



Welcome to the RHSS Newsletter!

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Welcome to the March edition of the RHSS Newsletter, it has been a very busy but thoroughly rewarding first 6 months in business for the RHSS team with many new developments having taken place.

RHSS are delighted to announce the following additional services which we hope you will consider in the future.

- Fire Extinguisher Servicing and Maintenance from our BAFE engineers. **We can save you money on Extinguishers and Servicing!**
- PAT Testing from our fully qualified and insured engineers, with out of hours testing available at no extra cost!
- Electrical Installation Certificates and Periodic Electrical Installation Certificates carried out by competent part P, 17th Edition qualified electrician.
- L8 compliant Legionella Risk Assessments carried out by our highly experienced Legionella risk assessors, who are able to carry out assessment for any types of buildings.
- CDM Co-ordination can now be carried out by RHSS Ltd, with a number of consultants Members of the Association for Project Safety.

All of the above are in addition to our usual services all of which can be viewed on our website www.rhssltd.co.uk

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www.rhssltd.blogspot.com

RHSS Team Enquiries 0208 274 2926 info@rhssltd.co.uk



Digger Arm Crushed Untrained Operators Head

A Welsh construction firm has been ordered to pay almost £110,000 in fines and costs for allowing an unqualified and unauthorised employee to operate a mini excavator at a housing development site in Gloucester.

The HSE prosecuted Bridgend based Macob Administration after 23-year-old ground worker Lance Taylor suffered fatal head injuries in February 2005 when he accidentally nudged a joystick as he leaned out of the digger cab's opened windscreen to throw a colleague a set of keys to a nearby dumper truck. The stick operated the vehicles digging arm, which then raised and swung backwards, crushing his head between the cab and the arm.

Taylor had originally been driving a dumper truck as part of a team spreading topsoil on gardens at finished properties on the site. He moved into the excavator to load his dumper truck after the vehicles driver parked and left the vehicle part way through the work. The departing driver had called out to him to get another driver but Taylor appears to have got into the excavator himself, found the keys - which were routinely left in ashtrays in vehicles - and started to move the vehicle.

According to HSE Inspector Martin Lee, Mr Taylor was not trained at all to use the excavator. Though Taylor was qualified to drive the dumper at the time of his accident, he had also previously commonly driven dumpers at the site without the necessary qualifications.

Macob did have written procedures about what workers should and shouldn't do and Taylor had received written instructions not to use the equipment unauthorised. But this was months before the accident.



A mini excavator similar to that used by Lance Taylor

“It does come down to the company” said Lee. “It had become custom practise that certain individuals operated machinery and were not trained. Keys were also regularly left inside vehicles, giving workers easy access”

Macob admitted charges under Regulations 9 (1) and 28 (a) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations in that it had not provided Taylor and others with proper training and had failed to stop unauthorised workers from starting up machinery, including dumper trucks and tracked hydraulic excavators. On 15 January at Gloucester Crown Court, Judge William Hart fined the firm £40,000 for each charge plus costs of £29,798.

Macob has since carried out a root-and-branch review of its safety procedures and practise.

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For further advice, support, consultation and health and safety services please contact Rob Anderson or Jack Rumbol on **020 8274 2926** or email info@rhssltd.co.uk
RHSS Ltd. | Allen Court Business Centre | 22 South End | Croydon | CR0 1DN

Director Fined for Neglecting Legionella Risk

The managing director of a Midlands-based company failed to put in place a management system to control Legionella, despite receiving warnings from water-treatment contractors.

Ernest Jones appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on 4th February and pleaded guilty to breaching s37(1) of the HSWA 1974. He was fined £2000 and ordered to pay £1000 towards costs.

In September 2008, HSE inspectors visited Metal Finishers Ltd's site in Coseley, West Midlands, to look at the firm's Legionella controls. The facility was used to treat metal, and this process involved using two water-cooling towers. The inspection revealed that there was no management system in place for the control of Legionella and that the company had failed to carry out regular monitoring and testing for the bacteria. Two companies had carried out separate water-treatment surveys in January 2008, yet Jones had failed to act further on them. The HSE subsequently decided to prosecute Jones rather than the company, as he had been neglectful in his role as a director.

A Prohibition Notice was issued on 10 September to stop the towers from operating, and an improvement Notice required a suitable management system be put into place.

In mitigation, Jones said the company had taken immediate steps to clean the towers before it ceased trading in October 2008.

HSE inspector Sarah Palfreyman said "The risk was foreseeable and entirely preventable. The company, and therefore the managing director had received quotes from two water-treatment companies, which hadn't been acted upon, and received information from one of them about very high bacteria levels in the towers. This is a well-known risk, and there has been a number of outbreaks (of Legionnaires disease) in recent years - one in the Dudley area.

"Legionella can make people seriously ill and, in severe cases, can kill. Managing Directors have a responsibility to act upon findings like this as soon as possible. They should be fully aware of their duties and not rely on delegation, or assume they will not be prosecuted for their individual failings"

Do you need advice on Legionella Risks?

If so call us today to discuss your duties further on 0208 274 2926

Join Us on Facebook

RHSS Ltd can now be found on Facebook. We will be using this media to keep you up to date with all the latest H&S information whilst also posting topical videos and pictures from our travels.

Become a fan today by searching for RHSS Ltd



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Just Ask?

A new addition to the RHSS newsletter is a question column where you can send in your questions to the RHSS Team who will answer your queries as quickly as possible. If you have a particular question you would like answering please send this in to info@rhssltd.co.uk

Q.

Is orange or yellow hi visibility jacket / clothing the preferred Option, or doesn't it matter?

A.

To be effective, HV clothing should be of a colour that will allow the wearer to stand out against the ambient background found in the working environment. In practise the best colours for this purpose are likely to be day-glo, or fluorescent yellow. Where necessary the clothing should also incorporate retro reflective material to make the wearer visible when seen in headlights in poor lighting conditions or during darkness. This may require reflective strips at or below waist level on Waistcoats or jackets, or strips on trousers.

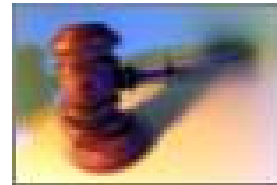
See www.hse.gov.uk/workplace-transport/factsheets/clothing.htm for further information

Legislation Diary

Legislation changes due for commencement on 6th April 2010

- Notification of Conventional Tower Cranes Regulations 2010
- Biocidal Products (Amendment) Regulations 2010

For more information visit:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/legislation/forthcoming.htm>



Call us for Advice:

- CHAS / EXOR / CONSTRUCTION LINE
- FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS
- SAFE CONTRACTOR
- FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND SERVICING
- TRAINING
- INSURER RISK IMPROVEMENTS
- DOCUMENTATION
- SITE INSPECTIONS

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RHSS Blog

<http://rhssltd.blogspot.com>

We will be using this blog to post the latest news and useful articles relating to Health and Safety.

By subscribing to our blog, you can receive our posts directly to your inbox. You can also email articles to your employees and share your thoughts about Health and Safety news by commenting on the articles. If you don't want to receive updates via email you can subscribe to our RSS feed through your browser.

Details about any special offers relating to our consultancy services and our recently launched Safety Signs and H&S Products website www.rhss-signs.co.uk will also be submitted here.

To ensure you are not kept out of the loop, make sure you subscribe to the blog today!
<http://rhssltd.blogspot.com>



RHSS Signs

www.rhss-signs.co.uk

As well as a wide range of safety signs, you can purchase all things Health and Safety at our online shop www.rhss-signs.co.uk, such as:

First Aid Kits	Eye Wash Kits	Accident Record Books
Fire Blankets	Fire Extinguishers	Cigarette Bins
Portable Fire Alarms	Hard hats and high visibility jackets	Rigger boots and gloves

 High Vis Clothing	 Safety Helmets	 Safety Posters
 Fire Safety Signs	 Personal Protection Signs	 Fire Exit Signs

Help Zone

Call us for a quote for any of the following:

Risk Assessments & Method Statements
 Business Continuity Planning
 Health and Safety Training
 Health and Safety Policies

Fire Risk Assessments
 Help with CHAS/Construction Line Applications
 Health and Safety Manuals
 Site Inspections/Audits

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