location, or scope, and can be accessed at this link.

HSE Construction Division Plan of Work 2011/12

A summary of the HSE Construction Division's Plan of Work for 2011/12 has been published. The plan highlights what the construction industry can expect when HSE Inspectors visit their sites and is available on this link.

Over the next 12 months, HSE operational activities will focus time and effort on regulating smaller sites and businesses, with attention at Board level within larger companies. The following sectors will be targeted:

- Small sites/projects
- Refurbishment
- Major clients/projects
- Asbestos (licensing and licensed work).



Five issues will be considered at all site visits, namely:

- Work at height
- Respiratory risks
- Asbestos risks
- Provision of welfare facilities
- Good order/housekeeping of sites.

CDM2007 review

The Construction Industry Advisory Committee (CONIAC) have recently considered the review of CDM2007, available here. When CDM2007 replaced CDM1994 its main objectives were:

- Being clearer so duty holders know what is expected of them
- Being flexible and accommodating the wide range of contractual arrangements in the construction industry
- Emphasising the need to plan and manage work rather than treating the resulting paperwork as an end in itself
- Emphasising the communication and co-ordination advantages of duty holders working in integrated teams
- Simplifying the way duty holders assess competence.

The main findings of this review, which CONIAC will take forward, are that:

- Respondents' level of agreement to 5 objectives above was far more positive for CDM2007 than for CDM1994
- There are still concerns about how the principles underpinning the regulations are put into practice. More needs to be done to ensure that the industry does not generate unnecessary paperwork, particularly during stage 1 competence assessments
- The interpretation of the Approved Code of Practice, (ACoP) rather than the regulations themselves can cause problems: the ACoP was found to be unwieldy and difficult to interpret and apply in practice
- Respondents' level of agreement with statements relating to construction design, management and site practices were significantly more positive in 2010 than they were in 2006
- Whilst there was a cost impact of CDM2007, respondents rated the benefits as being higher than the costs



- Industry practice has a significant influence on how the construction industry implements CDM2007.

London 2012 learning legacy

Whilst London 2012 did suffer 1 fatality, the project has a strong health and safety record as evidenced by a workforce of up to 12,000 but an accident frequency rate a third of the average for the construction sector.

A number of lessons learned have been grouped in to 10 themes, including one on health and safety, and are available for review here.

Ladder exchange

The current ladder exchange scheme, which closes on 30 November 2011, allows users to replace broken or damaged ladders and trade them in for new ones.

Since its launch over 8,000 ladders have been exchanged and this may have contributed to figures from the Ladder Association, which report that injuries involving ladders have fallen from 2,132 incidents in 2007/08 to 1,817 incidents in 2009/10.

QBE Risk Management

This newsletter is produced by QBE's Risk Management service team part of QBE European Operations, Property Casualty and Motor division. We are a team of dedicated professionals who work closely with our clients to actively assist with accident prevention, employee rehabilitation and claims mitigation.

For more about our services, please visit www.qbeeurope.com/rm or email RM@uk.qbe.com or discuss with your Insurance Broker.

To provide feedback, subscribe a colleague or unsubscribe from future bulletins, please email us at RM@uk.qbe.com

QBE European Operations

Plantation Place
30 Fenchurch Street
London
EC3M 3BD

tel: 44 (0)20 7105 4000
fax: 44 (0)20 7105 4019