

Upcoming Training;

**Health
and Safety
Awareness**
7th Oct

**Level 2
Health &
Safety**
26th Oct

**Level 3
Health &
Safety**
20/21/27 Oct

**Level 4
Health &
Safety;**
3/4/10/11/17
Nov



Some people see no
problem with this.....

First Aid; Changes to The Law



1. **WHAT?** Changes to the existing First Aid Qualification (usually a 4 day course); a new syllabus to be delivered over 3 days. Now known as “First Aid At Work” (FAW) and still needs to be delivered by a HSE approved trainer.
2. **WHAT?** An extra **NEW** qualification; Emergency First Aid At Work. This 1 day course allows, as the title suggests, the holder to provide basic and emergency response. Qualification holders can officially be called “First Aiders”.
3. **WHAT?** The old “Appointed Person” course was never officially a HSE approved course; the role of an AP has been to coordinate responses to emergencies, liaise with emergency services, etc. There is still a place for APs in most work places.
4. **WHAT?** A low level of non-HSE approved “Emergency First Aid” training is still being offered, and the HSE Guidance advises Appointed Persons receive this level of training. Unless the Guidance changes, there still appears to be a place for this in an employer’s assessment of first aid needs.
5. **WHEN?** Changes happen on 1st October 2009.
6. **WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?**
 - Nothing for existing full FAW holders.
 - You will already have assessed your first aid needs, and included this in your Safety Policy. We strongly recommend you review your assessment of needs, particularly with regard to whether Emergency First Aiders need to take the EFAW course.
7. **DON'T FORGET** that EFAW joins FAW in requiring official refresher training every 3 years
8. **WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?** <http://www.hse.gov.uk/firstaid/review/trainingfaq.htm>

Legionnaire's Disease; Key Facts

- **What's the cause?** A family of common bacteria.
- **What's it got to do with me?** It can be caught from employer's water systems, and harmful bacteria are "Hazardous Substances" under Control of Hazardous Substances regulations (CoSHH)
- **How is it caught?** You have to breathe in a water vapour which contains the bug. It then causes a pneumonia-like illness in the lung.
- **Can Anyone catch it?** Potentially yes, but the elderly, those already ill and smokers tend to be at higher risk.
- **How bad?** About 250 cases confirmed per year in UK; 12% of which will be fatal. In my inspector days, I have investigated fatal cases. Rare but serious. Do you need to take it seriously? **Yes!!**



- **How does my water system present a risk?** The system needs to get contaminated, and the right conditions for the bugs to multiply up to dangerous numbers. Then an aerosol needs to be made and inhaled.

• Why Mention It Now?

Well, a client of ours had a visitor who subsequently became ill with Legionnaire's Disease. The Environmental Health Officer is tracing where the ill person has been to find the premises responsible. Our client has a robust risk assessment and management system in place, & can prove the disease was not caused by them.

Prosecution of a company in Bury, greater Manchester, for failing to address *Legionella* risks and employees becoming infected and ill

If the disease becomes more high profile, you can bet inspectors will be looking at this more closely.



An example of an "at risk" water service..... bacteria will find plenty of food and shelter here!

So What Do I Need To Do?

- Do you have an “at-risk” system? This means any water service system which has tanks, vessels or any degree of complexity that can allow the bacteria time and space to multiply, and an aerosol is created?
- Most important are “evaporative condensers” serving air conditioning ,etc.
- Common examples include anywhere with showers (hotels, employee changing facilities); swimming and spa pools, sprinkler and hose reel systems, lathe/machine tool lubricant systems, car washes, fountains and water features, to name a few.
- If so, you must have a robust risk assessment to identify problems and create control measures.
- You must then keep these controls going; there will inevitably be some ongoing management of the water systems. This may include water temperature monitoring, or cleaning systems.

If you have any concerns about your water system and the risks. Please give us a call; we can help with risk assessment, service surveys and the type of management systems that will work for you.

Beware of water service companies carrying out assessments; their aim is often to sell something. We have recently had to completely re-assess one factory because of a poor assessment. Another water service company, DEBA UK Ltd of Unit 15, The Metro Centre, Toutley Road, Wokingham, have just been fined £24k (+£17k costs) for producing an inadequate assessment and focussing on sales.....

Changes to the Law on 1st April 2009

(changes take place twice per year, April and October)

Legal Corner

1. Premises Registration.

Factories Act 1961 and Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 required occupants to notify the enforcement agencies that they occupy buildings. It only applied to certain sectors. This requirement has been removed (its been moribund for years anyway)

2. Hazardous Chemical Labels;

The regulations that govern the packaging of hazardous substances has been amended, to comply with EU regulations. This means that the symbols used for identifying packaged hazardous chemicals (triggering a CoSHH Assessment) will all be changed. I quite liked our old orange ones... More next time when we provide a full guide to the new symbols.



More Common Sense ... Last newsletter we outlined the successful appeal in the Kian Williams case. This time, another unfortunate fatality; whilst on holiday, Matthew Marsden, two, escaped his parent's attention for an instant. He was found by his father face down in 18 inches (46 cm) of water at Greenacres Holiday Park, near Porthmadog, Gwynedd, in 2004. The parents took a civil case for damages against the park and succeeded (£25k plus costs). Oh, and by the way, it was a "no win, no fee" solicitor pursuing the claim, and we all have an opinion about that. An Appeal Judge has overturned this, saying "Holiday sites will almost inevitably contain sources of danger to small unaccompanied children". Whilst the death is tragic, a pond is a pond. What's the alternative; fence them all off? Mr Marsden has made a sensible suggestion, that site information contains locations of ponds and other hazards. Closer to home, Adam Greenacre (15) drowned in a pond at Lynnsport in King's Lynn in 2008, retrieving his football. He disappeared into reeds around the pond. The HSE did not prosecute the Council; I seem to remember Improvement Notices being served regarding maintenance of the drainage ponds and review of risk assessments, as they were in a well used, open sports field area. This seems fair enough.

Will It Save Any Lives...?

Please excuse my cynicism! The good old "Health and Safety Poster", a fixture in every workplace for years, has been updated, and it looks like this

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO REPLACE YOUR OLD ONE STRAIGHT AWAY; it's OK for another 5 years. Alternative; you can give each employee a Pocket card giving them each the same information. It's a bit more readable, at least.



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Agency Staff; Who's Responsible for their Health & Safety?

Simple answer; the "employer". The problem is, the definition of "employer" is not quite so straightforward these days, so answering this may need some input from a HR professional.

Even if a worker's employer is an Agency, you know your workplace and its hazards better than anyone. Make sure you have good, clear co-operation and co-ordination with the Agency, and an agreement as to who will do what (e.g. Provide induction training, protective equipment, etc). There's a shared responsibility.....

The Last Word....

Don't forget we can provide health and safety consultancy, project based or ongoing, and h & s training; bespoke and certificated from Level 1 to Level 4.