

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

### DID YOU KNOW?

On 18th May, the HSE issued a safety notice detailing the changes in visibility requirements for Earth Moving Machinery as a response to the unacceptable number of visibility-related accidents. For further information on the changes and how they could affect your construction operations, visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/earth-moving-machinery.htm>

3rd Quarter 2015

## Are You Meeting Your Principal Designer Duties?

All successful construction projects require forethought and planning. For that reason, the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015) were developed to better outline the responsibilities and legal duties for each individual. Under the CDM 2015, several positions were added and revised to better address essential construction duties.

One of the existing positions, CDM co-ordinator, has been rebranded as 'principal designer'. The role of the principal designer is to oversee the pre-construction phase on projects that involve more than one contractor. Principal designers' roles are divided into the following five essential duties:

1. They will plan, manage, monitor and coordinate health and safety during pre-construction. This involves reviewing relevant health and safety information that may affect the design work before and during the construction phase.

2. They will liaise with the principal contractor and inform him or her about potential risks.
3. They will help and advise clients in collecting vital pre-construction information. This involves distributing key information to designers and contractors.
4. They will work with other designers to eliminate, reduce and control all health and safety risks.
5. They will ensure that everyone involved in the pre-construction phase effectively communicates and coordinates their work.



**Crendon  
Insurance  
Brokers**

## HSE Launches New 'Dust Hub' Site

To better address the potentially damaging risks that dust presents to construction workplace environments, the HSE launched a 'Dust hub' on its site, which provides employers with information about potential risks, prevention measures and general advice on minimising the damage that dust could cause to employees.

The damaging effects of exposure to dust particles are not immediately apparent—it can take years for symptoms of more serious conditions to develop. Yet there is an average of 12,000 deaths each year from respiratory diseases contracted or exacerbated as a result of workplace conditions. Without the proper precautions, dust can have costly long-term consequences for your employees' health and your business.

To learn more about the damaging effects of dust and how to minimise your employees' exposure, visit: [www.hse.gov.uk/dust/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/dust/index.htm).

# Breathe Freely: Defending Against Occupational Lung Disease

Each year, an estimated 13,000 workers die as a result of illnesses that were contracted or exacerbated by their work environments—nearly 5,000 of those deaths are a result of lung disease, and an additional 500 are the result of silica dust exposure. However, that does not even account for the 5,500 new occupational cancer diagnoses each year. To address the damaging, chronic risk of occupational lung disease in the construction industry, the BOHS and the Chartered Society for Worker Health, in partnership with the HSE, have launched Breathe Freely, a workplace health initiative.

Breathe Freely provides construction managers and supervisors with a collection of prevention and risk management tools, including specific trade fact sheets, case studies, a toolkit (which will be launched in November 2015) and a new Worker Health Protection Management Standard. The Breathe Freely initiative emphasises the following three tenets to help shield your employees from occupational lung disease:

1. **Recognise the hazards and breathe freely.** Ensure everyone at your organisation are aware of all the hazards which could lead to occupational lung disease, including:
  - a. Diesel exhaust fumes, silica dust, wood and other dusts, asbestos, welding fume, legionella and other biological agents, solvents and resin vapours/mists
2. **Evaluate the risks and breathe freely.** Your organisation should have the tools and knowledge necessary to evaluate the risks that lead to occupational lung disease. Even low-level exposures, which seem negligible at the time, can lead to debilitating or chronic diseases. Use the free resources provided by Breathe Freely to identify and evaluate the lung disease risks present on your work premises.
3. **Control exposure and breathe freely.** Now that you have recognised the hazards and evaluated the risks, you can work to control your workers' exposure. This could involve sourcing different products, restructuring work methods, segregating work areas, and introducing better personal protective equipment.

By adhering to the new standard and supplementing with the other tools that Breathe Freely provides, managers and supervisors may be able to reduce the number of workers that contract lung disease and cancer. Not only would this strengthen the construction industry, but it would reduce the costs that are incurred as a result of absent workers.

If you would like to learn more about the Breathe Freely initiative, you can visit [www.breathefreely.org.uk/index.html](http://www.breathefreely.org.uk/index.html)

# Recent Fines and Prosecutions

## Lack of inspection leads to workers being potentially exposed to asbestos

An Essex-based firm was fined £50,000 and ordered to pay total costs of £1,413 after potentially exposing its workers to asbestos. The firm was hired to convert an office block into residential flats and during construction disturbed pipe lagging that contained asbestos. The HSE found that the incident could have been avoided had the firm conducted a refurbishment and demolition asbestos survey and provided workers with asbestos training.

## An unannounced inspection by the HSE leads to major fines

A London construction company was fined £13,400 and ordered to pay costs of £4,719 after an unannounced inspection from the HSE revealed dangerous working conditions at a basement excavation site. The inspection revealed that workers were being made to work in and around deep excavations up to 4 metres deep that were barely supported.

## Lack of safety equipment responsible for dangerous fall

A Warwickshire-based firm was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay total costs of £1,229 and a victim surcharge of £120 after a worker sustained serious injuries from a 4-metre fall. The worker fell from a flimsy raised platform, sustaining injuries to his lungs and ribs and causing bleeding on his brain. In its investigation, the HSE found that the provided equipment lacked safety features and that the firm was guilty of breaching regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005.