

Innovative Safety Solutions Newsletter

October 2012

Edition No. 29

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Food Safety in Catering L2

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6th / 13th / 20th Nov

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IOSH Managing Safely

Starting Monday 19th Nov

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The clocks have gone back, and the weather has started to turn, which means I'm only thinking of two things: winter, and mince pies. Mince pies will be covered in next month's newsletter, so for now some answers to common wintery questions.

What is the minimum temperature people can work in?

Although there is no legal minimum, it is expected that workrooms should be at least 16°C for sedentary work, and 13°C when there is some manual work involved. This comes from the ACOP L74, which also explains that a workroom is anywhere people work for more than short periods. There are no provisions for people working outdoors.

Can I clear snow & ice myself?

Of course you can! There are a few things to take into consideration first though:

- It's much easier to clear snow in the mornings, when it's still fresh and loose and before it's had chance to freeze. Make sure when you move the snow you're not putting it somewhere that might cause more danger.
- Use salt, sand or ash – NOT WATER. Water will refreeze and could lead to black ice forming. Salt will help stop any water re-freezing, while sand and ash will just provide some good grip underfoot. Be careful not to spread salt onto grass or plants, it's no good for them.
- Don't take salt or sand from salting bins – this is what's going to clear the roads.

If you'd like to know which roads your council will be gritting you can check at www.gov.uk/roads-council-will-grit

Does the cold change the risks of working with vibrating tools?

Yes. In cold weather blood flow is already reduced in your fingers, with the added effects of vibrating tools the risks of Hand Arm Vibration, specifically Vibration White Finger do increase. You can improve bloody flow by keeping your hands warm and dry, by wearing gloves and waterproofs and using heat pads. In addition to this stopping smoking improves blood flow as does exercising your fingers during breaks.

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Ladder Exchange

I know I talked about it a lot in last month's newsletter, but just to remind you all, you've got until 30th November 2012 to trade in your faulty ladders and get a nice new, shiny, replacement for a fraction of the cost. They've already replaced over 10,000 ladders in the last 6 years. For details of your nearest Ladder Exchange partner visit www.ladderexchange.org.uk/findapartner.htm



Fee For Intervention

Back in July I told you all about the HSE's proposals to introduce 'Fee for Intervention'. I have to admit, I was a little sceptical that it would ever actually be introduced, it had rumbled on for a long time with no real progress. All of a sudden though, it's happened, it's here and it's legislation.

So what is Fee For Intervention? It's a cost recovery scheme, designed so that dutyholders who have breached legislation and require a HSE inspector to issue them notice in writing (notice of contravention or an improvement or prohibition notice) will have to pay for the inspector's time to identify and conclude its regulatory action. They will be charged at £124 per hour. Businesses that don't break the law won't be charged.

If you would like more information about Fee For Intervention, you can always give us a ring, or have a look on the HSE's website www.hse.gov.uk/fee-for-intervention.

Remember, Remember, the 5th November

We all love a good bonfire, and if you're at a major public event you'd expect lots of robust safety procedures behind it. If you're organising your own, you're still expected to plan it safely, but the same level of detail is not required. Here are some things to think about:

- Fireworks: Where will you buy them? Where will you store them? Who will light them? There's no reason it can't be you but remember you can only then use category 1, 2 and 3 fireworks. Category 4 are for professionals only.
- Location: Do you have enough space? Are there any overhead cables? Where will your 'safe zone' be? Are you having a bar, where will it be located?
- Emergencies: Who is going to be responsible for calling the emergency services? Do they have all the details they need?

If you're still unsure, there's more info on the HSE's website, or give us a call.



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