

Risk management tips brought to you by the insurance professionals at **Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd**

### DID YOU KNOW?

About 80 per cent of people in the United Kingdom use a smart phone, according to recent research. That means the vast majority of your employees can use their own phones to take 'safies', a new industry trend which makes it easier for workers to provide real-time updates on site conditions and progress—with the single click of a button. Keep reading for more information on this simple, promising new trend.



1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2015

## Almost Half of All Construction Sites Fail Health and Safety Spot-checks

The HSE is urging the entire construction industry to enforce basic health and safety precautions at their workplaces after a month-long site inspection initiative ending in October 2014 found 40 per cent of construction employers fail to properly protect their workers.

Almost half of the 1,748 repair and refurbishment sites visited by HSE inspectors exhibited unacceptable conditions and dangerous practices—twenty per cent of the sites exhibited such an abysmal lack of health and safety policies that the HSE initiated formal enforcement action including fines and possible prosecutions.

According to the HSE, many of the issues found by inspectors could have easily been prevented or fixed if the employers would have prioritised employee health and safety. The most common infraction was lax safety measures for employees

working at height—42 per cent of all enforcement notices served in the one-month period were for failing to provide basic working at height precautions. The second and third most-frequently seen issues were a failure to control dust and insufficient welfare, each accounting for 12 per cent of all enforcement notices. HSE inspectors stress that the majority of construction employers are succeeding at health and safety, while a significant portion of the industry must improve.



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## Take 'Safies' Not 'Selfies'

Forget 'selfies', encourage your workers to take 'safies'—real-time images taken on site which document the progress of construction tasks and prove compliance to health and safety measures. Using the smartphone app Geo-Sight, workers rely on their own smart phones to capture live images of site conditions—such as before starting or after completing a project—which are then tagged with a location and time and uploaded to a central repository to serve as digital records of completion and compliance.

With safies, managers can oversee site progress in real-time from anywhere with an Internet connection. And by storing safies on a remote server, businesses have a digital record of key project milestones, a line of defence against workplace injuries, and definitive proof of compliance and quality—all because your employees took a few pictures.

## Familiarise Yourself With the New CDM Regulations 2015

Anyone working in the construction industry should be familiar with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM)—they place legal duties on almost everyone involved in construction work. By assigning responsibility and establishing guidelines for safe work, the CDM Regulations help improve on-site health and safety, ensure your employees are competent, and support your risk management strategies.

But the CDM Regulations are about to change—on 9 January 2015 the HSE released draft guidance on the new Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (2015) which will come into force on 6 April 2015. The HSE believes the new CDM Regulations will simplify the existing regulations, reduce paperwork, and improve health and safety standards on smaller construction sites.

Neglecting to familiarise yourself with the changes could be disastrous—non-compliance increases your employees' chances of suffering an accident, threatens the integrity of your finished structure, generates fines, and could even lead to prosecution. Some of the relevant changes in the new CDM Regulations going into effect in April 2015 include the following:

- **Replacing the CDM co-ordinator role** – Under CDM 2007 the co-ordinator was responsible for facilitating communication between dutyholders and liaising with the HSE, and were only required for certain types of projects. To simplify things, the HSE is replacing the co-ordinator role with the principal designer, meaning that an existing member of the design team will be responsible for coordinating the crucial pre-construction phase.
- **Granting the client more responsibility** – Clients (people who are having construction or building work carried out) will be responsible for notifying the HSE if on-site construction work will exceed 30 working days and have more than 20 employees working simultaneously or if the project will exceed 50 working days. For the first time domestic clients (people who have construction work carried out on their own home) have responsibilities under the new CDM Regulations.
- **Requiring written Construction Phase Plans** – Clients must now ensure that their Contractors provide a written Construction Phase Plan before any work commences—this applies to smaller and domestic projects which were previously exempt from the CDM Regulations.

For more detailed guidance on the CDM Regulations 2015 and how to comply, click here: [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l153.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l153.htm).

## Recent News and Prosecutions

### Roofing firm fined after teenager falls and breaks back

A Lancashire roofing firm was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £516 in costs after a 17-year-old mental patient fell more than six metres from the roof of the Royal Preston Hospital in Fullwood, breaking her back and pelvis. The firm had been hired to replace the flat roof on one section of the hospital, but had failed to prevent access to the scaffolding on site, which led to the mental patient climbing the scaffolding and subsequently falling. She was in hospital for several weeks. HSE investigators concluded the accident could have easily been prevented if the roofing firm had employed even the most basic compulsory measures to restrict access to scaffolding.

### Company directors fined after teenager dies on his first day

Two company directors for a Devon construction firm were each fined £25,000, given a 12-month custodial sentence, suspended for two years and required to perform 180 hours of community services after serious safety failings led to the death of a teenaged employee on his first day working for the firm. The teenager was given a paltry 30 minutes of training on his first day then ordered to operate a four-tonne dumper. The teenager was working with the only other employee on site when the fully-loaded dumper toppled over and crushed him.