



Health & Safety

From the Health and Safety Executive

Newsletter

Issue 37



Major injuries hit all-time low

Latest HSE figures show an 11% drop in major injuries compared to 2011/12.



The ABC of health and safety

New support is now available to help businesses save time, effort and money on health and safety.



Updated and simplified ACOPs

HSE has made it easier for dutyholders and other key stakeholders to understand and meet their legal obligations.



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The season to be jolly has been replaced by the season to be overweight, overdrawn and over winter.



But, don't despair, it's not all bleak. The New Year also means a new issue of the *Health and Safety Newsletter*.

In our last edition, we mentioned how the newsletter has become one of the fastest growing in Europe and, in this issue, we can report that it was shortlisted for the Public Sector Publication of the Year award. (No, we didn't win but we were happy to be shortlisted.)

Many of the items in this issue look at how HSE is doing its best to help businesses save time, effort and money on health and safety. The ABC of health and safety tools, simplifying ACOPs, providing greater flexibility for first-aid training and simplifying the law poster are all featured in this packed edition.

But, ultimately, it's not just about saving time, effort and money – it's about saving lives and preventing ill health and injury. And the best way to do this is to focus on controlling the real risks in the workplace, which are definitely not woolly hats...parasols and Christmas decorations, as you'll see on page 8!

Many thanks to those who take the time to get in touch – it's good to know you enjoy our mix of news, tips, myths and guidance. Please keep the feedback coming – email me at Newsletter@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Colette Manning Editor



Workplace major injuries hit an all-time low

Latest HSE figures show an 11 per cent drop in major injuries compared to 2011/12.

Provisional statistics show that in Britain between April 2012 and March 2013:

58 515
injuries serious enough to keep people off work for more than 7 days were reported last year



Across Great Britain
706
health and safety prosecutions were brought with a **95%** conviction rate



19 707
major injuries such as amputations, fractures and burns, were reported last year



Injuries and ill health in the workplace costs Britain over
£13 billion
every year



8000
deaths from work-related cancer of which more than half were caused by past exposure to asbestos



- 19 707 major injuries such as amputations, fractures and burns to employees were reported (a rate of 78.5 injuries per 100 000 employees) – compared with 22 094 in 2011/12 (a rate of 88.5 per 100 000 employees);
- 148 workers were fatally injured – down from 171 the previous year. The average for the past five years was 181 worker deaths per year;
- workplace injuries and ill health (excluding work-related cancer) cost society an estimated £13.8 billion in 2010/11, compared with £16.3 billion in 2006/07 (both in 2011 prices).

HSE's Chair Judith Hackitt said: 'This year's figures demonstrate that Britain continues to improve its health and safety performance, with important falls in the number of workers fatally injured and the number of employees suffering major injuries.'

'But we still see too many deaths and injuries occur in the workplace, many of which could have been prevented through simple

safety measures. Getting this right is the key to ensuring that everyone can make it home safely at the end of their working day.

'As the economy grows, new and inexperienced additions to the workforce can increase the risk of injuries to workers. We're committed to helping employers understand that health

and safety is about sensibly and proportionately managing risks and not creating unnecessary paperwork.'



High-risk industries

There has been little change in the industries in which workers are most likely to be injured by their jobs – with construction (156.0 major injuries per 100 000 employees), agriculture (239.4 major injuries per 100 000 employees) and waste and recycling (369.8 major injuries per 100 000 employees) among the higher-risk sectors.

The full statistics, including comparisons to previous years, are available at:

www.hse.gov.uk/statistics

Time is running out to update your law poster

Are you still displaying an old health and safety law poster? Don't forget, the life of the old 1999 version comes to an end on 5 April 2014.

After that date, employers must either give their staff a copy of a pocketcard or leaflet – both of which are free to download from HSE's website. Or, if they prefer, they can display the newer version of the poster.

The poster and leaflet are available in a range of formats as part of HSE's commitment to make health and safety information more accessible.

Employers have a legal duty to display the poster in a prominent position in each workplace or to provide each worker with a copy of the leaflet.

You can download the free pocketcard and leaflet, or buy the newer version of the poster at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/lawposter.htm>



New law poster (above), old law poster (right)



Making our own news!

The *Health and Safety Newsletter* was recently short-listed in the annual **Public Sector Communications Awards** 'Publication of the Year' category.

Relaunched in 2011 as a digital publication, it was recently listed as one of the fastest growing government newsletters in Europe by Gov.com.

Subscriber numbers have soared from less than 2000 to more than 50 000 with more readers signing up every day. And, although we didn't win the top prize, we were honoured to be shortlisted.



Watch this space as plans are afoot to make the *H&S Newsletter* even better than ever!



If you're not already a regular subscriber, why not [sign up here](#) to see what all the fuss is about?



The ABC of health and safety

New support is now available to help businesses save time, effort and money on health and safety.

HSE has launched a set of free tools and guidance to help small and medium-sized businesses understand what they do – and don't – need to do to keep their staff and customers safe.



The step-by-step guidance, which has been developed with business owners, includes *Health and safety made simple*, *The health and safety toolbox* and practical online risk assessment tools.

All business owners are responsible for managing health and safety but it doesn't have to be complicated, costly

or time consuming. In fact, the basics are easier than most people think.

Whether you only employ one or two people, or are expanding to multiple locations, the freely available guidance will help you identify the real risks in your workplace and put sensible precautions in place.

New to health and safety

If you're new to health and safety, you should start with HSE's [Health and safety made simple](#) which has all the basic information that businesses need to comply with health and safety law.

It covers topics such as deciding which facilities need to be available in your workplace, how to consult your employees and what training and information you should provide.

Advice on common hazards

If you want straightforward advice on the most common health and safety hazards, download [The health and safety toolbox: How to control risk at work](#) builds on [Health and safety made simple](#).



Example risk assessments

All businesses should carry out an assessment of their risks and it is a common myth that this is difficult and time consuming. HSE has taken out the hard work by developing [example risk assessments](#) and online tools to help you carry out your own assessment.

Businesses also believe that they must always carry out a written risk assessment – this is actually only the case if you employ five or more workers.

Kate Haire (right), HSE's Head of Growth and Businesses unit, said: 'This set of tools and guidance show small and medium-size businesses that managing health and safety doesn't have to be difficult.'



'We don't want business people spending their precious time making changes to their workplaces in the name of health and safety when it is just not necessary to protect their workers or customers. We want businesses to focus their efforts on controlling real risks and these tools and guidance will help them do this.'

Have a look at [HSE's website](#) for a huge range of free information and tools.

More than 1000 construction sites fail safety checks

Dangerous practices and poor standards were found at nearly half the building sites visited during a month-long safety drive by HSE.

The nationwide campaign saw inspectors visiting 2607 sites where refurbishment or repair work was taking place.

They found basic safety standards were not being met on 1105 sites. On 644 sites, practices were so poor that enforcement action was necessary to protect workers – with 539 prohibition notices served ordering dangerous activities to stop immediately and 414 improvement notices issued requiring standards to improve.

Heather Bryant, HSE’s Chief Inspector of Construction, said: ‘It is disappointing to find a significant number of sites falling below acceptable health and



safety standards. The inspections revealed that poor practice often went hand in hand with a lack of understanding.

‘Through initiatives like this we are able to tackle underlying issues before they become established and we will continue to work with the industry in an effort to drive up standards.

‘However, those who recklessly endanger the health and lives of their workforce can expect to face tough consequences.’



Inspectors intervened when they came across this unsafe construction site (above)



The numbers

- 2607** sites visited
- 1105** sites failed safety checks
- 644** sites saw immediate enforcement action being taken
- 539** prohibition notices served ordering dangerous activities to stop immediately
- 414** improvement notice issued requiring standards to improve

For more about the initiative, including examples of good and bad practice discovered by our inspectors during the campaign, see our online [Safer sites pages](#).

The top three problems

- 1 Failing to protect workers working at height**
- 2 Exposure to harmful dust**
- 3 Inadequate welfare facilities**

First-aid training provider flexibility for businesses



Life has become a little less complicated for businesses of all sizes and sectors thanks to HSE's continuing efforts to reduce burdens.

Recent regulatory changes mean that HSE no longer has to approve first-aid training and qualifications so businesses now have more flexibility in how they manage first-aid training in the workplace.

Where an employer's needs assessment shows that trained first-aiders are required, they will now be able to choose a training provider as well as decide what level of training is necessary.

HSE has revised its guidance to the Regulations and has also produced information on selecting a first-aid training provider.

The guidance makes it clear that first-aid training is available from a wide range of providers including:

- those who choose to offer regulated qualifications (first-aid qualifications regulated by the qualification regulators – Ofqual, SQA and the Welsh Government);
- those who operate under voluntary approval schemes, for example a trade or industry body having quality assurance schemes accredited by a third party (eg UKAS);
- those who operate independently of any such scheme, for example where a training provider chooses to demonstrate their competence to an employer by providing evidence that they meet the criteria set by HSE; or
- from one of the Voluntary Aid Societies (St John Ambulance, British Red Cross and St Andrew's First Aid).

Find out more about the change and links to the guidance on the [HSE website](#).



Londoners most likely to hear bogus health and safety excuses

More people in London and the South East have reported ill-founded health and safety excuses than any other part of the UK, recent analysis shows.



Some of those exposed in the capital include:

- cleaners at underground tube stations banned from wearing woolly hats in winter;
- a well-known department store which refused to serve fried eggs in a full English breakfast for fear of a pan fire;
- a British airline flying out of Heathrow who refused to serve boiled sweets to passengers suffering earache.

Next in the national league table is Yorkshire, where residents have to put up with their fair share of bad customer service dressed up as health and safety – with 22 complaints.

Those living in Wales and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland have reported the least number of absurd edicts, with just eight cases reported in each.

Other ridiculous examples from other parts of the country include:

- a housewife from Kenilworth who was told by her fishmonger they would not fillet her fish because it was too slippery;

- kids in Midlothian forced to traipse hundreds of yards to use their new tree house because the local council refused to build one on their own land;
- a woman who had her parasol confiscated at a racetrack as it might have been dangerous.

See pages 10 and 11 for some examples of cases recently considered by the panel or visit [Myth Busters](#).

Find out how the rest of the country fared on our 'map of elf and safety madness' on the next page.

HSE has analysed the national spread of all reports to the popular Myth Busters Challenge Panel – set up to clamp down on bogus health and safety excuses.


The results show that more people report that they're told 'Sorry, can't do that because of 'elf and safety'' in the capital and the South East than anywhere else – with more than 50 cases reported over the past year.



(continues on page 9)

Map of elf and safety madness




 Kids in Midlothian were forced to trapse hundreds of yards to use their new tree house, because the local council said building one on school land breached health and safety.

 A sign on toilets in one library informed readers that library books were not allowed to be taken into the toilets – due to health and safety.

 Filleting a fish at a Kenilworth fishmonger wasn't allowed for fear of causing a possible accident. Despite saying they offered a filleting service on their website, the shop said the fish the housewife had chosen was too slippery to cut.

 A customer couldn't have his baguette cut in half because the company had banned knives on the premises.

 = The number of complaints to the health and safety myth-busting panel by nation/region.







 Thirsty on his holidays, one man found his desire to make himself a cuppa was apparently too dangerous. His hotel had banned kettles in bedrooms for fear of injury.

 Hopes of a milky coffee at a coffee shop in Sheffield were hampered when the barista ran out of semi-skimmed milk and refused to add full-cream for fear of breaking the 'law'.

 One hotel banned toilet brushes from all of its en suite rooms because they claimed it breached health and safety legislation.

 When a woman arrived at a racecourse prepared for bad weather with a parasol, she didn't dream of having it confiscated. But it didn't stop jobsworths taking it in the name of health and safety. They said it could be used as a weapon, although she could have it back if it rained.

Worst health and safety clangers...

-  Kids ordered to wear goggles to play conkers
-  Office workers banned from putting up Christmas decorations
-  Hanging baskets banned in case people bump their heads on them
-  Graduates ordered not to throw their mortar boards in the air
-  Schoolchildren ordered to wear clip on ties in case they are choked by traditional neckwear
-  Park benches replaced because they are three inches too low
-  Candy floss on a stick being banned in case people trip and impale themselves

MYTH BUSTERS

In every issue of the H&S Newsletter, we feature a selection of the latest cases to go before the Myth Busters Challenge Panel. If you want to read more examples of when the health and safety excuse has been wrongly used, all the cases so far considered by the panel are available at [Myth Busters](#).

What is the Myth Busters Challenge Panel?

HSE's Myth Busters Challenge Panel was set up in 2012 to provide quick advice to people subject to ridiculous or disproportionate health and safety decisions by insurance companies, local authorities, employers and overzealous jobsworths. It is chaired by HSE Chair Judith Hackitt and includes independent members who represent a range of interests including small businesses, public safety and trade unions.

The Panel has received over 200 cases since it was launched with nearly all rulings finding a decision was made without having any basis in health and safety law.

Case 208 University notice asks library users not to take books into toilets

Issue

A university has put up a health and safety notice to ask library users not to take borrowed books into the toilets.



Panel decision

It is normal for a library to set rules and guidelines for borrowers and library users – particularly to prevent theft or damage to expensive reference materials and archives. It is, though, rather far-fetched and inappropriate to quote occupational health and safety legislation to justify these rules. Because of enquiries made by the panel, this sign is now being removed. The panel hope that the findings in this case encourage other organisations to remove similar misleading health and safety notices.



Excuse goes down the pan...



(continues on page 11)

Case 211 Spectacle wearers not allowed on bouncy castle



Blaming health and safety is so short-sighted!

Issue

A child was told he was not allowed on a bouncy castle as his glasses were a health and safety problem.

Panel decision



HSE guidance advises operators to ensure that users remove glasses where they can before playing on a bouncy castle so the attendant was right to ask for the child to take his glasses off. There was a risk of the child himself or others playing on the bouncy castle being injured if the glasses fell off and were broken. However, when it was explained that the child needed his glasses and 'could not see without them', it is a pity that the attendant did not adopt a more accommodating attitude to find a solution that could have allowed the child his turn on the bouncy castle.



Case 202 A school is using health and safety as the explanation for their policy on pupils not being allowed to wear jewellery

Issue

A school is using health and safety as the explanation for their policy on pupils wearing jewellery. The school sent out a uniform reminder stating that chains and necklaces can't be worn for 'health and safety' reasons.



Panel decision

The school's policy that earrings should not be worn during PE lessons is sensible, and in line with national professional advice, but their use of simplistic references to 'health and safety' as the justification for this and banning all other jewellery at other times is not a defensible explanation. Whether a school permits pupils to wear other items of jewellery at other times is a matter for the school uniform policy and this should be made clear.

In the dock 1

Farm manager crushed by forklift truck



A Spalding farming business has been ordered to pay more than £200 000 in fines and costs after a farm manager was killed when he was hit by a forklift truck.

Peter Barney, 58, of Broadgate, Weston, was walking from his car across the yard at Middle Farm on Mill Marsh Road in

Moulton Seas End when he was struck on 31 October 2010.

His employer, Lincolnshire Field Products Ltd, was prosecuted by HSE after an investigation found the company did not have effective measures to allow vehicles and pedestrians to move around the site safely.

Lincoln Crown Court heard that Mr Barney, who had worked for the firm for 38 years, was making his way to a potato grading shed when he crossed the path of a forklift being driven by a farm employee. He died at the scene of the incident after being crushed by the vehicle.

Safety consultants had carried out a risk assessment in 2003 which highlighted the need for pedestrians and vehicles to be segregated, but the firm did not fully implement these findings.

Workers were allowed to park their cars in areas of the site, which meant they walked across the path of workplace vehicles when walking to, or from, their cars. Some workers used the same entrance to the grading shed as the forklift truck.

Lincolnshire Field Products Ltd, of Wool Hall Farm, Wykeham, Spalding, was



fined a total of £165 000 and ordered to pay £39 500 in costs after pleading guilty to two breaches of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

After the hearing, HSE inspector Neil Ward said: 'If Lincolnshire Field Products Ltd had taken effective steps to keep employees safe, Mr Barney would still be alive today.'

'Employees on foot were using the same doorway as the forklift truck, which meant there was a significant risk of them being struck.'

'The company should have managed the yard so that people and vehicles were not sharing the same space. Sadly, Mr Barney lost his life because this simple procedure wasn't in place.'

Information and advice about the safe use of forklift trucks is available from HSE's website at www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport.

('In the dock' continues on page 13)

In the dock 2

Young worker loses leg

A 20-year-old worker had to have his left leg amputated when it was crushed between a tractor and a loading shovel bucket during the construction of a wind farm in Scotland.

Gregor Steele, from Perthshire, was airlifted to hospital where he had a nine-hour operation in an attempt to save his leg. Sadly, despite a second operation,



this proved unsuccessful and his leg was amputated above the knee on 10 September 2010.

An HSE investigation into the incident led to a prosecution of Gallagher Groundworks at Perth Sheriff Court. The court was told that the company failed to make a suitable and sufficient risk assessment for the work being carried out. They also failed to make sure that the machinery being used was appropriate for the work, was properly maintained and that safety equipment was fully operative.

Mr Steele had positioned the tractor to empty the bowser and used the handbrake on it. There was no parking brake, as this had been disabled by Gallagher Groundwork's mechanic around five months previously. As he stood between the tractor and the loading shovel, the tractor was dragged backwards by the weight of the bowser, pinning him between the two.

In addition, the bowser's drum brakes were in a poor state of repair and could not be fitted to the tractor because the connecting hose was missing.

Gallagher Groundworks of The Yard, Commissioner Street, Crieff, was fined £32 000 after pleading guilty to



breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Mr Steele was unable to work for two years. He has since been fitted with a prosthetic limb and has returned to work for Gallaghers using an automatic tractor.

Following the case, HSE inspector Kerry Elliot said: 'This was an entirely avoidable incident and the failures by Gallagher Groundworks led directly to this life-changing injury sustained by a young man, aged just 20 at the time of the incident.'

'The equipment was not suitable in combination for the work it was being

put to and furthermore was poorly maintained with the parking lock actually being disabled rather than repaired.'



'Mr Steele has finally been able to return to work but he will endure the after-effects of this incident for the rest of his life.'

('In the dock' continues on page 14)

In the dock 3

Worker's fingers severed by saw

A worker lost four of his fingers when he tried to clear a machine blockage. Birmingham Magistrates' Court heard that the employee stopped the machine to clear the blockage but the saw blade automatically moved from its operating position to its maintenance position.

Because this position was in the base of the machine, the worker did not realise it was still rotating. As he attempted to clear the blockage, his left hand came into contact with the blades, severing four fingers. He has been unable to return to work.

The employee was working at Kalsi Plastics (UK) Ltd on Tomey Road, Tyseley, on 10 August

2012 when the incident happened.

Kalsi Plastics (UK) Ltd was prosecuted after an HSE investigation, which found the motor had not been fitted with an injection brake so the saw continued to rotate for around five minutes after the stop button was pushed.

Kalsi Plastics (UK) Ltd was fined £6000 and ordered to pay £2418 costs after pleading guilty to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

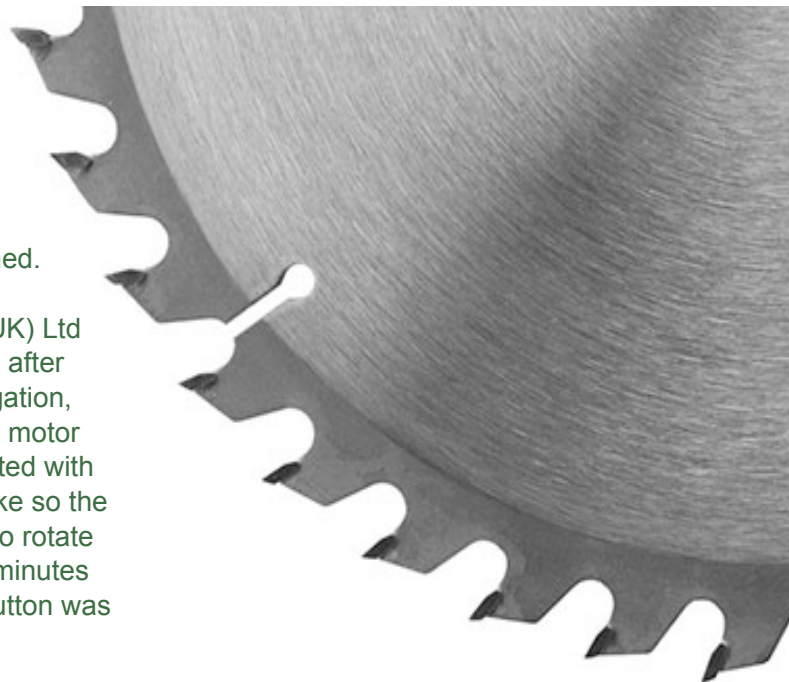
After the hearing HSE inspector Pam Folsom said: 'This incident could have been prevented and a man spared from suffering painful, life-changing injuries had

there been measures in place to bring the blade to a halt sooner.

'A number of employees knew that the blade continued to rotate after the power was cut but neither Kalsi Plastics (UK) Ltd management nor its health and safety consultant were aware of the issue. Employees were not represented in safety meetings so that known issues could be

highlighted and control measures implemented. This incident also shows the importance of staff having a voice in management meetings.'

'The company has since fitted a brake which brings the blade to a halt in around five seconds and has also installed an interlock switch which is tripped when the cover to the base is opened.'



In the dock 4

Fall from ladder

The owners of a Holmfirth business park have been fined after a local worker fractured an ankle in a fall from a ladder.

The 68-year-old maintenance worker was removing several heat exchange units from the roof space. Held by a cleaner, the ladder was being used at various heights of around four and five metres when it was knocked from the cleaner's hands. HSE found several failings, including no clear responsibility for health and safety in the company.

Bridge Mills Ltd was fined £7000 and ordered to pay £1355 in costs after admitting breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Read about more HSE court cases at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/press.htm>

In the dock 5

Hand trapped in steel pinch rolls

Tata Steel UK Ltd has been fined for safety failings after a worker seriously injured his hand at the company's works in Llanelli, South Wales.

The employee suffered crush injuries when his left hand became trapped in a pair of steel pinch rolls. An HSE investigation discovered there was insufficient guarding equipment on the machinery the worker was using.

Tata Steel UK Ltd was fined a total of £25 000 and ordered to pay £8320 in costs after pleading guilty to three separate breaches of health and safety legislation.



FAQs

Did you know there's a range of frequently asked questions (and answers) on HSE's website? Subjects covered range from break entitlement to the number of toilets a workplace should have.

You can see all the questions [here](#) but, meanwhile, here's a typical question and answer.



If you're not clear about who regulates what when it comes to enforcing health and safety law, here is a reminder:

HSE is responsible for enforcing health and safety at workplaces including:

- factories;
- farms;
- building sites;
- nuclear installations;
- mines;
- schools and colleges;
- fairgrounds;
- gas, electricity and water systems;
- hospitals and nursing homes;
- central and local government premises;
- offshore installations.

Local authorities

You should contact your local authority environmental health department if you have a query about the following type of premises:

- offices (except government offices);
- shops;
- hotels;
- restaurants;
- leisure premises;
- nurseries and playgroups;
- pubs and clubs;
- museums (privately owned);
- places of worship;
- sheltered accommodation and care homes.

Who regulates what in the health and safety world

Other enforcing authorities

HSE's website includes a full list of other enforcing authorities covering areas such as poor food hygiene, pollution and unstable/dangerous buildings.

Find out more at www.hse.gov.uk/contact/authority.htm





Blog

HSE Chair Judith Hackitt regularly looks at developments in the world of health and safety in a series of blogs on HSE’s website. You can read this in full, and others, via the link at the foot of the page



from
HSE’s
Chair

I have recently returned from a visit to the USA. Among other locations, I visited Texas where I found it really is true that everything is bigger – the buildings, the cars, the restaurant portions...

For me, one of the joys of travelling is to compare the attitudes and outlooks you encounter from people in different parts of the world. In every shop and every restaurant we visited in the US we experienced outstanding customer service – people who want to help, who are pleasant and polite. A real contrast with many of the appalling examples of customer service here in the UK, which we’ve highlighted through Myth Busters because they’ve been hidden behind health and safety excuses.

It’s standard practice in US restaurants to offer to pack up any remaining food from the huge meals to be taken home to be eaten later. Many of the



Letter from America

restaurants we went to provided special ‘take-home’ boxes. Ironical then that on my return to these shores I find one of the latest Myth Busting cases we’ve received here in HSE relates to a UK restaurant that refused a customer’s request to package up their uneaten food to take home on grounds of – you guessed it – health and safety. To be clear, there are no h&s regulations preventing food outlets packaging up food for home consumption.

However, not everything I saw in the US was better than here. In every state we visited I was shocked by the high proportion of people using their cell phones while driving. On the day we left Texas our hotel arranged a taxi to take us to the airport. The ‘taxi’ turned out to be a huge, four-wheel drive SUV.

Throughout the entire journey the driver talked continuously on his mobile phone while travelling at 70 mph (the legal speed limit) on the highway.

I attempted to get his attention to tell him to stop, but to no avail.



When we screeched to a halt at the airport he told me the fare was 80 dollars. I paid him exactly 80 dollars and he said: ‘It’s

custom over here to give tips.’ I was more than happy to give him a tip as we disembarked from the mammoth taxi ... ‘When you’re driving at 70 mph – don’t use the phone.’

[Read more](#)



What's new from HSE

Keeping you up to date with our latest guidance



To make it easier for dutyholders and other key stakeholders to understand and meet their legal health and safety obligations, HSE has updated six Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs). They cover:

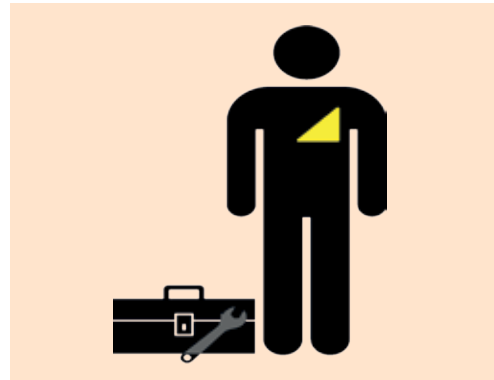
- gas safety;
- workplace health, safety and welfare;
- legionella;
- COSHH;
- DSEAR;
- asbestos.

They all formed part of the review of ACOPs which followed a recommendation from Professor Ragnar Löfstedt in his *Reclaiming health and safety for all*.

Here is a summary of the changes for each ACOP, with links to the new document.

Updated and simplified ACOPs

Gas safety (L56)



This Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and guidance gives practical advice on the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations. It is for anyone who may have a duty under the Regulations, including those who install, service, maintain or repair gas appliances and other gas fittings.

Landlords also have duties under these Regulations – [Landlords' responsibilities](#).

[Read more](#)

Workplace health, safety and welfare (L24)



The revised ACOP will help employers understand the regulatory requirements on key issues such as temperature, cleanliness, workstations and seating, toilets and washing facilities.

Revisions from the previous edition (published in 1992) include simplifying the language; improving guidance and referring to the most up-to-date and relevant standards for advice; and removing out-of-date duties and requirements that have been superseded by newer legislation.

[Read more](#)

Legionnaires' disease (L8)



This ACOP is aimed at dutyholders, including employers, those in control of premises and those with health and safety responsibilities for others, to help them comply with their legal duties in relation to legionella.

These include identifying and assessing sources of risk, preparing a scheme to prevent or control risk, implementing, managing and monitoring precautions, keeping records of precautions and appointing a manager to be responsible for others.

[Read more](#)

(continues on page 18)

Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) (L5)



The sixth edition of this Approved Code of Practice and guidance provides practical advice to help dutyholders comply with the requirements of the COSHH Regulations.

It also takes account of regulatory changes following the introduction of the EU Regulations for REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals) and CLP (European Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures).

[Read more](#)

Dangerous substances and explosive atmospheres (L138)



This Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and guidance provide practical advice on how to comply with the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR). These Regulations require the elimination or reduction of risk of fire and explosion from substances connected with work activities.

The ACOP is primarily for an informed and experienced audience such as health and safety professionals. The leaflet *Controlling fire and explosion risks in the workplace* (INDG370) provides a short guide to DSEAR for small and medium-sized businesses.

[Read more](#)

Asbestos (L143)



This publication contains the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, the Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and guidance for employers about work which disturbs, or is likely to disturb, asbestos, asbestos sampling and laboratory analysis.

The Regulations set out your legal duties and the ACOP and guidance give practical advice on how to comply with those requirements. The Regulations give minimum standards for protecting employees from risks associated with exposure to asbestos.

[Read more](#)



ACOPs withdrawn

In addition to the six revised or consolidated ACOPs, during 2013 three were withdrawn. They were:

- The design, construction and installation of gas service pipes (L81);
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations ACOP (L21);
- Preventing accidents to children in agriculture (L116).